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NINTH SESSION



TENTH LOK SABHA
LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 7, 1994/ Phalgun
17, 1915 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Development of Mining Sector

161. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the Government have
received any representations to amend
the Mines and Minerals (regulation and
Development) Act, 1957 in order to achieve
efficiency and economic viability in the
mining sector:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the
action being taken in this regard; and

(c) the other measures to be adopted for
the efficient running and profitability in the
public and private sector units of the mining
industry?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MIN-
ISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH
YADAV): (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the
Table of the House.

(a) to (c). After taking into consideration
suggestions received from time to time Mines
and Minerals (Regulation and Development)
Amendment Ordinance, 1994 was issued on
25.1.94. A copy of which was placed on Table
of the House on 21.2.1994. Salient features of
this Ordinance are listed below. Specific steps
required for improving profitability and effi-
ciency of individual mining units will have to be
identified and taken by such units themselves.

- (i) Section 4A(2) has been amended to
allow State Governments to terminate
mining leases in the case of minor
minerals without consulting the Central
Government.
- (ii) Section 4A(4) has been amended to
provide that in cases where holder of a
mining lease fails to commence mining
operations or discontinues such oper-
ations, the lease will lapse only if the
period of such non-commencement or
discontinuance is two years or more.

- (iii) Section 5(1) has been amended to relax the restriction of foreigners holding equity in mining companies. It now allows any company registered in India to obtain prospecting licences or mining leases.
- (iv) Section 7 has been amended to increase the maximum period for grant of prospecting licence to three years. State Governments have the power to grant further renewals but the total period should not exceed five years.
- (v) Section 16 has been amended to empower the Central Government to modify old leases which were not in conformity with the Act within a period of two years of the amendment or any extended period.
- (vi) Section 8 has been amended to provide for a minimum period of lease of 20 years and the maximum period for such leases has been increased to 30 years. Further, renewals will be for a maximum of 20 years each.
- (vii) Section 17(A) has been amended to empower the Central Government to reserve land for exploitation by public sector undertakings owned by Central Government.
- (viii) A new Section 23 B has been inserted to empower any Gazetted Officer to search for minerals raised in contravention of the provisions of the Act and Rules made thereunder.
- (ix) Section 28 has been amended to provide that every rule and notification made by the State Government under the Act shall be laid before the State Legislatures.

- (x) Section 30 has been amended to provide that orders passed by a State Government on minor minerals will henceforth not be challenged before the Central Government.
- (xi) The first Schedule has been amended for omitting 15 minerals from the schedule.

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Sir, many recommendations of the Indian Mineral Industries have been included in the Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

Now, coming to the Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, it is being enacted with the Constitutional provisions, Seventh Schedule, List, 1, Entry 54, which says I quote:

"Parliament can make law on the subject of Mines and Minerals if the Parliament thinks it is necessary in the national interest."

The Supreme Court declared this in 1989 in the India Cement Case. Because of this judgement, various taxing Acts in different States have been struck down by the various High Courts. Then, in 1992, Parliament had passed the Mineral Rights Taxes Validation Act. By virtue of this, taxes are being collected in various States even after the Supreme Court judgement. According to Article 266 of the Constitution, all revenues collected by Parliament should go to the Consolidated Fund of India. I would like to know, after this Tax Validation Act of 1992, to which fund these taxes that are being collected from various States, are being remitted—Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of States.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all such matters, like the case which its mentioned, have been revalidated. As far as the realisation of taxes is concerned, it is concerned with the State Government and it goes in the fund of the State Governments.

[*English*]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: According to Article 266, all the revenues collected by Parliament should go to the Consolidated Fund of India. So, I request, the hon. Minister, to check this and then come for a reasonable conclusion.

Now I come to my second supplementary. The answer given at serial No. (vii) says:

"Section 17 (A) has been amended empower the Central Government to reserve land for exploitation by public Sector undertakings owned by Central Government."

Here also I would like to know whether after reserving the land, the funds that are being collected under this enactment, are going to the State Governments or to the Central Government. This also has to be clarified by the Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, the Government of India is going to attain the right of reserving lands for the public sector undertakings. Whatever taxes, cess and royalty are being collected from it, would go to the State Governments. The aim behind reserving the land is that all the minerals reserved for public sector under-

taking have been opened for the private sector. Therefore, as for requirement, the area can be got reserved by the State Government for the protection of public Sector undertakings. This is the main target of this provision.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: The State Governments have been given the rights to extract the mineral under the MMRD Act by the Central Government. It has been fixed in it that such and such minerals would be exploited by them. Whether the Government contemplates to extend the exploitation of other minerals also. Secondly, is it a fact that at present the foreigners can not exploit the minerals. The foreigners would be invited under the new amendment, which is likely to be brought, they would be able to exploit 51 per cent of minerals and would send the profit out of the country.

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: The reply to the first question is that there are 38 items in the list of major minerals. The major minerals are likely to be handed over to the State Government since the State Governments generally complain that the Central Government is encroaching their sights. It is not like this, the Central Government takes the decision at the right time. The need of the hour is that more, rights should be given to the State Governments and that is why 15 minerals have been excluded from the first schedule and are being given to the State Governments. Secondly, as far as your second doubt is concerned, that the Government is going to amend the MMRD Act under which the foreign companies as well as the indigenous companies would participate in it, I would like to say that they would work under the Company Act of our country. If the Foreigners want to invest or want to bring technique of the industrialists of our country want to invest in that they can do so but in the field of de-reserve minerals.

Therefore, the doubt of the hon. Member that the foreigners would come and capture it, is baseless. Any foreign company coming to our country would be registered under the Company Act to our country would be registered under the company act and our laws would be binding on those not that their laws would be binding on us.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker Sir....

MR. SPEAKER : Joshi ji please take your seat.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker Sir, it should be given half an hour for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give notice for it.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Mr. Speaker Sir, there are 22 States in our country, name the States where mines are found, how much royalty do these States get and where it is spent specially regarding Orissa?

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, it is a fact that Orissa is more rich in mineral and as far as royalty is concerned, it is collected and retained, by the State Government and the Central Government does not get it.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know the details of the land, which has become barren due to running and the steps taken by the Government to make that barren land fertile to maintain the ecological balance?

MR. SPEAKER: No, this question is not related to it and it seems that you have not gone through the question?

[English]

At least you should give an impression that you have read the question.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is difficult to give the data since we don't have the same. As far as the protection of environment is concerned the State and the Central Government give clearance to such projects in the wake of the Forest protection Act or the Environment Protection Act.

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: I would like to know from the Minister to what extent the rights and powers of the state Governments have been enhanced so that that would bring about efficiency and economic viability in the mining sector. For that, some powers are required. To what extent, the State Government will bring about efficiency and economic viability in the mining sector or whether some more powers are needed to be given?

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, as I have mentioned just now that the State Governments always demand to extend their rights, therefore the Central Government has found that by bringing an amendment in the M.M.R.D. Act, the necessary rights be given to the States should be given and under the same, as I have submitted that 15 out of the 38 minerals in the first schedule of the Central Government has been given to the State Governments. Earlier the State Governments would not terminate the mining leases in case of minor

minerals without consulting the Central Government but now this right has been accorded to them. Its aim is that, suppose an industry does illegal running or any other such activity then there is no need at all to approach the Central Government but the State Government can terminate the lease at its own.

Likewise the P.L. duration of the prospecting licence has been increased from two years to three years and the State Government of India appropriate has the power to grant further extension of P.L. duration upto 5 years. Besides, the appeals in case of minor minerals used to come before tribunal of the Central Government. Since minor mineral is a subject of State Government the Central Government has given the right to the State Government to decide such a dispute and there is no need at all to approach the Central Government.

Like wise there was no provision till date to find the theft in the M.M.R.D. Act. but now a provision has been made and the State Government has been empowered to depute any Gazetted Officer to seize and investigate the case of illegal mining.

Development of Ports

[English]

*162. SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been allocated for the development of major ports throughout the country during the last three years;

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

(c) whether World Bank or Asian Development Bank has provided funds for the development of minor ports in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The outlays provided during the last three years for development of major ports in the country are given below:-

S.No.	Name of the Port	Outlays (Rs. in crores)		
		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
1	(a) Calcutta	27.58	70.90	45.00
	(b) Haldia	34.87	37.00	85.58
2.	Bombay	19.08	40.00	70.43
3.	JL Nehru	45.00	65.00	57.30
4.	Madras	39.81	55.00	35.89
5	Cochin	33.30	37.03	42.17
6.	Visakhapatnam	37.05	59.79	65.57
7.	Kandla	23.92	55.00	40.00

S.No.	Name of the Port	Outlays (Rs. in crores)		
		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
8.	Mormugao	5.76	7.10	11.76
9.	Paradip	9.61	39.65	67.00
10.	New Mangalore	7.17	8.56	4.91
11.	Tuticorin	6.10	8.95	17.05
Total Major Ports		289.25	483.98	541.66

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Asian Development Bank have provided a loan assistance of US \$ 77.90 million for development

of Kakinada Port in Andhra Pradesh. However, there is no project funded by the World Bank for Minor Ports in this State.

	Rs. in cores	Conversion rate
** Equivalent to :	120.75	Rs. 15.50 = 1 US \$ (applicable at the time of entering into the loan agreement with ADB)
	244.61	Rs. 31.40 = 1 US \$ (current rate)

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: First of all, I offer my thanks to the Hon. Speaker for, particularly as a back-bencher, I got this chance after the Government of the Session. Please give me time also for putting my question.

My first supplementary is that there are nearly 133 minor ports in the country and particularly in Andhra Pradesh there are 8 to 9 minor ports. In order to avoid rush in the major ports, it is also the reasonable duty of the Government to improve the minor ports.

Kakinada port is called a minor port even though the export and import operations of this minor port exceed the operations of the major port. Recently, the Asian Development Bank also gave Rs.120.75 crores for the development of Kakinada

minor port.

In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether this Kakinada port will remain, after utilisation of Asian Development Bank funds, only as a minor port or it will be declared as a major port.

I would like to know when Kakinada will be declared as a major port.

I would also like to know whether in view of the vast modern coastal line area in Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government is going to develop any fishing harbour project in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Limit yourself to one question. If there are different questions,

there would not be any reply to your question.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: I would like to know whether the Government is going to open any fishing harbour project at Kakinada and whether Kakinada port will be declared as a major port.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I would like to inform the hon. Member that Kakinada port is a minor port which falls under the jurisdiction of the State. None of the minor ports come under the Central Government.

As the exports are increasing manifold and very fast, even in the existing 11 major ports in the country there will very soon be no space left for more exports to be done through them. There will be congestion.

There is a thinking but no decision has been taken that one minor port on the Eastern coast and one minor port on the Western coast can be taken over as a major port, subject to availability of funds from the Finance Ministry.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: My second supplementary is, nowadays, exports and imports through water source are much cheaper than the imports and exports through rail, road and also air. In this connection, there is particularly an inland water service between Madras and Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh). There is a Buckingham canal system in the country. Three years ago, the Central Government also laid the foundation stone at Rajahmundry for the survey of inland water service for the transportation of goods through water. What happened to that survey report? I would like to know whether the Government is going to restore the Buckingham canal system between Madras and Kakinada in order to export the goods through water service.

MR. SPEAKER: Does it come out of this question? If you feel, you can reply.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: It does not come at all.

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: I would like to know what specific action has been proposed to ensure contingent shipment of export of goods from the Mormugao Port. What is the extent of container tariff today and what plans do you have as far as container shipment in the Eighth Plan is concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: All these questions do not really come out of the question.

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: It is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: It may be. But I am disallowing it because it is not relevant.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: There is a total outlay of Rs 441 crores in 1992-93 and the rest in 1991-92. In 1991-92, out of the total allotment of Rs.483.98 crores, how much of funds have been utilised. And I would like to know whether this year allotments were made to on-going projects or the new projects. How many new projects have been included and how much has been allotted for the on-going projects? In this connection, I want to know from the hon. Minister the break-up for different items out of Rs 67 crores that is allotted to the Paradeep Port.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: The total outlay for the Eighth Five Year Plan is Rs 2,984 crores out of which Rs 945 crores is externally funded and the internal resource which is going to be utilised is Rs 1426 crores; internal corporate borrowing is Rs 314 crores and the budgetary support is

going to be Rs 1,244 crores minus the external aid that remains at Rs 299 crores.

As far as Paradeep Port is concerned, the total outlay is Rs 486 cores of which we have got Rs 330 crores for the Paradeep Coal Handling project, for which the hon. Member has taken a lot of interest. Out of this, the internal revenue generated is Rs 156 crores and nothing is going to come from inter-corporate borrowing. So, the total budgetary support is going to be Rs 330 crores, that is hundred per cent externally aided project.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that there is already a congestion in the major ports. Visakhapatnam is one of the major ports. We can also see that it is one of the very profitable ports. This year, the cargo handling in this port is touching around 25 million tonnes and it is likely to reach 30 million tonnes. The hon. Minister also knows that the city is being neglected because of this. Several representations have been given saying that dirty cargo is creating environmental pollution problems. There is a proposal to create facilities at the satellite port of Gangavaram to handle this dirty cargo as well as the material that is being produced for exports and imports from the steel plant of Visakhapatnam. There are also docks that are not sufficient for the outer harbour to handle this extra tonnage of the petroleum products.

What are the steps that are being taken? The outlay that he has shown during this year is only Rs 65 crore. Is there any outlay out of it for the Gangavaram satellite port also? Is there a possibility of improving the berthing facilities?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: There is no outlay because that will not come under the

Central Government.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: The question is related to development of ports. In order to have more speedy development of ports in India we have to have a peaceful harmony with the labourers and see their welfare also. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Surface Transport has entered into an accord with the labourers.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Sir, since this has to be for the development of the ports, the welfare of the labour is the most important thing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister appears to be very well informed. So I will allow him to answer.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I would like to inform the House through you that this is the first time a historical labour accord was signed in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: You could have made a statement on the floor of the House.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I am just saying that because it concerns the labour. I thought everybody has been so critical of the labour and since this is the first time when they have done a wonderful thing.

MR. SPEAKER: You are entitled to make a statement on the floor of the House.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We signed an agreement in Bombay Port Trust on 25th January which is where it was agreed to merge the port with the Bombay Port Trust and dissolve the Dock Layout Board. The merger thing which we gave with the help of

the labour was to increase the minimum productivity norms by 200 per cent to 300 per cent. We have also reduced the manning scale by 70 per cent. We have also introduced the interchange ability among the port workers. This is the first time this accord was signed.

We also did the same thing in Jawaharlal Nehru Port. We signed an agreement with the workers in November in which a minimum productivity of the containers moved per hours more than doubled than the existing level. Even the same thing was done in the Cochin Port Trust. This has decreased the deployment of workers per container by approximately 30 per cent. We signed an agreement with the unions to introduce an in-house stuffing and destuffing of containers. This was the first time we signed it. In Kandla we have introduced a private sector labour gang. This, I thought, the House must know.

[*Translation*]

Doordarshan Channels

*163 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to start new channels of Doordarshan/Air during 1994-95;

(b) if so, whether facility will be provided to the viewers in Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay to see the programmes of Doordarshan channels without cable;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to

offer operation of channels to private hands; and

(e) if so, the details of revenue likely to be earned as a result thereof?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) During 1994-95, All India Radio proposes to introduce 20 Channels, using 5 transponders of INSAT-2B, and Doordarshan proposes to introduce 21 Channels.

(b) Viewers in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras can see the programmes of Primary Channel & Metro Channel through terrestrial telecast.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). The matter is Subjudice.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: It was claimed that AIR and Doordarshan have an ambitious plan to operate a large number of channels. At present the Doordarshan has six channels. It has been just said that the programmes beamed through these channels are poor, notwithstanding efforts which are being made to improve the contents of the programme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any serious efforts have been made to prepare a comprehensive scheme for giving quality programmes in these channels; if so, the details thereof.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: As far as programmes are concerned, it was for the first time that five channels came on the 15th of August. The programmes were to be reviewed after three months because it was an experimental thing. The Inset 2-B came

into the geostationary orbit on the 13th of August. As per the decision, it was reviewed on the 13th of November and a new scheme for channel management is in effect from the 1st February 1994. The first channel is the National Channel, that is the terrestrial DD-1. The second one is the so called Metro Channel which was confined to the four metros, that is Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, which is popularly known as the Metro Channel. That is partly terrestrial and partly satellite. The third channel DD-3 is totally satellite and the 4th, 5th and the 6th are now regional channels.

At every three months or four months interval, it is reviewed; and judging by their viewership, the programmes are modified or they are retained. Since it is on an experimental basis, we would like to review it periodically and bring in improvements as per the audience research as well as the response of the viewers.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: There is a general belief that the percentage of the foreign TV viewers is more than the Doordarshan TV viewers. If it is true, may I know whether the Government will take necessary steps to improve the functioning of Doordarshan by giving priority to the programmes related to the Indian culture and heritage?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: First of all, I am unable to agree with the hon. Member when he said about the 'general impression', because the revenue of Doordarshan, in spite of the foreign TV, has been growing up steadily and progressively.

Secondly, from the 2nd October 1993, 11 regional channels which themselves manifest to the culture of India are being allowed to be telecast. Now five-and-a-half hours are allotted for this and very shortly

another two hours will be added to the regional programmes. Now that we have three channels totally dedicated to 11 regional languages, the intention is to bring up more and more programmes on the regional channels about the Indian culture.

By doing channel management, we find that the viewership has been on the increase; and we have the Audience Research Unit which takes stock of the responses of the viewers periodically and regularly. That is how, we have been improving our finances and revenues in spite of the challenge.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have received two replies and one of them is revised..

MR. SPEAKER: Till the replies are made in the House they can revise the replies.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : So, I ask supplementary from the revised reply? However the hon. Minister has not made revised reply in the House. He has given the reply which was cancelled by him. You can yourself see that the replies are self-contradictory. According to the reply made in the House it is stated that there is a proposal. However, in the revised reply, supplied to me, it is mentioned that experiments are being conducted. Therefore, which one is correct? In the revised reply the hon. Minister stated that telecast will be started. However, in the oral reply it is mentioned that there is a proposal. Therefore, on the basis of which reply I should ask supplementaries? Please guide me.

MR. SPAKER: Supplementaries should be asked on the basis of the oral reply given in the House.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Then I should take the oral reply as correct and the revised one as cancelled.

MR. SPEAKER: As per the rules only the reply given in the House is correct.

• SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on one hand, the hon. Minister has stated that the revenue from the Metro Channel is increasing and on the other hand he has said that the Indian Culture will be protected yet not to talk of Indian culture even viewing of Metro Channel with family is not possible. Situation has come to such a pass that in the game of this competition Indian TV is trying to cope with Western TV i.e. soon going to be like American TV and English T.V. Family viewing is becoming increasingly uncomfortable i.e. mother and daughter, and father and daughter can't watch TV together. For greater revenue earnings TV is being used a tool for moral degeneration therefore parents and children can't watch TV together. Therefore, for revenue sake whether the Government is out to pervert the people of India?

[English]

— SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: The programmes of Doordarshan are subject to the code of AIR and Doordarshan as approved by Parliament. Therefore, no programme in Doordarshan is in violation of the AIR and Doordarshan code.

If there is any specific instance, we can inquire into it. But to make a general statement like that, it is very difficult. There are so many people giving so many pieces of advice. (*Interruptions*)

If there is a specific thing, I can go into it. With the generalised thing, it will be very difficult to answer that. (*Interruptions*) NO

other television is subjected to that (*Interruptions*)

PROF.P.J. KURIEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that the programmes of AIR and Doordarshan are subject to AIR code. If that is so, my submission is that code has to be amended.

We have increased the channels in order to prevent the cultural invasion of our country by foreign TV. But unfortunately, the increase in channels has only resulted in imitating the foreign TV. Most of the slots shown have been brought from abroad. (*Interruptions*) I have no objection to their coming from abroad. But the point is that it is a kind of cultural invasion that is taking place and also a kind of adverse impact on the youth. I fully agree with my friend, Mr. Singh, that if it is not possible to view the TV along with family members.

Our Doordarshan should be Indian. It should have a niche of itself. It should be different from foreign TV. We should not measure its standard from the money we are getting. The standard should be decided and judged by people of high moral values and by those who are concerned with the Indian culture.

Will the Government consider reviewing the whole policy of monitoring and the whole policy of AIR and Doordarshan conduct rules in view of the fact that there is a cultural invasion that is adversely affecting our country and specially the youth of our country?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I agree with the hon. Member. This was approved by Parliament in 1977. If it is the wisdom of the House that we should review here in the House, I am quite willing to do that.

I agree with him that there is a cultural invasion. There is no doubt about it. We would like Doordarshan to bring out the Indian personality and the Indian culture. That is what we are endeavouring to do. This has been the advice of our Consultative Committee Members of the Ministry of I&B. But I am subject to the wisdom of the House. I will abide by whatever directions we get.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is very dynamic. He is doing his best. We should compliment him. But the mind is very much subtle. That which deals with mind, we have to deal with that very carefully. If we have 20 channels, we should be ready with the programmes. Probably action should have been taken to be able to use these 20 channels, which are already available.

The House feels that this opportunity should be properly used. We hope that the dynamic Minister, who is doing his best, will look into it.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: May I give a clarification? The 20 channels are still in an experimental stage. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The 20 channels are available to the satellite. That means, you have to be ready with that.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: My hands are tied by the High Court. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We should have alternative plans. If the decision is given one way, you should be ready. If the decision is given differently, you should give. (*Interruptions*) It is an administrative matter. You are quite capable of looking into it.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: The hon. Minister has said just now about more time to be given to regional channels

and to regional programmes. It is not enough to have regional channels. But it is more important to have decentralised programmes-programmes that are made at the grassroots level in other words.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, when these regional channels are being considered, a certain priority would be given to non-profit making organisations in the state like universities, district library organisations, Vila parishads, etc. to make their own programmes which would be more relevant to the masses at the grass-root level.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: This is a suggestion which has to be studied.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good suggestion.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I agree that there should be decentralisation. That is what we are aiming at and we are gradually moving towards it. As far as the specific suggestion given by the hon. Member is concerned, it requires to be studied.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: I want to know categorically from the hon. Minister on one point. Sometimes, considerations are given for the progressive step to be taken by the Government on regional basis to benefit the general public of the country or to compete with the world progressive steps. That is why, I want to know categorically from the hon. Minister....

MR. SPEAKER: Your question should also be categorical.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: On what basis are these considerations given on the proposal to introduce 20 channels using five transmitters?

MR. SPEAKER: It is available and they are using it.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: It is the technological advancement throughout the world and our engineers and R&D people are on the threshold of that.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some time back the Hon. Prime Minister announced in his address from the Red Fort that rural folks are also going to get the benefit of the five channels of Doordarshan. As per the latest reports rural areas are not receiving the transmission of these five channels. I would like to know by what time the rural areas will start receiving the transmission of these five channels.

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: We are gradually increasing the coverage because the metro channel was started only in four metropolitan cities like Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay and we are extending it to mega cities like Hyderabad, Bangalore and Ahmedabad.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: I asking about coverage in villages.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Every State capital is brought into the ambit and we are also going to take in, other than these mega cities, metropolitan cities and State capitals, other important commercial centres as well as more populated areas. We can do it only in phases because 80 per cent of the Government subsidy to my Ministry has been taken away and the Planning Commission is itself having problems in giving funds. I cannot cover the whole of India overnight. It has to be done in phases and

we will spill over to the Ninth Plan if necessary.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: I want to know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that in Tamil Nadu, the prime time in metro channel is taken away and given to Hindi programmes though metro channel is intended to promote regional languages. The feeling is that Hindi is being imposed on Tamilians step by step. I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister that such a move will be stopped forthwith with a view to honour the sentiments of the Tamilians.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I am categorically assure that there will be no imposition of Hindi imperialism on Tamil Nadu or anywhere. But I cannot stop the movements which are trying to prevent Doordarshan from functioning. Last time, we had a breakdown. In fact, they do not take Hindi programmes at all. That is one State which does not take the national programme in Hindi. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: The hon. Minister stated that they have a system of review. Now, I would like to know whether, through that system, the hon. Minister has come to know that many of the channels cannot be really seen from various stations.

On top of that, you are considering to introduce 20 more channels. When five channels cannot be seen, what is the guarantee that 20 channels will be functioning fine?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: It is not a fact that the six channels are not being seen. In March last year, when I made the announcement. I had stated that these five satellite derived channels could only be seen either by a dish antenna or through cable. You cannot get everything free from

Doordarshan.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House is concerned about one thing that after the introduction of 20 channels on-slaught on culture will be witnessed. Here cultural on-slaught is being done through various forms of art. It is their assertion that these five channels will be reserved for regional telecast. I would like to know whether a catalogue for regional art and culture will be prepared and permission will be granted under that catalogue? And secondly, whether only those art forms will be allowed to be telecast which can prevent/check infiltration in our known art and culture?

SHRI K.P.SINGH DEO: As far as saving our culture is concerned, it cannot be done by Doordarshan alone. As far as propagating our culture and providing opportunities to telecast such programmes is concerned, this is what Doordarshan was seeking to do through these six channels— one national channel and five satellite derived channels. Through these six channels, we can have 14,400 hours for programmes. All the programmes will not be done by Doordarshan alone. It is a platform for creative producers and directors of talent and they can take advantage of it. But the matter is *sub judice* at the moment. We are told that this matter which has been pending since last July will be resolved in April. So, 14,400 hours will be available for anyone for utilisation to propagate culture and for other creative programmes. This will be made available to the public and to people in Jamia Millia, FTII and other such institutions which have got many fresh young minds with creative talent. 90 crore Indians will have access to make these programmes which are now the

monopoly of Doordarshan. That is what we are striving to do. But at the moment, the matter is *sub judice* and my hands are tied.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want, I will allow a discussion on this subject. All of you together may give a proper notice.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: In reply to part (d) of the question, the hon. Minister has told us and restated again in the House that the matter is *sub judice*.

MR. SPEAKER: The allotment of time on the channel is *sub judice* and nothing else!

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: To the best of my knowledge, there was no proposal for handing over an entire channel to private parties. I thought that the point at issue was to allocate time on the Doordarshan channels to private producers. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the exact point whether it is the privatisation of an entire channel or allocation of time on a given channel to private parties, or the basis on which this privatisation will be done whether it be total or partial privatisation. I think the point at issue should be clarified by the hon. Minister.

SHRI K.P.SINGH DEO: The hon. Member has very categorically stated the issue. There is no question of handing over everything to any private party. It was relating to selling or allotting time. That is the scheme which is under the consideration of the Delhi High Court. The scheme which was ap-

proved by the Government was to allot time on the channels and make it available to people who produce programmes. They can buy the time on the channels. There is no question of privatisation of a channel or anything at the moment.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: The point at issue was whether you should select the parties on a first-come-first-serve-basis or on some other basis. That was the point at issue.

MR. SPEAKER: That exactly is the matter which is before the court.

[*Translation*]

Copper Mining

*165. SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of copper content in copper ore excavated from mines in India;

(b) whether due to inefficient extraction methods and low percentage of metal in the ores, the cost of extraction of copper is three times higher than the world standards;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make copper extraction more cost-effective;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy for the mining of copper; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI. BALARM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The average percentage of copper content in copper ores mines in India is around 1% as against around 3 % in the major copper-producing countries in the world. Besides, the shape and size of the ore bodies in the country generally do not allow large scale mechanisation which is essential for bringing down the cost of production. Although the operating costs of mining and million of ores by Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) are competitive, the total cost of metal-in concentrates produced by HCL is higher than that in other major copper producing countries mainly due to low grade ore, low scale of operation and low availability of by-products.

HCL has formulated a revamping plan consisting of expansion of the smelting capacity at Khetri from 31,000 tonnes to 100,000 tonnes per annum of refined copper with imported high grade feed stock copper concentrates, nationalisation of workforce, capital restructuring of the company, phasing out of uneconomic mines and development of promising ones. The revamping plan, when implemented, would make copper production by HCL cost effective.

SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO: The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that Hindustan Copper Limited has formulated a new scheme under which the smelting capacity of refined copper at Khetri is proposed to be increased from 31,000 tonnes to 100,000 tonnes per annum with imported high grade feed stock copper concentrates. In this context I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government have prepared a plan for the expansion and modernisation of Hindustan Copper Limited and Indian Copper Complex located in Ghateshila in Bihar? If so, the funds allocated

to each of them for development during the last three years and the future plan therefor?

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: There is no proposal for the expansion or modernisation of the Indian Copper Complex at Ghatshila. The primary reason behind it is that the financial condition of the company is not sound. This question may be taken into consideration only after their financial condition is improved.

SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO: About 15,000 labourers are employed in Indian Copper Complex and Hindustan Copper Limited and about one and a half lakh people are dependent on them. If the Government does not take any action for the expansion and modernisation of these units, it will have an adverse affect on the people depending on them. Whether Government propose to take any alternative step for the welfare of labourers?

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, so far as the question of labourers and dependent on them the population of one lakh is concerned, the Government is not going to close down the Indian Copper Complex. However, the point to be noted is that the total production of this unit is 16,500 tonnes whereas the total production of the other unit is 31,000 tonnes in spite of the fact that the other unit has been set up very recently. Therefore the expansion of that unit in the near future is essential. The estimated cost of it is likely to be meagre because its installed capacity is 31,000 tonnes. Since Indian Copper Complex is not in sound financial condition, its expansion or modernisation cannot be done.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: The hon. Minister has stated that the Government propose to close down the mines running in loss. I would like to know from him the

details of mines which running in loss and are proposed to be closed down. Whether it is a fact that Hindustan Copper Limited is likely to suffer loss due to the fact that copper is being imported from the foreign countries.

This unit was earning profit till 1992. In such prevailing situations whether alongwith permitting to import of copper from other countries Government also propose to provide financial aid to Hindustan Copper Limited continuously for 2-3 years with a view to expand this unit and do the Government propose to retrench the labourers.

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, the matter of curtailing custom duty on the imported copper is a policy matter, which is implemented in each and every department of the Central Government and Public Undertaking therefore I cannot say anything in this regard. However, I want to make it clear that relaxation in custom duty on the imported concentrated copper has resulted profitability to company. At the same time the customs duty has again been increased from 45 per cent to 50 per cent in the present Budget with this 5 percent increase the company certainly earns profit.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that reduction in customs duty has resulted in profit to Hindustan Copper Limited. I would like to know clearly as to whether the labourers of this unit have submitted a memorandum which will help not only in finding out a solution to their problems but would also offer suggestions for the effective functioning of the company. If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, at this moment I do not remember of any

memorandum that has been given to me. If any such memorandum is given I would certainly consider the matter.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : There are reserves of copper in the neighbouring areas of Ghatshila in the district of Purulia, West Bengal, but the exploration work is not taken up. May I know from the Minister whether the exploration work will be taken up in that area so that the copper reserves can be exploited?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, so far as exploration is concerned, I would present the factual position. I would also try to act upon the suggestions given by the Hon. Members.

SHRI SIMON MARADNI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no funds have been granted for development of copper in the Seventh Five Year Plan. In such a situation whether the Government would allocate funds for this purpose under the Eighth Five Year Plan, at the same time whether the Government propose to dig up new copper mines in Chhota Nagpur, Santhal Pargana and Jharkhand areas?

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir under the Eighth Five Year Plan, no special Budgetary provision has been made for the development of copper. However, Hindustan Copper Limited have offered at their own to expand their activities. Since we are aware of the fact that only one third of the total requirement of copper is excavated in the country, we must increase the production within country to save foreign exchange. In view of the situation prevalent the company propose to develop the Copper Complex in

Khetri with imported Copper concentrate under the next Five Year Plan, and to increase the present capacity of copper from 31,000 metric tonnes to about one lakh metric tonnes this is the plan of the company.

SHRI SUBRATO MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Copper is found in abundant in Bihar. Alike copper, mica is the another metal which is extracted in abundance from the mines of Bihar. It was being supplied not only to the different parts of the country but also exported to all over the world. But the mines of mica have been closed down since long. I would like the hon. Minister to tell kindly as to what will be the future of these mines.

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were a large number of mica mines in Bihar. Mica mining had been done for the last about 100 years in Bihar. However, with the passage of time, the mining became poorer and viability came down. Another reason for the closure of these mines was that the mica substitute has been prepared with another technology, which is quite cheaper as compared to it. This is also one of the reasons that the demand of this metal has decreased, thus leading to closure of the mines.

WRITTEN ANSWERS QUESTIONS

Mica Mines

*164 SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of the mica mines in Bihar and the neighbouring States;

(b) whether a large number of mica

mines in these States have been lying closed for the last many years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the short term and long term measures taken by the Government for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). Lack of demand in the international market arising out of substitution of mica and its products coupled with high cost of mining at deeper levels has, over a period of time, led to closure of a number of mica mines in the country. There are at present 94 mica mines in Bihar and 2 in neighbouring State of Orissa. Revival of these mines is dependent on increased demand for mica, both in the domestic as well as in the international markets, and marketing skills and strategies adopted by producers of Indian mica.

Power Generation

*166. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHTO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals regarding investment in power sector of the country received by the Government so far;

(b) the extent to which the power generation capacity in Megawatts is likely to be increased as a result thereof;

(c) the existing installed power generation capacity in the country; and

(d) the targets of power generation fixed by the Government for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRU N.K.P. SALVE): (a) As on date 75 projects for setting up of a capacity of 32662 MW in the private sector have been received.

(b) It is not possible to provide any definite estimate of the likely capacity addition in this regard.

(c) The existing installed power generating capacity in the country as on 28.2.1994 is 74,163.21 MW.

(d) The target of power generation fixed by the Government for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 are as under:-

Generation target for the year

<i>All India</i>	<i>1993-94 (MU)</i>	<i>1994-95 (MU)</i>
Thermal	243200	263000
Nuclear	6000	8300
Hydro	67500	69000
Total:	316700	340300

[English]

Hero Cup Cricket Tournament

*167. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss suffered by the Government on account of non-telecast of first two matches of the Hero Cup Tournament organised by the Cricket Association of Bengal last year; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) No such estimate can be made since accrual of commercial revenue varies from match to match.

(b) Government shall continue to examine such cases in consonance with the laws of the land.

[Translation]

Visit of Prime Minister to Germany

*168. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN:
SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had visited Germany recently;

(b) if so, the issues figured in his talks with German leaders and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements have been signed during the visit;

(d) if so, the salient features of each of these agreements and the follow-up steps being taken thereon;

(e) the efforts made during the visit and the achievements made in regard to German investment in India;

(f) whether the issue of NPT had also figured during the visit; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (g). Prime Minister paid an official visit to Germany from 2-5 February 1994.

The main issues which figured in PM's talks with German leaders included intensification of bilateral relations in the political, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields and regional and global issues of mutual interest. The talks resulted in enhancing mutual understanding of each other's perceptions and concerns. They also affirmed the commitment of both countries to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in various fields.

No agreement between the Government was signed during the course of the visit.

During the visit, and India-German Business Conference was jointly addressed by PM and Chancellor Kohl, which focused on opportunities for increased economic cooperation through trade, investment and joint ventures. The investment friendly climate generated by India's economic reforms was recognised by the participants in the Busi-

ness Conference. This is likely to give further impetus to German investments in India.

The NPT issue did not figure in talks during the visit.

[English]

Doordarshan Collaboration with Star TV

* 169. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether the Doordarshan has signed any agreement with the Hongkong based Star TV Network for telecast of Republic Day Parade live in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of the countries to be covered under this arrangement;

(c) whether money has been paid to Doordarshan by Star TV Net work for such live telecast;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to enter into more ventures with Star TV Network and other foreign TV Networks in the interest of viewers of the world;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) to (d). Doordarshan's live telecast of the

Republic Day Parade, 1994 was received by Star TV for simultaneous retelecast on payment of US \$ 15,000/-. The footprints of Star TV covers countries from Turkey to Japan.

(e) and (f). Requests for purchase of Doordarshan programmes by foreign networks are a regular feature. Such matters are decided on a case to case basis.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

AIR /Doordarshan Kendras

*170. SHRI N.J.RATHVA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA
KAUR (DEEPA):

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

(a) the names of places where new Akashwani stations and Doordarshan Kendras have been set up in the country during the last three years and the transmission capacity of the each Station/Kendra, State-wise;

(b) whether any targets have been fixed for setting up Akashwani stations and Doordarshan Kendras in the country during the Eighth Plan period, State-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the percentage of population and are proposed to be covered by AIR/Doordarshan network by the end of the 8th plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) to (d). Information is being collected and

will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Thermal Power Plant in Orissa

*171. SHRILOKANATH CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa State Electricity Board (OSEB) and the AES Transpower Corporation of the US are negotiating to set up a thermal power plant in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Orissa State Electricity Board has granted generous incentives to the US company deviating from the norms fixed by the Union Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Orissa State Electricity Board and AES have recently agreed to an amended power purchase agreement. The amended agreement is being examined by Government of India.

Northern Grid

*172. SHRI TARA CHAND
KHANDLWAL:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire northern parts of the country including the Capital faced a major power breakdown due to fault in the

Northern Grid during January, 1994;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been set up to go into the causes of the fault;

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

(d) the other steps taken /proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): (a) Regional Grid disturbance on 15.1.1994 at 0900 hours affected parts of Delhi, Northern Rajasthan and U.P. Systems only.

(b) and (c). While no Enquire Committee was constituted by the Government, the matter was discussed and the reasons for failure have been gone into by the Northern Regional Electricity Board.

(d) Adequate redundancy needs to be built into the transmission network to safeguard against any contingencies. This is being attempted, consistent with resource availability. At present, transmission planning is restricted to cater to single contingency. In addition, automatic under-frequency load shedding/islanding schemes have become operational and are being promoted.

State Road Transport Undertakings

*173. SHRI ANKUSHRAO
RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have communicated to the State Governments that no more central aid will be provided to

the State Road Transport Undertakings;

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

(c) whether the State Governments have agreed to the proposal;

(d) whether Central budgetary assistance is given to these undertakings in the form of loan;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Planning Commission has proposed a four point formula for improving the financial position of State Road Transport Undertakings;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the accumulated losses incurred by the State Road Transport Undertakings during the last three years; and

(i) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the financial position of State Road Transport Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) and (e). The Capital loan assistance was provided to State Road Transport Corporations which were set up under the Road Transport Corporation Act, 1950. It was given in the form of interest-bearing loan by the Central Government in an amount equal to one half of the Capital contribution made by the concerned State Governments. However, from the year 1988-89 onwards the capital loan assistance by Central Government is given to only those state Road

Transport Corporations (SRTUs) which do not incur any net loss or are run at break-even. The State Road Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) which are registered under the Company's Act do not get the benefit under this scheme. Statements I showing list of State Road Transport Corporations / Companies/ Departments etc. is given in Statement-I.

(f) and (g). For improving the financial position of the State Road Transport Undertakings, the following guidelines have been given by the Planning Commission:

(i) Operational efficiency and financial performance of SRTUs must improve.

(ii) the incremental demand for passenger traffic can well be met by the Private Sector. Therefore, there is no need for the public sector to add to their fleet of buses. However, exceptions in specific difficult areas where private sector may not be in a position to come at present, can be made.

(iii) Budgetary support for capital requirements to meet expansion of bus fleet/service would, therefore, be confined to "exceptional" areas only; and

(iv) If a public sector SRTU is functioning well and generates sufficient resources for expansion of its fleet, it may do so.

(h) Information is shown in the Statement-II.

(i) The Planning Commission have indicated the following measures to be taken for improving the over-

	all performance of State Road Transport Undertakings:	12.	Madhya Pradesh SRTC
(i)	emphasis on replacement of over-aged fleet;	13.	Maharashtra SRTC
		14.	Meghalaya TC
(ii)	in-service training of staff for both operations and maintenance;	15.	Manipur SRTC
		16.	North Bengal STC
(iii)	high priority to technology upgradation, introduction of state-of-the-art engine which is fuel-efficient and causes less pollution;	17.	Orissa SRTC
		18.	Pepsu RTC
(iv)	technological changes to improve upon the design of the chassis and bodies for buses;	19.	Rajasthan SRTC
		20.	Tripura SRTC
(v)	emphasis on traffic safety measures.	21.	Uttar Pradesh SRTC

STATEMENT - I**Companies****Corporations**

1.	Andhra Pradesh SRTC	1.	Anna TCL
2.	Assam STC	2.	Cheran TCL
3.	Bihar SRTC	3.	Cholan R/W CL
4.	Calcutta STC	4.	Jeeva TCL
5.	Delhi TC	5.	Kattanomman TCL
6.	Durgapur STC	6.	Kadamba TCL
7.	Gujarat SRTC	7.	Dheeran Chinnamalai TCL
8.	Himachal RTC	8.	Marudhs Pandiyar TCL
9.	Jammu & Kashmir SRTC	9.	Nesamony TCL
10.	Karnataka SRTC	10.	Orissa RTCL
11.	Kerala SRTC	11.	Pallavan TCL (Metro)
		12.	Pandiyar R/WTCL

13. Pattukkottai Azhagiri TCL
14. Thanthai Periyar TCL
15. Thiruvalluvar TCL
16. Rani Mangammal TCL
17. Annai Sathya TCL
18. Calcutta Tram. CL
19. Orissa State Comm. TCL

Govt. Departments

1. Andaman & Nicobar ST
2. Chandigarh TU
3. Haryana ST
4. Mizoram ST
5. Nagaland ST
6. Punjab ST

7. Sikkim NT
8. Arunchal Pradesh ST

Municipal Undertakings

1. Ahmedabad MTS
2. Amritsar Nigam Transport
3. B.E.S.T. Undertaking
4. Jamnagar MT
5. Kolhapur MTU
6. Ludhiana MTU
7. Pune MT
8. Pimpri-Chinchwad MT
9. Solapur MTU
10. Bhavnagar Municipal Corp.

STATEMENT-II

NET PROFIT COMMERCIAL PROFIT IN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT UNDERTAKINGS

(Rs. Crores)

	1990-91 Actuals	1991-92 Actuals	1992-93 Rev. Est.
	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	-11.92	-31.13	-57.26
2. Arunachal Pradesh	-2.41	-1.80	-1.97
3. Assam	-15.36	-17.81	-24.02
4. Bihar	-22.74	-26.87	-49.70
5. Goa (Kadamba)	0.34	-0.31	-0.67
6. Gujarat	4.29	0.92	-78.93
7. Haryana	-18.97	-10.22	10.60
8. Himachal Pradesh	-15.41	-18.38	-25.57
9. Jammu & Kashmir	-15.90	-16.83	-21.50
10. Karnataka	1.30	-19.09	-38.44
11. Kerala	-30.99	-39.54	-32.04

State Road Transport Undertakings		1990-91 Actuals	1991-92 Actuals	1992-93 Rev. Est.
1		2	3	4
12.	Machya Pradesh	0.24	0.27	- 2.09
13.	Maharashtra	5.58	- 26.72	- 9.67
14.	Manipur	- 1.46	- 1.70	- 1.86
15.	Meghalaya	1.69	- 1.71	- 1.20
16.	Mizoram	- 3.47	- 3.92	- 4.36
17.	Nagaland	- 4.10	- 4.13	- 5.14
18.	Orissa	- 12.09	- 11.77	- 7.30
19.	Punjab Roadways	- 30.26	- 25.05	- 16.59
20.	PEPSU RTC	- 20.88	- 17.89	- 11.50
21.	Rajasthan	- 8.59	12.96	5.44
22.	Sikkim	- 0.87	- 0.73	- 2.61
23. - 38.	Tamil Nadu	- 42.28	- 21.33	- 29.59
39.	Tripura	- 3.12	- 3.49	- 4.00
40.	Uttar Pradesh	- 40.42	- 33.43	10.29

State Road Transport Undertakings		1990-91 Actuals	1991-92 Actuals	1992-93 Rev. Est.
1		2	3	4
41.	Calcutta STC	- 23.79	- 21.65	- 17.86
42.	North Bengal	- 5.75	- 7.34	- 9.81
43.	South Bengal	- 3.98	- 3.30	- 0.85
44.	D.T.C	-197.4835	- 203.8184	- 254.
Total =		- 522.1835	-554.8084	- 673.4758

Talks with Pakistan

*174. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan handed over two non-papers to India during January 1994;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan has set new terms for talks with India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the US is against such conditions of Pakistan for talks with India; and

(g) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). On 18th January, 1994 Government of Pakistan handed over to the Government of India two non-papers. The non-paper on the Modalities for holding of plebiscite in Jammu & Kashmir refers to the various UN Security Council Resolutions on the J&K issue as a basis for a resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir issue. The second Pakistani non-paper calls upon India to fulfil certain pre-conditions, including the ground situation in Jammu & Kashmir and the level of security forces deployed against terrorists for the continuation of India -Pakistan dialogue.

(c) to (e). Pakistan's attempts to link the scheduling of future talks with the ground

situation in J&K and discussions on the modalities of a plebiscite have been consistently regarded by Government as unacceptable.

(f) and (g). US Government's position is that it supports continuation of dialogue between India and Pakistan and towards that end encourages both parties to approach the entire range of issues constructively with the aim to achieve tangible agreements leading to reduced tensions.

Modernisation of Postal System

*175. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to modernise Postal System by introducing automatic letter sorting machines, and multipurpose PC based counter machine, to process mail speedily;

(b) whether the programme is likely to be implemented in phased manner; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). The Department installed an automatic letter sorting system comprising 2 letter sorting machines and 30 coding desks at Bombay in April, 1993. The Department has plans to extend the mechanisation in a phased manner. In the year 1994-95 an automatic letter sorting system is planned to be installed in Madras. During the remaining period of 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) it is proposed to install similar systems in another two metro cities.

The Department has so far installed 102 computer based multi-purpose counter

machines in the Post Offices and 750 more such machines are under installation. During the current year the Department has placed orders for procurement and installation of 1000 more computer based multipurpose counter machines. Circle wise distribution of computer based multipurpose counter machines is given in the enclosed Statement. During the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97), it is planned to install 5000 computer based multipurpose counter machines

in various Post Offices in the country.

STATEMENT

DISTRIBUTION LIST OF COMPUTER BASED COUNTER MACHINES

I. 102 Computer based counter machines were installed during the year 1991 in the following circles:

Andhra Pradesh	-	16
Delhi	-	19
Gujarat	-	16
Karnataka	-	10
Maharashtra	-	11
Tamil Nadu	-	15
Uttar Pradesh	-	15
Total:		102

II. 750 Computer based counter machines are under installation in the following circles:

Andhra Pradesh	-	65
Assam	-	10
Bihar	-	10
Delhi	-	45
Gujarat	-	75
Haryana	-	30
Himachal Pradesh	-	07

Jammu & Kashmir	-	05
Karnataka	-	55
Kerala	-	50
Maharashtra	-	100
Orissa	-	30
North East	-	05
Punjab	-	58
Postal Training Centres	-	10
Rajasthan	-	65
Tamil Nadu	-	90
Uttar Pradesh	-	40
Total:		750

III. 1000 Computer based counter machines have been ordered to be installed during the current year in the following circles:

Andhra Pradesh	-	60
APS Directorate	-	05
Assam	-	30
Bihar	-	50
Delhi	-	43
Gujarat	-	50
Haryana	-	30
Himachal Pradesh	-	50
Jammu & Kashmir	-	20

Karnataka	-	60
Kerala	-	60
Maharashtra	-	90
Madhya Pradesh	-	70
North East	-	20
Orissa	-	40
Punjab	-	30
PTTC Madurai	-	05
Rajasthan	-	50
Tamil Nadu	-	60
West Bengal	-	25
Uttar Pradesh	-	150
R&D (Dak Bhawan)	-	02
Total :		1000

[Translation]

National Highways In Punjab and Haryana

*176. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals regarding development of National Highways submitted by the Governments of Haryana and Punjab to the Union Government;

(b) the details of proposals which have been cleared and the funds sanctioned for

the purpose;

(c) whether the construction work of some sanctioned projects is being delayed; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Details of proposals for development of National Highways submitted by the Governments of Haryana and Punjab during 1993-94 are given below:

<i>State</i>	<i>No. of proposals</i>	<i>Amount (Rs in lakhs)</i>
Haryana	9	218.10
Punjab	23	10276.00

(b) Details of the proposals cleared and funds sanctioned for the purpose during 1993-94 are:

<i>State</i>	<i>No. of proposals Cleared</i>	<i>Amount of Sanction (Rs in lakhs)</i>
Haryana	2	94.10
Punjab	9	8588.00

(c) and (d). Construction of none of the works sanctioned during 1993-94 is delayed. However, two externally aided projects in Haryana and one in Punjab sanctioned during earlier years are behind schedule mainly due to low out-put of the contractors and contractual problems.

[English]

Shipping Policy

*177. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reorient the shipping policy in view of the new era of globalisation;

(b) if so, the details of the new policy formulated for shipping for implementation during the Eighth Plan period;

(c) the details of the proposed outlay in this regard; and

(d) the policy to be adopted for privatisation of shipping infrastructure network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The Government has already reviewed the Shipping Policy with a view to promoting the interests of Indian Shipping Companies keeping in view the move towards globalisation and changes in economic policies. As part of the new Shipping Policy, a number of measures have been taken for the healthy growth of Indian Shipping Industry. These include:

1. Automatic approval is now given for:

- (i) Acquisition of all categories of ships, except crude tankers and OSVs, by Private Shipowning companies;
- (ii) Sale of ships for further trading/scrappping to a company within India or abroad;

- (iii) Acquisition of ship from an Indian shipyard; and
- (iv) Acquisition of replacement tonnage.

2. Freight charges on account of movement of fertiliser and petroleum products are now allowed to be paid in convertible currency on par with other commodities.

3. Shipping companies have been given freedom to time Charter out Indian ships to foreign shipping companies.

4. Shipping companies are allowed to acquire vessels through bare boat charter-cum-demise method.

5. Certain Sections of Merchant Shipping Act were considered by foreign lenders as impediments to the enforcement of the rights of lenders in case of loan defaults and consequent requirement of foreclosure of the mortgage. These sections have now been amended, to facilitate Indian Shipping Companies to raise external commercial borrowing for ship acquisition from abroad.

6. Shipping companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquisition.

(c) An outlay of Rs 3300 crores has been provided in the Public Sector for the development of shipping during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(d) Shipping Sector is already open to the Private Sector. At present the share of

Private Sector in the Indian tonnage is about 50%. In order to promote development of shipping in the private sector, a number of measures have been taken which are listed above.

Postal Services

*178. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI CHINMAYAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are general complaints about the inefficient postal services both in the rural and urban areas in the country;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal for setting up a Committee to identify the reasons thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Department of Posts are held responsible in case of loss, mis-delivery of letters/parcels, etc. and damage caused to articles during transmission by post;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) While the Department of Posts makes every effort to maintain and improve the standard of service, there have been occasional complaints about deficiency in the Postal services both in rural and urban areas. It is primarily due to coming up of new residential colonies in the peripheral areas of big cities, manifold increase in

commercial activities, growth of population, manifold increase in the mail volume and bottlenecks in transportation. The problem areas have been studied in great detail by various Committees including a high-powered Committee in the recent past. Action on their recommendations have been taken or are being taken to improve the efficiency of the service.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal at present under consideration of Government to set up another Committee to identify the reasons in view of the ongoing exercise.

(d) to (f). Yes Sir. The liability of the Department of Posts with regard to loss, mis-delivery of letters/parcels etc. and damages caused to the articles during transmission by post is governed by the provisions of Sections 6, 33 and 34 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898. Ex gratia payment is paid in case of loss of registered articles. Refund of Speed Post Charges is given in case of delay in delivery of Speed Post articles. Compensation is paid in case of loss of insured articles. These provisions are reviewed from time to time in consonance with the need for customer satisfaction and redressal of consumer grievances.

[*Translation*]

Food Processing in Rural Areas

*179. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:
DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for the expansion of Food Processing Industries in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government propose to develop the Food Processing Industries as cottage industry in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the details of small, medium and large scale agro-based Food Processing Industries the Government propose to establish; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to improve transportation and marketing of fruits and vegetables in rural area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d). The outlay approved by the Planning Commission for implementation of the Plan Schemes of this Ministry during the 8th Five Year Plan is Rs. 146 crores. While the Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing Industries directly in any State, it has formulated several developmental Plan Schemes for the development of Food Processing Industries for implementation during the 8th Plan. Under these schemes financial assistance is provided to State Government Organisations, Joint Sector Companies, Cooperative Societies, Voluntary Agencies etc. for setting up/upgrading Food Processing Industries. One of our Plan Schemes envisages setting up of Food Processing Training Centre in rural areas which will provide a hands-on experience in operating and managing small units. The Plan Schemes being operated by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in the fruit and vegetables processing sector seek to provide marketing assistance and also assistance for building up cold-storage, pre-cooling facilities, cold transportation system, refrigerated retail outlets etc.

[English]

Working of AIR/Doordarshan in Srinagar

*180. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

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

(a) the details of officials of the All India Radio and Doordarshan killed or injured due to terrorist violence in Srinagar during the last three years;

(b) the dates on which AIR/Doordarshan Kendra building in Srinagar were attacked by Terrorists during this period and the details of damage done to property and equipments;

(c) the periods during which broadcast/telecast from Srinagar AIR Station/Doordarshan Kendra has to be suspended during this period;

(d) the present state of functioning of the AIR/Doordarshan Stations in Srinagar; and

(e) the nature of security provided to the staff and the station building and equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) and (b). Information is given in the enclosed Statements I and II.

(c) There has been no suspension of AIR/Doordarshan broadcast/telecast during the said period.

(d) AIR and Doordarshan Kendras in Srinagar are functioning normally under protection of armed guards.

(e) The security to the staff and the building alongwith equipments is provided by para-military forces at the installations.

STATEMENT- II

DETAILS OF OFFICIALS OF THE ALL INDIA RADIO AND DOORDARSHAN KILLED OR INJURED DUE TO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

Sl. No.	Name & designation of the Officer	Date of attack resulting killed/ injured
A. ALL INDIA RADIO		
1.	Shri Mohd. Shafi Bhat (Faryad), Casual News-Reader-cum Translator, Radio Kashmir, Srinagar.	02.10.1993 Killed
2.	Shri Salam-ud-din Bajad, Assistant Station Director, Commercial Broadcasting Services, Radio Kashmir, Srinagar.	26.12.1993 Injured
B. DOORDARSHAN		
3.	Shri S.P. Singh, Station Engineer, Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar.	Killed on 26.11.1993
4.	Shri G. H. Flather, production Assistant, Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar.	20.7.1993. Physically Tortured.

STATEMENT - II

Details of the attacks made on AIR Doordarshan Kendras by Terrorists and Damages done to Property and Equipments during the last three years.

I. ALL INDIA RADIO

Sl.No.	Date of attacks	Details of damage occurred.
1.	13.5.91, 22.6.91, 3.8.91, 15.8.91, 30.8.91, 23.11.91, 4.12.91, 26.4.92, 10.5.92, 3.7.92, 8.7.92, 15.8.92, 4.9.92, 7.9.92, 30.9.92, 2.6.93, 30.6.93, 21.7.93, 15.8.93, 1.10.93, 2.12.93, 20.12.93, 26.1.94 and 14.2.94.	Radio Transmitter, Rajbagh, Srinagar was attacked with granades and fired at. No damage occurred.
2.	27.11.91, 17.12.91 (Twice), 31.12.91, (Twice), 9.1.92, 14.2.92, 27.4.92, 22.6.92, 9.7.92, 10.2.93 (Twice), and 26.1.94	Radio Transmitter at pampore was attacked with rockkets and fired at. No damage took place.
3.	20.9.91, 25.1.92, 13.8.92, 26.1.94, 10.2.93 (Twice), and 26.1.94, and 26.1.94.	HPT. Narbal was attacked with rockkets and fired at. No major damage occurred.

Sl. No.	Date of attacks	Details of damage occurred.
II. DOORDARSHAN:		
4.	04.2.92	Bomb blast in DDK complex. Minor damage to Studio wall.
5.	09.12.92	Rocket fired at administrative Block, DDK, Srinagar. Wall was damaged.
6.	25.11.93	Rocket attack. Roof was damaged.

**German Assistance for
Nagarjunsagar Power Station**

1758. SHRIDATTATRAYA BANDARU:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought German assistance for the Nagarjunsagar Tail-pond Dam, Power Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). The Nagarjunsagar Tailpond Dam Power House (2x25 MW) of Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board has been posed for availing German financial assistance.

**Accidents on National Highway
No-31**

1759. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents took place on the National Highway No-31 during the last two years, year-wise and month-wise;

(b) the causes of these accidents and the steps taken to check such accidents; and

(c) the number of lives lost and the compensation paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) National

Highway-wise accident statistics is not collected.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Change in Telephone Numbers

1760. SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether subscribers are allowed change in telephone numbers on specific grounds or on request;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the maximum numbers of changes permitted in such cases; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request for change of telephone number is entertained only when there are exceptional reasons for the same and the change is technically feasible.

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

**Rehabilitation of Tribals at
Rourkela**

1761. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tribals displaced by the setting up of Steel Plant at Rourkela have been rehabilitated;

(b) if not, the reasons for the inordinate delay in their rehabilitations; and

(c) the steps being taken to rehabilitate

them expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A total of 2901 families (tribals and non tribals) were displaced on account of acquisition of land for RSP at Rourkela (excluding mine quarries and dam area). Apart from compensation paid for the land acquired, two resettlement colonies (Jalda & Jhirpani) with all amenities were set up by the State Government. Each displaced family was provided with house site, housing subsidy for construction of house and alternative waste land for cultivation with reclamation subsidy. 50% of the total cost of rehabilitation was borne by RSP.

So far RSP has also provided employment to 4671 local displaced persons of Rourkela. District authorities are scrutinising records to determine families displaced from Rourkela from which nobody has been provided employment and in case of such persons there is a scheme under which eligible persons can be provided training, the cost of which is borne by RSP. Such trained persons will be considered for employment at RSP, per requirement.

Sale of Special Grade Steel

1762. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) *the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and sale of spe-*

cial grade steel in the country;

(b) *the total quantity of special grade steel sold by the Steel Authority of India Limited during the last three years and the rupee value thereof;*

(c) *the target set in this regard for 1993-94; and*

(d) *the steps taken on achieve the target?*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Among the steps taken by Steel Authority of India Limited to increase production of special grade steel are:

- (a) Modernisation and technological upgradation of plant and equipment.
- (b) Improvement in raw material quality.
- (c) Better technological regime.

Some of the measures contained in the Budget for 1994-95 such as reduction of customs duty on capital goods and ores and concentrates may also help in increasing the production of special grade steel in the country.

(b) *The domestic sales of special steel by SAIL (excluding IISCO) for the last three years is as under:*

(‘000 tonnes)

	1991-92	1992-93	April-Dec'93
SAIL (excluding IISCO)			
Bhilai Steel Plant,			
Durgapur Steel Plant,	815.7	938.8	657.3
Rourkela Steel Plant,			
Bokaro Steel Limited.			

('000 tonnes)

	1991-92	1992-93	April-Dec'93
Alloy Steel Plant	81.9	78.0	60.1
Special Steels Plant	34.0	36.4	18.9

(c) Domestic sales plan for special grade steel produced by SAIL (excluding IISCO) for 1993-94 is as under:

('000 tonnes)

Bhilai Steel Plant, Durgapur Steel Plant, Rourkela Steel Plant, Bokaro Steel Ltd.	1350.6
Alloy Steel Plant	100.0
Special Steels Plant	36.2

(d) Some of the steps taken by SAIL to achieve the sales plan are as under:

1. Vigorous customer contact and faced back on quality;
2. Order booking at competitive prices;
3. Exploring new market/customers;
4. Emphasis on prompt order service and quick after sales service.

[*Translation*]

Linking National Highway No.12 with Other Places

1763. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Govern-

ment has submitted any proposals for linking Ahmedabad and Indore National Highway No. 12 via Indore, Devas, Khatigaon, Nasrullahganj, Bhudni and Badi;

(b) if so, when this proposal had been sent by the State Government;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether any study/survey has been conducted to analyse its feasibility and cost; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been representing from time to time for the inclusion of certain State Roads in the National Highway grid including the road emanating from Ahmedabad to terminate at Bhopal on N.H. No.12 traversing through Indore-Dewas which incidentally covers the part requirement of the road in question. However, owing to resource crunch under the Central Sector Road Programme in the current Plan, it is not possible to declare new National Highways in various States including Madhya Pradesh.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Funds for Power Sector

1764. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH
CHAUHAN:
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have increased the amount of total outlay for the power sector in the country during 1993-94; and

(b) if so, the details of developmental schemes to be initiated during the period in this regard and funds allocated therefore, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No Sir.

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

[English]

Out of Turn Telephone Connections

1765. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4007 on August 23, 1993 and state:

(a) whether the judgment has since been studied;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the information has since been collected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not,

the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Special Leave Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Electronic Exchange

1766. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic exchange set up during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of such exchanges in the country during the Eighth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Number of electronic exchanges set up during the last three years, State-wise, are given in Annexure-I

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the Eighth Plan all electro-mechanical exchanges of MAX-II, MAX-III Manual and life expired exchanges are planned to be replaced by electronic ones. The details are given in Statement-I

STATEMENT - I

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of electronic exchanges opened during last 3 years	No. of exchanges proposed to be opened during the remaining period of the 8th Plan (Tentatively)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	843	450
2.	Assam	221	40
3.	Bihar	235	160
4.	Gujarat (including Dadra & Nagar Haveli U/T)	738	367
5.	Haryana	431	41
6.	Himachal Pradesh	251	180
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	74	180
8.	Karnataka	1135	726
9.	Kerala (including Minicoy Lakshwadeep Islands)	501	44
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1977	1200
11.	Manafashtra (including Goa)	1293	381
NORTH EAST			
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	18	36

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of electronic exchanges opened during last 3 years	No. of exchanges proposed to be opened during the remaining period of the 8th Plan (Tentatively)
13.	Manipur	14	13
14.	Meghalaya	14	16
15.	Mizoram	10	16
16.	Nagaland	20	17
17.	Tripura	29	15
18.	Orissa	533	62
19.	Punjab (including Union Territory of Chandigarh)	456	98
20.	Rajasthan	684	400
21.	Tamilnadu (including Union Territory of Pondicherry)	726	392
22.	Uttar Pradesh	1004	340
23.	West Bengal (including Skim and Union Territory)	319	183
24.	Delhi	31	25

**Racket in International Calls in
Delhi**

1767. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and other particulars of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) officials arrested in January, 1994 in Delhi for being involved in a racket of providing unmetered international calls; and

(b) the departmental and other action taken by the Government against these officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A total of six employees of MTNL were arrested in two different raids during the month of January, 1994. Particulars of the employees are given below:

- (i) Raid on 05.01.1994
- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Astt. Engineer | - one |
| J T O | - one |
| Regular Mazdoor | - three |
- (ii) Raid on 25.01.1994
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Phone Inspector | - one |
| (since transferred to Calcutta) | |

(b) All the employees presently working under MTNL have been placed under suspension. Further action will be taken after investigations are completed by C.B.I.

[*Translation*]

**Chinese Investment In Surface
Transport**

1768. MAJ. GEN. (RTD.) BHUYAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of

SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with China for investment in the field of Surface Transport in our country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**News From AIR/ Doordarshan
Kendras in Bihar**

1769. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of news bulletins broadcast in Hindi, Urdu, English, Sanskrit and regional languages by Akashvani and Doordarshan Kendras in Bihar with duration thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of regional language news bulletins broadcast from Akashvani and Doordarshan Kendras in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

News Bulletins Broadcast/Telecast in Various Languages from AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendra in Bihar with Duration thereof

STATEMENT

<i>AIR Station/ Doordarshan Kendra</i>	<i>No. of regional news bulletins</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Duration</i>
1	2	3	4
AIR, PATNA	2	Hindi	one each of 5 mts. and 10 mts.
	1	Urdu	5 minutes
AIR, RANCHI	1	Hindi	10 minutes

Besides above, a 5 minutes news summary in Maithili is also broadcast over AIR, Darbhanga, thrice a week.

DOORDARSHAN KENDRA, PATNA	1	Hindi	15 minutes
	1	Urdu	5 minutes

In addition to the regional news bulletins mentioned above, all Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendra in Bihar relay national news bulletins in Hindi and English broadcast/telecast from Delhi.

**News in Maithili from Darbhanga
AIR Station**

1770. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Darbhanga Akashvani Station Broadcast news in Maithili;

(b) if so, the duration thereof and whether the Government propose to introduce broadcast of news in Maithili daily from there;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to increase the news duration and timings also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d). A News Summary in Maithili of five minutes duration is broadcast from AIR, Darbhanga thrice a week. There is no proposal either to increase the duration or frequency of this news summary as adequate number of news bulletins are being broadcast by the station in the principal language of the station which is Hindi.

[English]

Allocation to Schemes of Food Processing Industries

1771. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation for Central and Centrally sponsored schemes relating to Food Processing Industries during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount released to State Governments during 1992-93 and the allocation for 1993-94, State-wise; and

(c) the brief particulars of the major schemes and of proposals relating to Bihar under consideration of the Government with the date of receipt of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The outlay approved for implementation of the Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during the Eighth Five Year Plan is Rs. 146 crores.

(b) Details of assistance provided during 1992-93 under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry in respect of proposals from the States are given in the enclosed statement. No State-wise allocation of funds is made.

(c) No such proposals are under consideration.

STATEMENT

Details of assistance provided during 1992-93 under the Plan Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Amount (Rs in lakhs)</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	150.932
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	
3.	Assam	18.258
4.	Bihar	9.000
5.	Goa	12.700
6.	Gujarat	25.000
7.	Haryana	86.000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	44.000
9.	J & K	
10.	Karnataka	111.300

S. No.	State	Amount (Rs in lakhs)
11.	Kerala	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	38.335
13.	Maharashtra	57.720
14.	Manipur	0.675
15.	Meghalaya	
16.	Mizoram	113.110
17.	Nagaland	36.750
18.	Orissa	6.000
19.	Punjab	146.000
20.	Rajasthan	-
21.	Sikkim	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	25.000
23.	Tripura	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	62.060
25.	West Bengal	35.770
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	-
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-
30.	Delhi	5.732
31.	Lakshadweep	-
32.	Pondicherry	-
Others-Organisations/Institutions		89.180.

**Manufacture of Satellite Terminals
by DOT**

1772. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has proposed to manufacture satellite terminals and started bidding for the International Communication Satellite;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether C-DOT is working for the aforesaid project in co-ordination with the concerned department of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d). C-DOT has no proposal to manufacture Satellite Terminals. C-DOT has not bid for International Communication Satellite. However, they have quoted for development and supply of TDMA System to Intelsat against their enquiry, with ITI as sub-contractors for manufacturing.

Construction Coastal Highway

1773. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a coastal highway along the Western Coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation made thereof;

(c) whether any work has commenced on the Vengalam-Ponnani Coastal Highway in Malabar, Kerala; and

(d) if so, the extent of work done and the estimated cost of project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d). The road in question being a State road, the State Government of Kerala is primarily concerned in the matter.

Panel for Road Accidents

1774. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1689 on December 13, 1993 and state:

(a) whether the panel has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Conversion of Telephone Exchanges
in West Bengal**

1775. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of telephone exchanges

converted into electronic exchanges in West Bengal as on January 31, 1994; and

(b) the places where exchanges are likely to be converted into electronic ones with S.T.D. facility by March 31, 1994 in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI
SUKH RAM): (a) Names are shown in State-
ment -A

(b) Places are shown in Statement

-R

Statement- A

NAMES OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGES CONVERTED INTO ELECTRONIC EXCHANGES IN WEST BENGAL AS ON JANUARY 31, 1994

Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange	Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange
1.	Arbelia	18.	Ilinda
2.	Badarhat	19.	Katiahat
3.	Baduria	20.	Nahata
4.	Beliaghata Brdg	21.	Nazat
5.	Berachampa	22.	Taki
6.	Bhebia	23.	Canning
7.	Bongaon	24.	Champahati
8.	Dharghat	25.	Falta FTZ
9.	Ghaighata	26.	Fatehpur
10.	Gopalnagar	27.	Gangasagar
11.	Gopalpur	28.	Gocharan
12.	Gobaba	29.	Jayanagar
13.	Govardanga	30.	Kakdwip
17.	Iswarigachha	31.	Kashinagar

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Telephone Exchange</i>	<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Telephone Exchange</i>
32.	Kulpi	47.	Budbud
33.	Lakshmikanapur	48.	Bulbulitala
34.	Madurapur	49.	Burdwan
35.	Murahat	50.	Shakdigi
36.	Jamkhana	51.	Chandrapur
37.	Nodrpur	52.	Chinchiria
38.	Raydigi	53.	Chitranjan
39.	Rudranagar	54.	Dainhat
40.	Sarisa	55.	Devipur
41.	Pusti	56.	Dignegar I
42.	Andal	57.	Domohani
43.	Asansol	58.	Dalsi
44.	Vaidyapur	59.	Gangatikwai
45.	Bhatar	60.	Jamalpur
46.	Bhadia	61.	Jamuriahat

Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange	Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange
		77.	Ramgopalpur
62.	Jaugram	78.	Raniganj
63.	Kaichar	79.	Sahebganj
64.	Kalna	80.	Saktibath
65.	Kamarpata	81.	Satwachia
66.	Kabenagar	82.	Seharabazar
67.	Kelubram	83.	Shyamsundar
68.	Kuchut	84.	Simlon
69.	Kurmun	85.	Ukhara
70.	Maniewah	86.	Ahmedpur
71.	Nabagram	87.	Solpur
72.	Neamatpur	88.	BTPA (Mathabere)
73.	Nutanhat	89.	Dhaira
74.	Panaoarhazar	90.	Dubrajpur
75.	Pandaveswar	91.	Ilumbazar
76.	Paraj	92.	Kirnahar

Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange	Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange
93	Lapur	108.	Belia
94.	Lomapur	109.	Indpur
95.	Mahamadbazar	110.	Indus
96.	Mollarpur	111.	Jhantipahari
97.	Nalhati	112.	Joypur
98.	Narayanpur	113.	Khatra
99.	Panchami	114.	Kotulpur
100.	Bainthia	115.	Kushadwip
101.	Balbi	116.	Mezhia
102.	Barjora	117.	Onda
103.	Beliatore	118.	Panchmura
104.	Bibhpur	119.	Patrasayar
105.	Chhatna	120.	Ranihandh
106.	Gangajaghathi	121.	Rasulpur
107.	Barraipur	122.	Saldiha

Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange	Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange
123.	Salora	139.	Bijanbari
124.	Sarenga	140.	Gorubathan
125.	Simlupal	141.	Kharibari
126.	Sonamukha	142.	Lavabazar
127.	Taldanbra	143.	Mirik
128.	Chendrabandha	144.	Mungra
129.	Chowdhurihat	145.	Nagrispur
130.	Dinhata	146.	Naxalbari
131.	Haldibari	147.	Phansidewa
132.	Mathabhanga	148.	Siliguri -II
133.	Mekhliganj	149.	Sonada
134.	Pundibari	150.	Sukhiapokhri
135.	Sitaihat	151.	Takdah
136.	Tufanganj	152.	Tindharia
137.	Alorah	153.	Amta
138.	Bidhannagar	154.	Bagnan

Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange	Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange
155.	Bailpur	171.	Falkata
156.	Boinchee	172.	Gairkata
157.	Champadanba	173.	Jalpaiguri
158.	Chanditala	174.	Kaichini
159.	Haripal	175.	Krantirhat
160.	Jirat	176.	Lataguri
161.	Kamarpukur	177.	Madarihata
162.	Khankul	178.	Metteji
163.	Masat	179.	Moynaguri
164.	Pandua	180.	Oodlabari
165.	Bastipur	181.	Raiganj
166.	Alipurdwar	182.	Alanpur
167.	Banarhat	183.	Araidanga
168.	Barobiba	184.	Bodemyna
169.	Belacoba	185.	Bulbulchandi
170.	Chalsa	186.	Chanchal

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Telephone Exchange</i>	<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Telephone Exchange</i>
187.	Chandipur	202.	Ratua
188.	Dharampur	203.	Sambi
189.	Ghazole	204.	Sujapur Town
190.	Harichandrapur	205.	Vaishnavnagar
191.	Kaliachak	206.	Alangiri
192.	Kejuriaghat	207.	Amlagora
193.	Khusida	208.	Ballychak
194.	Kortali	209.	Babantia
195.	Maharajabab	210.	Belda
196.	Manichak	211.	Bhabhanpur
197.	Milki	212.	Bhupatinagar
198.	Mothabari	213.	Chaitaniyapuri
199.	Oldmalda	214.	Chandrakona
200.	Makuahat	215.	Chanserpur
201.	Paranpur	216.	Contai

Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange	Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange
217.	Dadhika	232.	Hoomgarh
218.	Dabagram	233.	Jahalda
219.	Dabpur	234.	Jhargram
220.	Debra	235.	Kakoachhia
221.	Digha	236.	Keshiary
222.	Egra	237.	Keshpur
223.	Geonkhal I	238.	Kakurda
224.	Ghatal	239.	Khalbuli I
225.	Golotoare	240.	Khatar
226.	Gomunda	241.	Khirpai
227.	Gopiballavpur	242.	Khorai Bazar
228.	Goura	243.	Kolabhat
229.	Haldia (T)	244.	Kulabhat
230.	Heria	245.	Lowada
231.	Hijji	246.	Madpur
		247.	Mahishahdal

Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange	Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange
248.	Maligram	263.	Panskura
249.	Manikpara	264.	Pataspur
250.	matchendipur	265.	Pratapdirhi
251.	Mayna	266.	Rajnagar (2)
252.	Muchede	267.	Ramnagar
253.	Mirzapur	268.	Raskundu
254.	Mohanpur	269.	Reapara
255.	Monglamard	270.	Gabong
256.	Nandakumar	271.	Salboni
257.	Naradul	272.	Satbankura
258.	Narayangarh	273.	Satmile
259.	Nimpura	274.	Silda
260.	Nonakuribazar	275.	Srinagar
261.	Panchkuri	276.	Tamluk
262.	Paniparul	277.	Temathani
		278.	Amtala

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Telephone Exchange</i>	<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Telephone Exchange</i>
279.	Aurangabad	295.	Assannagar
280.	Azimganj	296.	Bagula
281.	Bhababangola	297.	Betai
282.	Dhuliyan	298.	Chapara
283.	Farraka Barrage	299.	Debagram
284.	Farraka NTPC	300.	Dhubulia
285.	Gankar	301.	Dignagar (2)
286.	Hariharpura	302.	Dutta Phulia
287.	Islampur (1)	303.	Haringhata
288.	Jangipur	304.	Kaigunij
289.	Jiaganj	305.	Karimpore
290.	Lalgola	306.	Majdia
291.	Murshidebad	307.	Mayapur
292.	Saktipur	308.	Ranaghat
293.	Sargachhi	309.	Santipur
294.	Trimohini (2)	310.	Swarupganj

Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange	Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange
311.	Tehatta	327.	Manbazar
312.	Bhupalpur	328.	Raghunathpur
313.	Chopra	329.	Ramchandrapur
314.	Itahar	330.	Rangadith
315.	Kanki	331.	Bantaldih
316.	Karandighi	332.	Tulin
317.	Ranjipara	333.	Gangarampur
318.	Adra	334.	Harirampur
319.	Anara	335.	Hilli
320.	Barabhum	336.	Patiram
321.	Cheliama	337.	Tapan
322.	Dubra	338.	Trimohini (1)
323.	Grahojpur	339.	Calcutta Bank (22)
324.	Hura	340.	Calcutta City (23)
325.	Jhalda	341.	Calcutta Venue (34)
326.	Kashipur	342.	Calcutta Jivasanka (33)

Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange	Sl. No.	Name of Telephone Exchange
343.	Calcutta Sibpur	357.	Calcutta Panihat
344.	Calcutta Kalighat (47)	358.	Calcutta Central
345.	Calcutta Barasat	359.	Calcutta Sibpur
346.	Calcutta Narendrapur	360.	Calcutta Barunpur
347.	Calcutta Barrackpur	361.	Calcutta Dum Dum
348.	Calcutta Bagh bazar	362.	Calcutta Behala
349.	Calcutta Kalyani	363.	Calcutta Alipur
350.	Calcutta Chandan Nagar	364.	Calcutta Salkia
351.	Calcutta Bagh Bazar	365.	Calcutta Jadavpur
352.	Calcutta Russa	366.	Calcutta Rossa
353.	Calcutta Circus.	367.	Calcutta East II
354.	Calcutta Alipur	368.	Asansole
355.	Calcutta Budge Eudge	369.	Asansole Ranigan
356.	Calcutta Bagh Bazar	370.	Assansole Neeyamatpur
		371.	Assansole Jumriyahat

C.R.F. Fund for West Bengal

1776. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released or proposed to be released during the current financial year or the next financial year from the Central Road Fund to the State Government of West Bengal; and

(b) the details of the schemes where these funds are proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A sum of Rs 20.00 lakhs has tentatively been allocated to the Government of West Bengal for the year 1993-94. It is too early to indicate allocation of funds for next financial year.

(b) Funds under the Central Road Fund are allocated State-wise and not scheme-wise.

Telephone Connections to Freedom Fighters

1777. DR. Y. S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by his Ministry for sanction of telephone connections under Freedom Fighters quota, as on December 31, 1993, State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections sanctioned out of them as on December 31, 1993 and the number of applications pending; and

(c) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Review of Policy on STD/PCO

1778. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India PCO Holders Association have represented to the Government for review of policy on STD/PCO;

(b) if so, the issue raised by the Association; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issues raised are:

1. Their Association to be recognised
2. Transfer of PCOs to next of his/her legal heir in the event of death of the PCO allottee.
3. Supply of computerised print-out of bills
4. Reduction in the licence fee for FAX.
5. Representation of the Association's representatives in the TAOs
6. Charging Rs. 3000/- as PCO allotment fees and an increase in the minimum guaranteed amount.

(c) The demands regarding transfer of PCO to next of his/her legal heir in the event of death of the original allottee and for supply of computer print-outs/detailed billing on request have only been acceded to.

[*Translation*]

**SAARC Centre for Arbitration of
Commercial Disputes**

1779. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken any initiative during the recent SAARC Summit held in Dhaka with regard to setting up of Regional Centre for Arbitration of Commercial Disputes among SAARC countries;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the response of SAARC members thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Madam. The Government of India had not taken any initiative at the SAARC Summit held in Dhaka for setting up of Regional Centre for Arbitration of Commercial Disputes among SAARC countries.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Cultural Centres

1780. SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries where cultural centres are being run by the Government;

(b) the salient features of the functions of these centres;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more cultural centres in other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). The Indian Council for Cultural Relations has eight Cultural Centres located at Georgetown (Guyana), Jakarta (Indonesia), Moscow (Russia) Port Louis (Mauritius), Paramaribo (Surinam), Cairo (Egypt), Berlin (FRG) and London (U.K) for promoting greater awareness and appreciation of India's cultural heritage as well as to disseminate information about contemporary developments in India. The Centres organise regular activities like lectures, talks, film shows and exhibitions on various aspects of India. In additions, some of the Centres also organise regular classes on Indian music, dance, yoga and Hindi. The Centres also maintain a library-cum-reading room. Where appropriate, the Centres develop activities relevant to the cultural needs of the people of Indian origin settled abroad.

All Centres are expected to develop and maintain contacts with a wide cross section of local citizens including students, teachers, scholars and cultural personalities.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. It is proposed to open Cultural Centres at Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Almaty (Kazakhstan).

[English]

**Criteria for Selection of T.V Serials
and Documentary Films**

1781. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government for the approval of TV serials and documentary films; and

(b) the details of proposals for telecast of TV serials/ documentary films in regional languages lying pending with each of the Doordarshan Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) The following broad criteria is adopted for selection of TV serials and documentary films under Doordarshan's commissioned programme scheme:

(a) Relevance of the story, theme or subject to the needs of Doordarshan.

(b) Treatment of the subject/ storyline.

(c) Conformity to the telecast code.

(d) Track records of the Director, Exec-

utive Producer, writer, crew etc.

Insofar as sponsored programmes are concerned, Doordarshan endeavours to approve programmes which propagate high social values combine with wholesome entertainment.

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

STD in Kerala Exchanges

1782. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for setting up automatic telephone exchanges with S.T.D facility in Kerala, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI
SUKH RAM): The Government has taken steps in terms of providing material resources and other infrastructure for setting up automatic telephone exchanges in Kerala. With these steps, all the 683 telephone exchanges in Kerala have been made automatic and out of these 455 exchanges are having STD facility. Districtwise break up is given in enclosed statement 228 telephone exchanges are planned to be provided STD facility during 8th Five Year Plan, subject to availability of resources.

STATEMENT

DISTRICT - WISE DETAILS OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGES HAVING STD FACILITY

Sl.No	Name of District	No. of Telephone Exchanges	No of Exchanges with STD facility
1.	Alleppey	35	20
2.	Calicut	44	33
3.	Kannur	62	28
4.	Ernakulam	75	73
5.	Iddukki	58	22
6.	Kasargod	38	19
7.	Kottayam	58	58
8.	Malapuram	48	41
9.	Palghat	63	26
10.	Pathanamthitta	37	13
11.	Quilon	53	37

Sl.No	Name of District	No. of Telephone Exchanges	No of Exchanges with STD facility
12.	Trichur	49	36
13.	Trivandrum	43	43
14.	Wynad	20	6
	Total	683	455

Dereservation of Minerals

1783. SHRI. GOPI NATH GAJPATHI:
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of minerals dereserved by Government;

(b) whether Government propose to dereserve some more minerals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). The National Mineral Policy has dereserved all the 13 minerals which were earlier reserved for exclusive exploitation by Public Sector. These minerals are iron ore, manganese, chrome, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel and platinum group of minerals. Since all these minerals have already been dereserved, question of their further dereservation does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections to Gram Panchayats In Backward Districts

1784. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any priority is given to provide telephone connections to Panchyat villages of backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d). No, Sir. There is no such priority or definition for backward districts. The Government have adopted a policy to provide telephone facility to all 2,33,060 Panchayat villages by March 31, 1995 progressively subject to availability of resources.

[*English*]

Telephone Connections in Hyderabad

1785. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications pending as on December 31, 1993 in Hyderabad city for telephone connections and the number of connections given during the calendar year, 1993; and

(b) the number of connections given out of them on out of turn basis during the said period and the connections given for unemployed youth for STD and ISD booths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) the total Nos. of applications pending as on December, 1993 in Hyderabad city is 70096, and the telephone connections given during the calendar year 1993 is 27775.

(b) the Nos. of connections given on out of turn basis is 1004 and connections given to unemployed youth for STD/ISD booths is 312.

Post Offices in Maharashtra

1786. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Maharashtra without post office by the end of '1992-93;

(b) the number of villages in the State having post office;

(c) the district-wise number of villages without post office at present; and

(d) the number of post offices proposed to be opened district-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 31,973 villages in Maharashtra were without post offices by the end of 1992-93.

(b) The district-wise and category-wise details of villages having post offices as on 31.12.93 are given at Statement-A.

(c) The district-wise details of villages without post offices at present are given at Statement-B.

(d) In the current year 27 more post offices are proposed to be opened, district-wise and category details of which are given at Statement-C.

STATEMENT - A

DETAILS OF THE NUMBER OF VILLAGES HAVING POST OFFICES, CATEGORY-WISE AND DISTRICT-WISE IN MAHARASHTRA

S.No	Name of District	No. of villages having post offices	SO*	EDSO**	EDBO***
1.	Ahmednagar	601	76	-	534
2.	Akola	366	21	5	340
3.	Amravati	399	19	20	369
4.	Aurangabad	392	27	-	299
5.	Buldhana	345	8	8	279
6.	Bhandara	301	24	7	258
7.	Beed	305	15	-	284
8.	Chandrapur	279	3	5	261

S No	Name of District	No. of villages having post offices	SO*	EDSO**	EDBO***
9.	Dhule	461	31	-	396
10.	Gadchiroli	215	2	-	200
11.	Jalna	178	10	-	145
12.	Jalgaon	336	37	14	424
13.	Kolhapur	492	52	10	435
14.	Latur	276	17	-	256
15.	Nagpur	253	18	7	222
16.	Nanded	427	21	-	404
17.	Nasik	583	45	-	569

S.No	Name of District	No. of villages having post offices	SO*	EDSO**	EDBO***
18.	Osmanabad	266	15	-	243
19.	Pune	624	62	1	572
20.	Parbhani	282	8	-	270
21.	Raigad	296	27	3	273
22.	Ratnagiri	608	64	4	552
23.	Solapur	539	42	5	430
24.	Satara	685	55	9	552
25.	Sangli	385	59	15	326

S.No	Name of District	No. of villages having post offices	SO*	EDSO**	EDBO***
26.	Sindhudrug	318	32	5	291
27.	Thana	296	38	3	309
28.	Wardha	152	10	3	152
29.	Yeotmal	315	22	5	321

* Sub Post Office.

**Extra Departmental Sub Post office.

*** Extra Departmental Branch Post Office.

STATEMENT - B**DETAILS OF THE NUMBER OF VILLAGES WITHOUT POST OFFICE, DISTRICT-WISE IN MAHARASHTRA**

Sl.No.	Name of District	No of Villages without PostOffice
1.	Ahmednagar	1132
2.	Akola	1411
3.	Amravati	1560
4.	Aurangabad	1017
5.	Buldana	1058
6.	Bhandara	2018
7.	Beed	770

No of Villages without PostOffice

Sl.No. Name of District

8.	Chandrapur	1104
9.	Dhule	1238
10.	Gadchiroli	2002
11.	Jain	862
12.	Jalgaon	1001
13.	Kolhapur	698
14.	Latur	733
15.	Nagpur	1681
16.	Nanded	985

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of District</i>	<i>No of Villages without PostOffice</i>
17.	Nasik	1136
18.	Osmanabad	536
19.	Pune	1123
20.	Parbhani	961
21.	Risogad	1059
22.	Ratnagiri	908
23.	Solapur	782
24.	Satara	1125
25.	Sangli	349

Sl.No.	Name of District	No of Villages without PostOffice
26.	Sindhudrug	389
27.	Thana	1138
28.	Wardha	1519
29.	Yeotmal	1551
	Total	32047

STATEMENT -C**DETAILS OF THE NUMBER OF VILLAGES HAVING POST OFFICES, CATEGORY-WISE AND DISTRICT-WISE IN MAHARASHTRA**

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of post offices proposed to be opened	
		Sub post office	Extra departmental branch post office
1.	Ahmednagar-		3
2.	Akola	1	.
3.	Amravati	1	3
4.	Aurangabad	2	1
5.	Buldana	.	1
6.	Bhandara		.
7.	Beed	.	1

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of post offices proposed to be opened	
		Sub post office	Extra departmental branch post office
8.	Chandrapur	-	-
9.	Dhule	-	1
10.	Gadchiroli	-	1
11.	Jalna	-	-
12.	Jalgaon	-	-
13.	Kolhapur	-	-
14.	Latur	-	-
15.	Nagpur	-	2

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of post offices proposed to be opened	
		Sub post office	Extra departmental branch post office
16.	Nanded	.	.
17.	Nasik	.	.
18.	Osmanabad	.	.
19.	Pune	2	4
20.	Parbhani	.	.
21.	Raigad	.	.
22.	Ratnagiri	.	.
23.	Solapur	.	6
24.	Satara	.	3

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of post offices proposed to be opened	
		Sub post office	Extra departmental branch post office
25.	Sangli	.	.
26.	Sindhudrug	.	.
27.	Thana	.	2
28.	Wardha	.	.
29.	Ycetmal	.	.

[*Translation*]**FAX Facility**

1787. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide FAX facility at all the district headquarters of the country;

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

(c) the number of district headquarters to be covered by this facility in Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has plans to provide FAX facility at all district headquarters of the country.

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

(c) In the State of Haryana 13 districts out of 16 districts are already provided with FAX facility and remaining district headquarters will be provided during 8th Plan period.

STATEMENT

State-wise Nos. of District Headquarters where Fax Facility is not Provided

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the State</i>	<i>No.</i>
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	12
2.	Assam	11
3.	Bihar	4
4.	Gujarat	4

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the State</i>	<i>No.</i>
5.	Haryana	3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	10
8.	Kerala	1
9.	Madhya Pradesh	18
10.	Maharashtra	3
11.	Manipur	7
12.	Maghalaya	4
13.	Mizoram	2
14.	Nagaland	6
15.	Orissa	15
16.	Punjab	7
17.	Rajasthan	7
18.	Sikkim	3
19.	Uttar Pradesh	3
20.	West Bengal	3

N.B. : District Headquarters in remaining States are having Fax facilities.

21. Union Territories To be provided in all District Headquarters except Port Blair, Pondicherry & Kavarathi.

*[English]***STD/PCO in Andhra Pradesh**

1788. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand at present for ISD/STD/PCOs in Andhra Pradesh district-wise;

(b) the number of such applications pending at present district-wise;

(c) the numbers of PCOs sanctioned during 1993-94, district-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to clear the applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Smuggling of Globe into India**

1789. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in "Jansatta" dated February 5, 1994 regarding sale of a globe which showed Jammu & Kashmir as a disputed territory;

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

(c) whether these globes are available in Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Such globes have reportedly been brought into Kerala mostly by the Indians returning from the Gulf;

(e) Indian Embassies in the concerned Gulf countries have been asked to take up the matter with the respective Foreign Offices. Our Customs authorities have already alerted their field offices in this regard to prevent import of such globes and have made some seizures. Kerala state government has also been asked to take necessary action to prevent circulation of such globes.

*[English]***Ahmedabad Passport Office**

1790. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications in the Ahmedabad Passport Office;

(b) the reasons for delay and the steps taken to ensure minimum time in grant of passports;

(c) whether take and stolen passports were seized from an Ahmedabad-based recruiting agent;

(d) if so the details thereof;

(e) whether any employee of the passport office has been found involved in this racket; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). The total number of pending applications at Ahmedabad Passport Office was 14293 as on 4.2.94. Of these, the number of applications pending for over one month was 12,477. A shortage of staff and shortfall in the supply of passport booklets together with an increase in the number of applications received had contributed to the delay in the issue of passports. Steps taken to reduce delays in the time taken to issue passports include, *inter alia*, augmentation of staff strength, introduction of a productivity linked incentive scheme and increase in the supply of passport booklets. The issue time at RPO Ahmedabad for fresh passports where the application is complete in all respects has come down from approx. 105 days in December 1992 to 72 days as on 4.2.94.

(c) to (f). Facts are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Public Sector Mining Companies

1791. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector mining companies like Hindustan Copper Limited, Hindustan Zinc Limited, Bharat Aluminium Company Limited and National Aluminium Company Limited have become financially unviable and are at the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the factors responsible there-

for; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Government to revive these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). The operations of public sector undertakings viz. Hindustan Copper Limited, Hindustan Zinc Limited, Bharat Aluminium Company Limited and National Aluminium Company Limited were adversely affected during 1993-94 on account of fall in the international market prices of copper, zinc, lead and aluminium and lowering of customs duty of these metals. The PSUs are reviewing the scope and need to phase out the uneconomic mines. However, no mine has been closed by the PSUs on account of the liberalisation policy of the Government.

(c) To safeguard the interests of Indian industry, the budget proposals for 1994-95 of Government include proposal for rationalisation of import duty structure, levy of countervailing duties, reduction on customs duty on capital imports etc. on non-ferrous metals. The PSUs are also revamping their operations and undertaking expansion of capacities, phasing out of uneconomic units, innovative marketing strategy to maximise sales, and capital restructuring besides, efficient management of physical and financial resources, etc.

Corruption in Dhanbad Telecom Division

1792. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding corruption in Dhanbad Telecom Division and Chas-

Bokaro Telephone exchange;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Complaint from All India Employees Union Class-III, Patna, against Shri S.S. Yadav, TDE, Dhanbad, regarding his alleged irregularities.

(ii) Complaint against Shri H.,G. Sharma, SDO, Bokaro Steel City, regarding his alleged atrocities.

(iii) Complaint made by Bokaro Chamber of Commerce and Industries, with Newspaper clippings, forwarded by Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary, M.P., Shri George Fernandes, M.P. and Shri Karia Munda, M.P. regarding alleged excess recovery of Rs.5 crores and misappropriation of Rs. 7.25 lakhs towards telephone bills in Bokaro.

(c) the cases are under investigation.

Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables

1793. SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI LAL BABU RAI:
SHRI RAM TAHAL
CHOUDHARY:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and rupee value of fruits and vegetables produced in the

country last year;

(b) the comparative figures of percentage of processed fruits and vegetables with respect to neighbouring countries;

(c) the steps being taken to reduce losses due to non-availability of appropriate post harvest infrastructure; and

(d) the targets fixed and schemes being implemented in the Eighth Plan to reduce wastes due to improper storage and processing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a). Quantum and value of the production of fruits and vegetables during 1992-93 are not available. The quantity and value of fruits and vegetables produced in the country during 1991-92 is estimated at 98.07 million tonnes and Rs.18057 crores.

(b) Total production of fruit and vegetable products in India during 1992 had been 4,69,000 metric tonnes. The figures for neighbouring countries are not available.

(c) and (d). The Government is assisting and encouraging setting up of various post-harvest processing and handling facilities such as assistance to Government/Cooperative/Voluntary agencies for setting up new units or expansion of existing units, subsidy for backward linkage by the Industry for contract farming, promotion of generic demand for processed fruits, establishing of food processing/training centres in rural areas are other measures to optimise conservation of available fruits and vegetables in the country. Besides this, the National Horticulture Board has taken up a massive programme for establishing grading/packing centres, pre-cooling units, waxing units

and also cold chain including refrigerated transport and cold storages. While no targets have been fixed for the Eighth Five Year Plan to reduce losses, it is estimated that augmentation of the installed capacity of fruit and vegetable processing units will increase from 9.5 lakh tonnes, as in the beginning of the Plan, to 20 lakh tonnes at the terminal year of the Eighth Plan and other measures initiated by the Government will reduce the losses substantially.

Talks on Troop Reduction with China

1794. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:
SHRI ANAND RATAN
MAURYA:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN
SETHI:
SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have started talks on reducing troop levels on both sides of the line of actual control in pursuance of an agreement signed during the Prime Minister's visit to Beijing during September, 1993;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that both sides have so far reduced some troops on the borders;

(c) if so, the total number of troops

withdrawn by both the countries;

(d) the time by which further talks between the two countries are likely to be held; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to reduce tension on the border with China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) In pursuance of the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in September, 1993, an India-China Expert Group was formed in December 1993 to assist the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) in its task of implementation of the Agreement. The Expert Group held its first meeting in New Delhi from February 2-4, 1994. At this meeting, basic agreement was reached on issues related to the mandate, future tasks and methodology of the Expert Group. The tasks of the Expert Group, including the question of troop reduction and other confidence building measures will be taken up in subsequent meetings.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The next meeting of the Expert Group will be held in Beijing in a few months.

(e) The Joint Working Groups is to discuss further measures including implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, which are expected to ensure peace and tranquillity in the India-China border area.

[*Translation*]

Bilateral Relations with US

1795. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the progress made in regard to the strengthening of bilateral relations including trade relations with the US during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): Government have been pursuing a policy of constructive dialogue with the US to strengthen Indo-US bilateral relations through a step-by-step approach which does not undermine India's national interest. During the last six month, Indo-US relations have been marked by both positive trends, particularly in the domain of commercial and economic interaction between the two countries, as well as the continuation of differences in areas such as human rights, non-proliferation and trade policy.

The US continues to be India's largest trading partner. Bilateral trade in 1993 registered an unprecedented increase. Documented figures indicate that during January-November, 1993 bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 6.66 billion (Indo-US trade during 1992 was worth US\$ 5.69 billion). The US is the single largest investor-country in terms of direct foreign investment in India. US-based companies account for nearly 30% of all joint ventures in India. US investments in India during 1993 registered a quantum jump and exceeded the cumulative US investment in India from 1947 to mid-1991. The US Government and business have welcomed India's economic liberalisation programme and want the pace accelerated. Government are, however, committed to policies in consonance with India's national interest.

Bilateral consultations in August 1993 between Foreign Secretary and the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and the Third Round of official-level bilateral talks on disarmament, non-proliferation and regional security issues in September 1993 facilitated a better understanding of each other's positions. There has been some convergence of views on issues like a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a cut-off in production of fissile material for weapons purposes.

India and the US have also agreed to undertake a bilateral review of the Memorandum of Understanding finalised in 1984 on high technology trade. A new draft agreement on cooperation in science and technology is also under consideration. Recently, US export regulations on the sale of computers has been liberalised. Indo-US cooperation on the Light Combat Aircraft is being implemented under a special agreement.

The first round of talks on the conclusion of a new Extradition Treaty between India and the US was held between September 28- October 1, 1993.

Of late, there have been repeated references from responsible US Administration officials regarding Kashmir and the situation in Punjab as well as statements and letters by the highest political authority in the US. Government have categorically stated that these tend to provide encouragement to Pakistan and terrorists sustained by them to continue with their violent activities. Such references are unhelpful and hinder resumption of the democratic political process and a return to normalcy which the Government are striving to bring about.

Government are committed to keeping India's national interest as the sole determi-

nant factor in pursuing constructive relations with the US.

Accommodation to Class IV P&T Employees

1796. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the class four employees of Posts and Telegraph Department are not getting Government accommodation even after putting twenty years of service;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide them such facility in future early; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. There are some cases where Class IV employees have not got Government accommodation even after twenty years of service. Quarters are allotted to different categories of officials including Class IV as per their entitlement according to the existing rules. The waiting period for allotment varies with the availability of quarters as any particular station and the number of applicants there.

(c) and (d). It is the constant endeavour of the Posts and Telecom Departments to provide more and more quarters to the staff. This is, however, subject to the availability of funds, land and inter-se priorities.

[*English*]

Tista Bridge

1797. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far regarding the construction of Tista bridge in North Bengal;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) 45.89% as on January, 1994.

(b) Rs. 220.30 lakhs.

(c) June, 1995.

[*Translation*]

Extradition Treaty with U.A.E.

1798. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:
SHRI DHARMANNA
MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sign an Extradition Treaty with U.A.E.;

(b) whether the Government has already prepared any draft for the proposed treaty;

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the treaty is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI

R.L. BHATIA: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Two rounds of official level talks have been held between the two sides on the Extradition Treaty. The delegations found common ground on most of the provisions. Further discussions are proposed through diplomatic channel to finalise the Treaty. The Treaty will be signed as soon as all the aspects of the Treaty have been discussed and mutually agreed upon.

[English]

Export of Mica

1799. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which mica is being exported;

(b) whether there is any shortage in supply of mica to these countries; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the loss of foreign exchange being suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Mica has been exported to 55 countries during 1992-93

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SAIL Stockyards at Rajkot

1800. SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be

pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2688 on December 20, 1993 and state:

(a) the criteria being adopted by the Government to decide the opening of departmental stockyards by SAIL;

(b) the total annual demand of iron and steel in and around Rajkot;

(c) whether keeping in view the growing demand in and around Rajkot the Government propose to review its earlier decision; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV): (a) Setting up of departmental stockyards, owned and managed by Steel Authority of India Limited is dependent upon several factors such as economic viability, future demand potential and consumption, likely growth of sales *vis-a-vis* availability from steel plants, physical proximity of the proposed location from any existing distribution centre etc.

(b) According to SAIL's assessment, the monthly demand of steel material in and around Rajkot varies between 800 to 1000 MT.

(c) and (d). SAIL examined the possibility of opening a stockyard at Rajkot, but keeping in view the demand pattern for iron and steel materials in an around Rajkot, it has not been found economically viable. SAIL is presently having two stockyards in Gujarat, one at Ahmedabad and another at Baroda. Besides, Small Scale Industries Corporations continue to be treated as "Priority Sector" and their supplies are met by

the Main producers against the allocation made by Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel. Small Scale units are also free to get their supplies directly from SAIL.

Newspapers Published from Gujarat

1801. SHRI HARILAL NANJI PATEL:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers and periodicals being published from Gujarat with total circulation, language-wise and paper-wise;

(b) the year-wise amount earned by these newspapers during the last two years by publishing advertisements offered by the Government ; and

(c) the policy adopted by the Government to offer advertisements and also for the regulation of newspapers and periodicals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGHDEO):

(a) As per records maintained by the Office of Registrar of Newspapers for India, a total of 892 newspapers/periodicals were registered with RNI as on 31.12.92. Details of circulation, languagewise and paperwise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The amount of advertisements released to the publications from Gujarat during the years 1992-93 and 93-94 is given as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (Rs)</i>
1992-93	1,14,12,175
1993-94 (from 1.4.93 to 31.1.94)	88,28,791

(c) The Government's advertisement Policy aims at a balanced and equitable placing of advertisements in the newspapers keeping in view the publicity requirements and availability of funds. The publication of newspapers and periodical is regulated under the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867.

STATEMENT**DETAILS OF THE NAMES OF PAPERS LANGUAGE, PERIODICITY AND CIRCULATION FOR 1992 FROM GUJARAT**

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
English/Daily			
1.	Indian Express	English/Daily	12625
2.	Indian Express	"	11378
3.	The Economic Times	"	9059
4.	The Times of India	"	44587
5.	The Western Times	"	19445
6.	Alpaviram	Hindi/Daily	18730
7.	Prasaraan	"	3000

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
8.	Akila	Gujarati / Daily	52911
9.	Anzali	"	18613
10.	Bahrauch Times	"	10290
11.	Bhoomi	"	23934
12.	Chanchal	"	12820
13.	Charottar Bhumi	"	23185
14.	Financial Express	"	7699
27.	Kutch Jyoti	"	6683
28.	Kutch Mitra	"	23633

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
29.	Lok Satta	"	21174
30.	Nav Nirman	"	19959
31.	Naya Padkar	"	37067
32.	Nobat	"	19339
33.	Phulchhab	"	93082
34.	Prabhat	"	23652
35.	Sandesh	"	188450
36.	Sandesh	"	101697
37.	Sandesh	"	84908

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
38.	Sandesh	"	65215
39.	Sanj Samachar	"	47166
40.	Saurashtra Bhumi	"	25199
41.	Shri Nutan Saurashtra	Gujarat / Daily	51203
42.	Saurashtra Samachar	"	31640
43.	The Financial Times Incorporating	"	12087
44.	Valsad Times	"	11400
45.	Vavvad	"	4500
46.	Western Times	"	31340

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
47.	Hindu	Sindhi / Daily	21453
48.	Amrutika	Gujarat / Daily	30194
49.	Bhuj Samachar	"	4426
50.	Chanakya	"	3178
51.	Cheti Chand	"	3555
52.	Chitralok	"	12578
53.	Chhoti Jagir	"	5805
54.	Chhoti Jagir	"	5199
55.	Divadandi	"	2627

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
56.	Phulwadi	"	30003
57.	Gram Sahyogi	"	3000
58.	Gujarat Darpan	"	2703
59.	Gujarat Prabha	"	12077
60.	Gujarat Prabha	"	9095
61.	Gujarat Times	"	31916
62.	Jan Yog	"	4169
63.	Kathiawar Times	"	2000
64.	Ke Pe Pee	"	4071

1	2	3	4
Sl. No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
65.	Kheda Vartman	"	12927
66.	Kutch Mitra	"	23602*
67.	Lok Bhumi	"	16501
68.	Maha Gujarat	"	5500
69.	Matru Bhumi	"	17098
70.	Mayur Bhumi	"	2500
71.	Nava Sarajan	"	1985
72.	Out Door-In Door	"	5098
73.	Panch Mahal Vartman	"	6000

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
74.	Pinal Times	"	3000
75.	Prajadoot	"	3007
76.	Prerana patrika	"	1920
77.	Ram Ban	"	2200
78.	Sadhana	"	12090
79.	Sahakar	"	3994
80.	Samay	"	8514
81.	Satya Kam	"	1838
82.	Shree	"	10688

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
83.	Stree	"	69404
84.	Vice of Dahad	"	3400
85.	Vyapar Udyog	"	22630
86.	Gujarat Law Times	English / Weekly	895
87.	Adarsh Pariwar	Gujarati / Fortnightly	3000
88.	Ayurved Times	"	1050
89.	Bhumi Putra	"	4617
90.	Dharam Sandesh	"	20303
91.	Gunadit Jyoti	"	2000

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
92.	Lok Jiwan	"	2570
93.	Niranjan	"	18725
94.	Rangtarang	"	19541
95.	Samaj Vâd	"	11666
96.	Sarvodaya	"	6189
97.	Satyachar	"	500
98.	Balpushti	English / Monthly	1000
99.	Gujarat Law Recoirter	Gujarati / Monthly	2048
100.	Gujarat Revenue Tribunal Law Reporter		226

1	2	3	4
Sl. No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
101.	Narmada Krushi Parivar	"	5000
102.	Arthik Vikas	"	2300
103.	Arth Sankalan	"	820
104.	Bal Pushti	"	3000
105.	Gram Swaraj	"	5690
106.	Hindu Milan Mandir	"	4199
107.	Kekarav	"	3200
108.	Kpydo-Ne-Kanoon	"	1086
109.	Kutch Vikas	"	2544

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
110.	Nagar Darpan	"	640
111.	Narmada Kisan Pariwar Patra	"	22700
112.	Parmarthi	"	12617
113.	Rajput Bandhu	"	1240
114	Sakhi	"	10442
115.	Shri Ghanshyam Bijaya	"	6137
116.	Vaishnav Pariwar	"	11500
117.	G.E.V. News	English & Gujarati Monthly.	14248

1	2	3	4
Sl.No.	Name of the newspaper	Language/Periodicity	Circulation
118.	Daily Official List	English / Daily	1124
119.	Imarti Lakkod Samachar	Gujarati / Fortnightly	2550
120.	Jyotish Deep	Gujarat / Monthlu	8941
121.	Pensioner Jagat	"	3300
122.	Vartman	"	1150

Power Plants in Maharashtra

1802. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement of power for the state of Maharashtra;

(b) the present production of power in the State and the expenditure being incurred thereon;

(c) the names of the power projects proposed to be set up in the State during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared and how the funds are proposed to be mobilised; and

(e) the number of villages proposed to be electrified in Maharashtra during the Eighth Plan period and the amount proposed to be provided for this purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The requirement of energy in Maharashtra during April, 1993-January, 1994 was 36795 million units. The peak requirement of power during this period was 7480 MUs.

(b) During April-January, 1994 the energy generation by Maharashtra State Electricity Board was 27553 million units. The average cost of generation as on 31.3.1993 in Maharashtra was 148.06 paise/Kwh.

(c) and (d). The following power projects are expected to yield benefit in Maharashtra during the 8th Five Year Plan:

<i>Sl. No</i>	<i>Name of project</i>
1.	Manikdoh
2.	Ujjaini
3.	Warna
4.	Surya
5.	Bhindardara-II
6.	Dudhganga
7.	Dimbhe
8.	Bhira PASS
9.	Koyana Stage IV
10.	Chandrapur Unit -7
11.	Uran WHP
12.	Khaperkheda Exten.
13.	Trombay
14.	BSEB (Dahanu)
15.	Sardar Sarovar (Multi-State Project)

It is the responsibility of the project authorities/State Governments and promoters (in respect of private sector projects) to mobilise adequate funds for implementation of the power projects.

(e) All the villages feasible for electrification in Maharashtra have already been electrified by the end of March, 1989.

Exchanges to Multinational Companies

1803. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to give the exchanges at Thambkur in Karnataka and Thirupur in Tamil Nadu on rent to multinational companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other exchanges proposed to be given to the multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

Telephone Connection in Assam

1804. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list at present for getting telephone connections in Assam, district-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of persons allotted telephone connections in the State during each of the last two years, district-wise and category-wise;

(c) the number of persons likely to be allotted telephone connections in the State by the end and of December 1994, district-wise and category-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to provide

telephone connections to the remaining persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d). Information is being compiled and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway Project

1805. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway;

(b) whether there has been cost escalation and the project is facing financial crises;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any report to the Union Government in this regard and requested for additional financial assistance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The work of constructing Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway is in progress.

(b) Though there has been cost escalation, the project is not facing financial crisis.

(c) Cost escalation is mainly due to extra cost of land acquisition and higher tender rates.

(d) and (e). The State Government have submitted a revised cost estimate for obtaining revised sanction.

AIR Station at Asansol

1806. SHRI HARDHAN ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up A.I.R Station at Asansol; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation of funds made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A relay centre with 2x3 KW FW FM transmitter with capital cost of Rs. 235.74 lakhs is being established at Asansol.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connection in Delhi

1807. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI BHUBANESHWAR
PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections, category-wise, as on January 1994 in Delhi in each zone/ area;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided so far-category-wise and area-wise;

(c) the target fixed for release of new telephone connections during the current year; and

(d) the details of schemes to provide telephone connections to all the people on the waiting list by the beginning of next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Details of waiting list category-wise as on 31.1.94

Area	OYT-S	OYT-G	NOYT-SS	NOYT-Spl	NOYT(G)	Total ..
G.M.(E)	22	313		105	74848	75288
G.M. (N)	-	20	-	1	60755	60776
G.M. (S)	292	4462	-	598	68046	73398
G.M (W)	33	1469	-	157	72403	74062
A.M. (C)	59	48	-	13	9647	9767
	406	6312	-	874	285699	293291

(b) The telephone connections provided Category-wise/Area-wise upto 31.1.94.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Tatkal</i>	<i>OYT-G*</i>	<i>OYT-(S)</i>	<i>N-OYT-(S)</i>	<i>N-OYT(G)</i>	<i>Total</i>
G.M.(E)	54	3590	67	544	9309	13564
G.M. (N)	-	1447	57	157	6956	8617
G.M. (S)	940	2221	267	343	4777	8548
G.M (W)	174	3710	-	685	9391	13960
A.M. (C)	-	1933	-	307	1972	4212
Total	1168	12901	391	2036	32405	48901

(c) A Target of 76600 new telephone connections has been fixed for 1993-94.

(d) Tentative plans have/drawn to provide 4 lakh new telephone connections in Delhi during 1994-95. This will make OYT and Special category waiting list current in 1994 and easy availability of General category telephone in 1995. This is, however, subject to timely availability of equipment, financial and other resources.

Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

1808. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH
RAO GUNDEWAR:
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra, district-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of persons provided telephone connections so far in the State, district-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the time by which the remaining applicants are likely to be given telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Information is being compiled and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) 8th Five Year Plan of Department of Telecommunications envisages waiting period not to exceed two years in large telephone systems like Bombay & Pune etc. and telephone practically on demand in Rural/Tribal areas.

During 8th Five Year Plan it is proposed to add 1670000 new Telephone connections in Maharashtra including Bombay, MTNL.

National Highways in Bihar

1809. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways in Bihar on which widening, extension and repair work has been undertaken since April, 1993 till date and the time by which such work will be undertaken on rest of the national highways passing through Bihar; and

(b) the details of estimated expenditure and the actual expenditure incurred on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) National Highways in Bihar are being maintained in traffic-worthy condition within the available funds. No extension work of National Highways is being undertaken. However, widening work on National Highway Nos. 2, 23 and 28A is in progress. In addition the work of widening of National Highway No. 32 is included during the 8th five year plan.

(b) A sum of Rs. 115.00 lakhs has been allocated during 1993-94 for widening of these National Highways. Also, an amount of Rs 12.31 crores has been allocated so far for maintenance/repairs of all National Highways in Bihar during 1993-94.

T.V. Transmitter at Rajmahal in Bihar

1810. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a T.V. transmitter near Rajmahal in Jharkhand area of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that programmes are clearly visible; and

(d) the number of T.V. transmitters set up in Jharkhand area so far and the number out of them working at present and the capacity each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Rajmahal in Sahib Ganj district lies within the coverage zone of the high power transmitter functioning at Katihar.

(c) and (d). 32 TV transmitting centres are functioning, at present, in Bihar providing TV coverage to an estimated 91.7% population of the State. With a view to further strengthen TV service in the State, 15 more TV transmitters of varying powers and under implementations /envisaged to be set up. The details are enclosed in the Statement.

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	Location	Category	Power
I. Existing Transmitting Centres:			
1.	Daltonganj	HPT	10 KW
2.	Katihar	HPT	10 KW
3.	Muzaffarpur	HPT	1 KW
4.	PATNA	HPT	10 KW
5.	Ranchi	HPT	10 KW
6.	Bettiah	LPT	100 KW
7.	Begusarai	LPT	100 KW
8.	Bokaro	LPT	100 KW

Sl.No.	Location	Category	Power
9.	Bhagalpur	LPT	100 KW
10.	Buxar	LPT	100 KW
11.	Chaibasa	LPT	100 KW
12.	Darbhanga	LPT	100 KW
13.	Deochar	LPT	100 KW
14.	Dhanbad	LPT	100 KW
15.	Dumka	LPT	100 KW
16.	Forbesganj	LPT	100 KW
17.	Gaya	LPT	100 KW

Sl.No.	Location	Category	Power
18.	Giridih	LPT	100 KW
19.	Ghasshila	LPT	100 KW
20.	Gopalganj	LPT	100 KW
21.	Jamshedpur	LPT	100 KW
22.	Jamui	LPT	100 KW
23.	Khagaria	LPT	100 KW
24.	Madhubani	LPT	100 KW
25.	Madhepura	LPT	100 KW
26.	Motihari	LPT	100 KW

Sl.No.	Location	Category	Power
27.	Mungar	LPT	100 KW
28.	Saharsa	LPT	100 KW
29.	Sasaram	LPT	100 KW
30.	Sitamarhi	LPT	100 KW
31.	Siwan	LPT	100 KW
32.	Rangarh Hill	Transposer	10 KW

II TV Transmitters under Implementation/Envisaged to be set up

Sl.No.	Location	Category	power
1.	Bettiah	HPT	10 KW
2.	Jamshedpur	HPT	1 KW

Sl.No.	Location	Category	Power
3.	Aurangabad	LPT	300 W
4.	Godda	LPT	300 W
5.	Gumla	LPT	100 W
6.	Hazaribagh	LPT	300 W
7.	Lohardaga	LPT	300 W
8.	Nawada	LPT	100 W
9.	Raxaul	LPT	300 W
10.	Supaul	LPT	300 W
11.	Noamundy	LPT	100 W

Sl. No.	Location	Category	Power
12.	Kodarma	LPT	100 W
13.	Phoolparas	LPT	300 W
14.	Saralkela	LPT	100 W
15.	Simdega	VLPT	10 W

LEGEND - HPT - High Power Transmitter

LPT - Low Power Transmitter

VLPT - Very Low Power Transmitter.

Monitoring of Power Projects in Bihar

1811. SHRI LAL BABU RAI:
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain power projects are being monitored in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of the monitoring undertaken during the last three years;

(c) the deficiencies that came to notice of the Government after monitoring;

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). The ongoing power projects are constantly monitored by the Ministry of Power and Central Electricity Authority to ensure that they are commissioned within the stipulated period. The monitoring of power projects in Bihar is also being done especially with reference to allocation of funds, expediting timely supply of equipment from BHEL, review of physical progress of implementation and visits to project sites to remove bottlenecks etc. The deficiencies that are frequently noticed are, *inter-alia*, inadequate fund allocation by State Government, slow utilisation of available funds, shortcomings in project management etc.

(d) and (e). The matter is taken up with concerned authorities for taking timely ac-

tion to remove deficiencies noticed during the monitoring.

Pak's Special Emissaries to various Countries

1812. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of Pakistan's sending special emissaries to mobilise support for its proposed motion in the UN Human Rights Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of India have asked our Missions to brief government of countries of their accreditation to vote against Pakistani resolution. EAM has written a letter to Foreign Ministers of member-states of the Commission on Human Rights conveying our view point. Where there are no resident Missions, our concurrently accredited envoys have been instructed to undertake a journey to the concerned capitals to make a direct demarche with the authorities there. Our delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights has been strengthened. The Government have also extensively and repeatedly briefed the Delhi-based envoys of member-states of the UN Commission of Human Rights.

*[English]***National Seminar on Road Safety**

1813. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN
SETHI:
SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM
KAMBLE:
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national seminar on national road safety week was held in New Delhi during the first week of January 1994;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed at the seminar and the recommendations made thereon;

(c) whether the road accidents in our country are much more than any other country in the world;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the specific steps suggested in the seminar to prevent road accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):(a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The Subjects on which papers were presented in this Seminar related to:-
- (i) Road Accident Scenario in India and safety Management Strategies;
 - (ii) Road Safety-Education and Enforcement;
 - (iii) Bus Accidents in the Cities;
 - (iv) Towards Developing a Road Safety Culture Problems and Prospects;
 - (v) Safety of Vehicles, Pedestrians, Passengers and Drivers;
 - (vi) Development of Road Safety Culture, Steps required to be taken and the Difficulties.
 - (vii) Road Engineering in Road Safety - The need for year Ahead.
 - (viii) Unified Road Traffic Management System-Strategy for Road Safety.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. In one of the papers presented in the Seminar the following information with regard to rate of accidents and fatalities in selected countries was given:-

Rate of accidents and fatalities in selected countries

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Country</i>	<i>Accidents per thousand vehicles</i>	<i>Fatalities per thousand vehicles</i>	<i>Fatalities per thousand accidents</i>
1.	India	13.00	2.61	200.00
2.	U.K.	14.00	0.39	24.00
3.	West Germany	13.00	0.61	34.00
4.	USA	12.20	0.33	25.00
5.	Italy	11.50		31.00
6.	Japan	9.80	0.20	18.00
7.	Sweden	6.80	2.70	33.00
8.	Australia	3.11	0.39	124.52
9.	Brazil	1.38	0.32	229.51
10.	France	8.70	0.40	50.00

(e) Some of the important measures suggested by various speakers in the Seminar are given in the Statement.

STATEMENT

Remedial steps suggested in the Road Safety Seminar held on 5th January, 1994 to minimise road accidents are as follows:

- i) Audio, visual, leaflets etc. relating to 'do' and 'don't' for different categories of road users should be made and presented in more improved style.
- ii) Ministry of Education by means of enactment should make "traffic education" a part of prescribed curricular for school children.
- iii) All Motor Driving Schools which have mushroomed must be regulated and controlled by the State agencies. These Driving Schools should have proper infrastructure facilities and qualified instructors.
- iv) Since pedestrians and cyclists are major victims of road accidents special education campaign is required towards educating them in road discipline.
- v) Improvement of geometrics along the hill sections.
- vi) Provisions of guard rails on approaches to bridges and high embankments, etc.
- vii) Signalising the unmanned railway level crossings and providing warning signs and rumblers.

viii) Removal of speed breakers on national and State highways and conforming to international standards where speed humps are absolutely necessary.

ix) Better street lighting in urban centres and along the main ghats.

x) Improving the quality of driver education and training, and stricter control over the driving licence.

xi) To have each road provided with proper road markings so as to induce proper lane discipline.

xii) To maintain and provide sufficient pedestrian facilities.

xiii) To improve road lighting system on a systematic basis.

Talks with Foreign Minister of Belgium

1814. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he met the Foreign Minister of Belgium during his recent visit to Brussels and held any talks with him on bilateral issues including kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the talks, the intensification of bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field, was discussed. EAM also con-

veyed out perceptions on regional issues pertaining to South Asia as well as our concerns regarding Pak-sponsored terrorism. It was agreed that the two countries will consider concluding a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement to give an impetus to Belgian investments. The Belgian Foreign Minister also expressed support for the resolution of all issues with Pakistan including Kashmir through a bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections in Bihar

1815. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a lot of difference in the demand and allotment of telephone connections in Bihar;

(b) if so, the district-wise and category-

wise waiting list thereof;

(c) the number of persons provided telephone connections so far, district-wise and category-wise; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to provide telephone connections to the remaining applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is given in enclosed statement

(d) The 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) of the department envisages to provide telephones practically on demand in rural and tribal areas & to contain the waiting period for telephone connections in large telephone systems to maximum two years by the end of the Plan period. The planning for exchange capacities is done accordingly.

STATEMENT

THE DISTRICT-WISE AND CATEGORY-WISE INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF WAITING LIST AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS PROVIDED TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS.

Sl.	Name of the District	Waiting List as on 31.1.1994.			Telephone connections provided from 1.4.93 to 31.1.1994			
		OYT	Special	General	OYT	Special	General	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Bokaro	23	65	1369	1	2		225
2.	Dhanbad	10	16	1160	-	-		195
3.	Muzaffarpur	-	-	1615	10	2		2476
4.	Sitamarahi	-	19	924	1	1		579
5.	Vaishali	-	12	369	-	-		407
6.	Gumla	-	-	302	-	-		34
7.	Lohardegga	-	-	512	-	-		312
8.	Ranchi	-	-	3013	15	8		4627
9.	Bhojpur	-	39	1119	1	-		215
10.	Buxar	-	18	323	-	-		308

Sl.	Name of the District	Waiting List as on 31.1.1994.			Telephone connections provided from 1.4.93 to 31.1.1994		
		OYT	Special	General	OYT	Special	General
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Nalanda	-	-	295	-	-	149
12.	Patna	-	-	4609	11	19	6132
13.	Aurangabad	-	3	512	-	-	204
14.	Gaya	6	45	2103	1	-	335
15.	Jehanabad	-	-	311	-	-	195
16.	Nawadah	-	-	283	-	-	169
17.	Bhabhua	-	-	337	-	-	140
18.	Rohtas	2	8	419	1	2	563
19.	Garhwa	-	3	119	-	-	312
20.	Palamu	-	4	311	-	-	212
21.	Banka	-	-	200	-	-	149
22.	Munger	-	-	211	-	-	210

Sl.	Name of the District	Waiting List as on 31.1.1994.				Telephone connections provided from 1.4.93 to 31.1.1994			
		OYT	Special	General	OYT	Special	General		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
23	Sahebganj	-	-	213	-	-	-	95	
24.	Deoghar	-	-	113	6	4	335		
25.	Begusarai	-	5	333	1	3	453		
26.	Madhubani	2	15	561	-	-	413		
27.	Samastipur	-	3	240	-	-	235		
28.	Khagaria	-	2	166	-	-	342		
29.	Darbhanga	1	31	912	5	2	1379		
30.	Chapra	1	6	960	5	4	1421		
31.	Gopalganj	-	2	435	1	2	495		
32.	Siwan	-	2	241	-	-	543		
33.	Champanan (E)	-	1	113	-	-	195		
34.	Champanan (W)	-	-	272	-	-	521		

Waiting List as on 31.1.1994. Telephone connections provided from 1.4.93 to 31.1.1994

Sl. Name of the District

Sl.	Name of the District	Waiting List as on 31.1.1994.			Telephone connections provided from 1.4.93 to 31.1.1994		
		OYT	Special	General	OYT	Special	General
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
35.	Dumka	5	5	210	-	-	145
36.	Godda	-	2	242	-	-	141
37.	Jamui	-	-	117	-	-	146
38.	Bhagalpur	109	187	1285	-	-	193
39.	Araria	-	-	121	-	-	219
40.	Kishanganj	-	-	160	-	-	143
41.	Hazaribagh	5	18	668	5	10	687
42.	Katihar	-	7	350	2	1	1021
43.	Purnea	-	13	663	-	-	338
44.	Saharsa	-	5	210	1	-	435
45.	Madhepura	-	-	119	-	-	108
46.	Supaul	-	-	160	-	-	293

Sl.	Name of the District	Waiting List as on 31.1.1994.				Telephone connections provided from 1.4.93 to 31.1.1994			
		OYT	Special	General		OYT	Special	General	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
47.	Singhbhum (E)	223	458	6209	2	1	236		
48.	Singhbhum (W)	.	10	312	.	2	304		
49.	Giridih	2	10	350	.	.	531		
50.	Chatra	.	.	50	.	.	7		
	Total	389	1011	36201	60	63	29531		

Allocation for National Highways

1816. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) The State-wise amount allocated by the Union Government for the repairs/development of National Highways during 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively;

(b) the criteria adopted in this regard;

(c) the State-wise length of the National Highways; and

(d) the reasons for continuously reducing the allocation of these funds to Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Statement annexed (Statement-I)

(b) For Maintenance and Repairs of National Highways, the requirement of funds are assessed as per norms every year at currently applicable rates. However, actual allocations are made on pro-rata basis with-in the overall maintenance funds actually made available. For the development of National Highways, funds are allocated to respective States, keeping in view the sanctioned works, their present status and overall availability of funds.

(c) Statement annexed (Statement -II).

(d) There is no reduction in funds for maintenance. For development as mentioned in para(b) above, the funds are allocated depending upon sanctioned works, their present status and overall availability of funds.

STATEMENT - I**STATEMENT SHOWING STATE-WISE ALLOCATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS DURING 1990-91 TO 1993-94.**

(Rs. in lakhs)

St. Name of State	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Maintenance & repairs	Development	Maintenance & repairs	Development	Maintenance & repair	Development	Maintenance & repair (Tentative)	Development (Tentative)
1. Andhra Pradesh	1328.28	2200.00	1279.42	2455.00	1249.44	2600.00	1662.16	4150.00
2. Arunachal Prad.	50.88	25.00	84.36	48.00	35.41	80.00	26.89	100.00
3. Assam	959.38	1150.00	1018.09	1225.00	1039.625	1275.00	1223.22	1400.00
* 4. Bihar	1148.83	800.00	1012.30	1142.00	1072.66	1385.00	1231.45	1800.00
5. Chandigarh	11.55	50.00	16.00	28.00	15.48	25.00	14.00	25.00
6. Delhi	125.16	350.00	163.00	550.00	171.80	700.00	203.21	550.00

(Rs. in lakhs).

Sl. Name of State	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Maintenance & repairs	Development	Maintenance & repairs	Development	Maintenance & repair	Development	Maintenance & repair (Tentative)	Development (Tentative)
8. Gujarat	1043.02	3250.00	918.89	4770.00	881.37	4650.00	1009.95	6000.00
9. Haryana	252.67	1250.00	362.29	1060.00	380.83	1870.00	493.26	2700.00
10. Himachal Prad.	595.88	1125.00	518.77	1140.00	529.55	1150.00	746.70	1200.00
11. Jammu & Kashmir	141.65	300.00	45.00	50.00	143.39	50.00	94.34	40.00
12. Karnataka	742.83	1800.00	990.02	1775.00	1105.85	1880.36	1199.19	2450.00
13. Kerala	434.50	1300.00	586.54 *	1120.00	587.82	1400.00	683.17	3000.00
14 Madhya Pradesh	1046.09	1850.00	1195.69	1850.00	1213.25	1915.00	1266.28	1450.00
15. Maharashtra	1489.15	2750.00	1620.90	3358.00	1506.677	3280.00	1734.68	2500.00

Sl. Name of State	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Mainte- nance & repairs	Devel- opment	Mainte- nance & repairs	Devel- opment	Mainte- nance & repair	Devel- opment	Mainte- nance & repair (Tentative)	Devel- opment (Tentative)
16. Manipur	54.82	300.00	51.67	250.00	73.32	250.00	123.47	300.00
17. Meghalaya	181.19	300.00	205.19	450.00	170.27	387.00	203.13	470.00
18. Nagaland	2.00	50.00	3.50	48.00	3.50	50.00	7.29	45.00
19. Orissa	654.73	1050.00	859.98	1384.00	735.52	1375.00	947.11	1050.00
20. Pondicherry	6.52	150.00	6.83	120.00	5.78	44.64	14.52	50.00
21. Punjab	474.54	2900.00	579.98	2850.00	638.97	2800.00	629.87	2600.00
22. Rajasthan	962.68	1700.00	1054.61	1800.00	1141.02	3095.00	1299.97	4300.00
23. Tamil Nadu	940.80	1375.00	979.91	1422.00	1134.69	1600.00	1437.71	3200.00

Sl. Name of State	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
	Maintenance & repairs	Maintenance & repairs	Maintenance & repair	Maintenance & repair (Tentative)
	Development	Development	Development	Development (Tentative)
24. Uttar Pradesh	1108.51	1312.05	1394.96	1665.52
	500.00	1025.00	4995.00	4450.00
25. West Bengal	1060.17	1284.35	1071.51	1576.10
	500.00	1634.00	2230.00	3700.00

STATEMENT -II

Length of National Highways in Kms		
Sl.No.	Name of State	
1.	2.	
	3.	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2888
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	330
3.	Assam	2296
4.	Bihar	2117
5.	Chandigarh	24
6.	Delhi	72
7.	Goa	229
8.	Gujarat	1631
9.	Haryana	698
10.	Himachal Pradesh	854
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	648
12.	Karnataka	1996
13.	Kerala	940
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2946

Sl.No.	Name of State	Length of National Highways in Kms		
		1	2	3
15.	Maharashtra			2918
16.	Manipur			431
17.	Meghalaya			472
18.	Mizoram			551
19.	Nagaland			113
20.	Orissa			1649
21.	Punjab			892
22.	Rajasthan			2931
23.	Sikkim			62
24.	Tamil Nadu			1896
25.	Tripura			200
26.	Uttar Pradesh			2613
27.	West Bengal			1638
28.	Pondicherry			23
.	Total			34058

**Means of Transport in Andaman,
Nicobar and other nearby Islands**

1817.DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andaman, Nicobar and other nearby islands are being supplied ration and vegetables etc by ship;

(b) if so, the monthly frequency of these ships from Calcutta and Madras;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the frequency of these ships;

(d) if so, by when ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Normally, about three sailings are provided every month to Andaman & Nicobar islands both from Calcutta and Madras.

(c) and (d). Three passenger-cum-cargo ships and one cargo ship owned by the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. and the Andaman & Nicobar Administration are available for operation on the mainland-Andaman sector. Besides, some private shipping companies also operate cargo ships on this sector. The frequency of sailings to Andaman & Nicobar islands is expected to improve by the end of 1994 with the recommissioning of the passenger-cum-cargo vessel A.V. Akbar which is at present under-going major repairs. Further, Government has sanctioned acquisition of one new passenger-cum cargo vessel by Andaman & Nicobar Admn. for operation on mainland-Andaman service,

which is expected to be available for operation by 1997.

(e) Does not arise.

Radio Channels for Telecom Network

1818. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to use 40 additional radio channels (CBR) for the telecommunications network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, a total of 40 Radio channels have been earmarked for assignment to Citizen Band Radio use.

(b) Citizen Band Radio is 2-way short distance voice communication radio telephone system used for personal communication. These frequencies have been earmarked with specified technical & operational parameters for different usages like aeromodelling, mountaineering, sports, hobbies, communication in rural areas emergency services etc. Wireless licences are granted to permit such usages.

(c) Licences are already being granted to permit such usages.

Bhojpuri Programmes and Films

1819. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial assistance and facilities provided by the National Film Development Corporation for the production of Bhojpuri Films are inadequate;

(b) If so, whether the Government propose to provide the status of regional language to Bhojpuri;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d). The National Film Development Corporation provides financial assistance for production of films in any language irrespective of its status i.e., national, regional or otherwise depending upon the merits of the script/proposal. So far, National Film Development Corporation has not financed any film in the Bhojpuri language. Any proposal received for production of a film in Bhojpuri, will be considered on its merits.

Condition of National Highway in Bihar

1820. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway from Bagodar to Sasaram (Grand Trunk Road), Ranchi to Barhi and Bokaro to Ramgarh in Bihar is in deplorable condition;

(b) whether these National Highways have not been repaired for the last several years;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to repair these highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The reaches from Bagodar to Sasaram on National Highway No. 2, Ranchi to Barhi on NH 33 and Bokaro (Chas) to Ramgarh on NH 23 in Bihar are being maintained in traffic-worthy condition within the available resources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Maintenance and repairs of National Highways is a continuing activity and is undertaken on all National Highways including these stretches within the available funds.

Thermal Power Plants in Gujarat

1821. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the big companies based in foreign countries have proposed for the setting up of coal-based thermal power plants in Gujarat with heavy investment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gujarat Power Corporation Ltd. have invited offers for setting up of 3 Lignite based thermal power stations at Mangrol in Surat Distt., Ghoga in Bhavanagar Distt., Akirimota in Kutch Distt. in the private sector. Some foreign companies have shown their interest to set up these projects.

The details of the projects will be tied up after evaluation of the proposals.

[English]

New Tariff Policy

1822. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Tariff Policy for Hydel Power Projects has been worked out by the Government;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

G.S.I. Survey in Uttar Pradesh

1823. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological Survey of India has carried out any survey in Uttar Pradesh recently to identify mineral deposits;

(b) if so, the details of the areas in the state where such survey was carried out; and

(c) the details of various mineral deposits found in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is conducting exploration for (i) Basemetals (copper-Lead-Zinc) in Tons Valley area, Dehradun district, Galpakot-Kimkhet area, Pithoragarh and Nainital districts; Tehri area, Pauri district; and in parts of Almora district; (ii) Gold in Nainital, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Maharajganj, and Sonbhadra districts; (iii) Tin-Tungston in Sonbhadra and Hamirpur districts; (iv) Silica sand in Dehradun and Uttarkashi districts; (v) Platinoids and rare earths in Sonbhadra district; and (vi) Dimensional stones in Bundelkhand area.

The work is in progress in these areas.

[English]

Prizes in MTNL

1824. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has announced prizes for the informers about the misuse of telephone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons thus awarded so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MTNL has introduced a scheme of reward to informers and Government servants who help in detection of fraudulent use of telephone lines. The scheme provides reward to outsiders and MTNL Government employees (excluding the staff of MTNL Vigilance Section) for providing information/

help in detection of fraud/misuse of telephone lines. The maximum amount of reward per individual per case in Rs. 5000/- subject to a ceiling of Rs 50,000/- for all the individuals rewarded in one case.

(c) MTNL

Delhi 19 Bombay Nil.

Thermal Power Stations

1825. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any exercise has been made to identify the polluting thermal stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for failure to check the environmental pollution caused by these thermal power plants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment & Forests have identified 41 Thermal Power Stations in this country which are not complying with the pollution control standards.

(b) and (c). Pollution Control works have been included in the renovation and modernisation programme under the Seventh and Eighth Plan period and the progress on these works is regularly monitored by the Central Electricity Authority. The progress on these works is slow because they are capital intensive with long gestation period requiring long shut down of stations and

funds constraints Electricity Boards.

(d) Steps taken to check the pollution from thermal plants include:

- i. (a) All new coal-fired thermal power plants are provided with high efficiency electrostatic precipitators to arrest the emission of particulate matter;
- (b) tall stacks are also provided for dispersal of the sulphur oxide gases to limit the ambient air quality within the prescribed limits.
- ii) The older ESPs and cyclone separators are being replaced/ modified in older coal fired plants.
- iii) The ash generated in the thermal power plants is generally dumped in the low-lying areas much away from the power plants and from the inhabited areas and mounds are being created and plants are grown over them to give a green look to the area and to save the ambient air from flying ash/dust nuisance.
- iv) Effluent chemicals are created in the treatment plants before these are discharged out of the power plant area.
- v) In case of gas fired gas turbine power plants, methods like steam injection etc. are applied to keep the NOX levels within limits.
- vi) Nitrous gases (NOX) emissions are controlled by providing modern design of coal burners. New technologies like Fluidised Bed Combustion are also being tried for application on smaller plants.

Diplomatic Relations

1826. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which trade and other bilateral agreements were signed during 1993;

(b) the countries with whom diplomatic relation has been established during 1993; and

(c) the countries with whom diplomatic relation is proposed to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L.BHATIA): (a) The following are the countries with which trade/ bilateral agreements were signed during 1993:

Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Zambia, Republic of Korea, Nauru, Myanmar, Israel, Guyana, Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, Vietnam, Oman, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Italy, Spain and Belgium.

(b) Diplomatic relations were established with the following countries during 1993:

Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Eritrea and South Africa.

(c) It is proposed to establish diplomatic relations with Honduras.

[*Translation*]

Pipavav Power Project

1827. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has asked the Union Government to accord special assistance for ongoing power projects in the State;

(b) the project-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether the Pipavav Power Project has been included in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Amendment to Toll Tax Act

1828. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for amending Toll Tax Act, 1985; and

(b) if so, the action taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

New Gold Reserves in Rajasthan

1829. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold reserves have been found in the tribal areas of Banswara in

Rajasthan;

(b) is so, the percentage of gold reserve found in the above said area;

(c) whether the gold found there will be costlier than the gold found in other parts of the country; and

(d) whether the Government propose to extract gold from these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). As a result of survey carried out by Geological Survey of India(GSI), several gold bearing zones showing varied quantities of gold have been identified in Anandpuri-Bhukia area, Banswara district, Rajasthan. A 220m. zone with gold values ranging from 0.71g/t to 1.99 g/t over widths from 3.5m to 8.90m has been established. Work is in progress to assess the nature and extent of gold mineralisation and its reserves in the area.

(c) and (d). The cost of production/ extraction of gold will be dependent on the

assessment of economic viability of the deposit.

Satellite Earth Stations

1830. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Satellite Earth Stations in the North-East Region, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more such stations;

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

(d) whether the telecom network in the region is at par with the demand and working satisfactorily; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the number of Satellite Earth Stations in North-East Region, State-wise are as follows:-

<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Satellite Earth Stations</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Satellite Earth Stations</i>
Arunachal Pradesh	9	Mizoram	4
Assam	1	Nagaland	2
Manipur	3	Tripura	5
Meghalaya	6		

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The number State-wise is as follows:

<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Satellite Earth Stations</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Satellite Earth Stations</i>
Arunachal Pradesh	26	Mizoram	2
Assam	1	Nagaland	3
Manipur	2		
Meghalaya	3		

(d) The networking requirement of the region is reviewed regularly and brought at par with demand from time to time for satisfactory working.

(e) Does not arise.

**Decline in Viewership of
Doordarshan News**

1831. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:

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

(a) whether the number of viewers of Doordarshan News has declined considerably;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the percentage of decline in the number of viewers of Doordarshan News both Hindi and English telecast at various timings; and

(d) the reasons identified for the decline in the number of viewers of Doordarshan News?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) to (d). There is no change in the viewership of English and Hindi news bulletins in cities which do not get Metro Programmes. There is some decline in the viewership in the Hindi news bulletin in the evenings in the Metro cities, when there is a very popular programme on the Metro Channel.

National Highway in Karnataka

1832. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on National Highway as sanctioned by the Union Government from Vidur to Shirangapattanam in Karnataka has since been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. The road in question in Karnataka is presently forming part of the State Road network and the State Government is, therefore, primarily responsible for its construction/ devel-

opment etc.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Theft and Transmission and
Distribution Losses**

1833. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Financial Express dated January 12, 1994 about increasing power theft in the country resulting into transmission and distribution losses;

(b) whether there is much scope of power theft in the existing power system and thirteen percent of the total power generation is being pilferaged;

(c) whether the loss to the State Electricity Boards due to theft of huge quantum of electricity is being met from the common consumers of electricity by increasing tariffs thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYANAIDU): (a) Government have seen the newsitem.

(b) and (c). The average Transmission and Distribution losses in the country are about 23%. The losses of the State Electricity Boards are on account of variety of reasons such as unremunerative tariff, unbalanced capital structure, high establishment cost due to over-staffing, high transmission and distribution losses including

theft of energy, etc. The percentage of loss on account of theft of electricity is not estimated separately by the power utilities.

(d) The tariff for electricity is determined by the States /State Electricity Boards on the basis of their operational input costs such as fuel, wage increase etc. Various steps have been taken to check the theft / pilferage of energy and also to improve the efficiency of State Electricity Boards. It is obligatory on the parts of the Boards to earn a rate of return of 3% of the fixed assets. Theft of power has also been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. The package of measures for improving the efficiency of Boards include, *inter alia*, implementation of centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation schemes, introduction of incentive schemes for improving performance of thermal power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses etc.

[*English*]

**Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power
Plant**

1834. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister for the Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Plant from Faridabad by a remote control;

(b) whether the construction of the Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Plant has since been started;

(c) is so, the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(d) whether any foreign collaboration has been sought for the construction of this

power plant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir, though some preliminary works pertaining to this project were carried out by the National Thermal Power Corporation.

(c) to (e). The construction schedules can be anticipated only after funding arrangements have been made. Discussions have been held with the Eisenberg Group of Companies (Israel) for its implementation as a private/Joint venture.

Shifting of Telephones in Bombay

1835. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for shifting of telephones from the exchange to another pending with MTNL, Bombay;

(b) the reasons for their non-clearance so far;

(c) the precise meaning of the reasons "technically not feasible" usually given;

(d) whether MTNL has revised its policy regarding shifting of telephones; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, The details of cases pending for shifting of telephones from one exchange to another exchange in MTNL,

Bombay are as under:-

i)	Shiftwork orders pending execution	-	4990
ii)	Applications pending for issue of work order	-	2111

(b) Most of the cases which are recent ones are under process. Other cases pending are due to technical reasons or on account of subscribers reasons.

(c) The term "Technically not feasible" applies to following conditions:

i) No spare capacity in the exchange,

ii) Non-availability of underground cable pairs from exchange to subscribers premises.

(d) There is no revision in policy.

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

TV Transmitters

1836. SHRI RAM BADAN:
SHRIMATI DIL. KUMARI
BHANDARI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up TV transmitters in the country during 1994-95, Statewise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the capacity of existing TV transmitters during 1994-95;

(d) if so, the locations of such transmitters in the country, Statewise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The requisite details are given in the Statement -I. Howev-

er, the actual implementation of these TV Projects would depend upon the availability of resources for the purpose and necessary infrastructural facilities.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The information is given in the Statement -II

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT - I**STATE-WISE LIST OF TV TRANSMITTERS EXPECTED TO BE COMMISSIONED INTO SERVICE DURING 1994-95**

Sl. No.	State/UT	High Power transmitters	Low power Very low power Transmitters
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	30
2.	Assam	-	8
3.	Arunchal Pradesh	-	6
4.	Bihar	-	13
5.	Gujarat	-	18
6.	Haryana	-	2
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	20
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	13
9.	Karnataka	-	13
10.	Kerala	1	5
11.	Madhya Pradesh	-	19
12.	Maharashtra	-	19
13.	Manipur	1	2
14.	Meghalaya	-	1

Sl. No.	State/UT	High Power transmitters	Low power Very low power Transmitters
15.	Mizoram	1	2
16.	Nagaland	1	2
17.	Orissa	-	24
18.	Rajasthan	2	30
19.	Sikkim	1	3
20.	Tamil Nadu	1	15
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1	29
22.	West Bengal	-	3
23.	N Islands	-	4
24.	Daora & nagar Haveli	-	1
25.	Pondicherry	-	4
26.	Bipur	-	3

STATEMENT -II

List Showing the TV Transmitters (State-wise which are expected to be Commissioned into Service during 1994-95 on Augmented powers

Sl.No.	State	Location of the Transmitting Centre
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool Nandyal
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	LEH
3.	Mizoram	Lunglei Saiha
4.	Uttar Pradesh	MAU
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
6.	Sikkim	Gangtok
7.	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer Barmer
8.	Tamil Nadu	Rameshwaram
9.	Kerala	Calicut
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	Miao
11.	Pondicherry	Karaikal

[*Translation*]

**Doordarshan Studio at Joshimath
(Auli) in Uttar Pradesh**

1837. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has been acquired to set up a Doordarshan Studio Centre at Joshimath (Auli) in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total allocations earmarked for installation of this studio; and

(d) the reasons for delay in commissioning of the Doordarshan Studio there and the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Levy of Tax on National Highways

1838. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some taxes are levied by the Union Government for the Maintenance of National Highways;

(b) if so, whether there is any provision

that a part of the tax levied by the Union Government on National Highways is to be given to the State Governments also;

(c) if so, the details of the share of the State Governments, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Specific allocation is made every year in the Union Budget on Non-Plan side for the purpose.

Indian Cultural Centre in South Africa

1839. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have converted Indian Cultural Centre in South Africa into Consulate General of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cultural centre is still functioning in that country; and

(d) if so, the locations and other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (d). The Government have upgraded the Indian Cultural Centre in South Africa into the Consulate General of India consequent to the restoration of diplomatic and consular relations between India

and South Africa (November 22, 1993).

The Consulate General of India which is located in Johannesburg, South Africa, continues to be responsible for the promotion of cultural exchanges.

[*Translation*]

Facilities to Haj Pilgrims

1840. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI
ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the various facilities being provided to Haj pilgrims by the Government;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints in regard to these facilities; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by the Government to improve the facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government facilities Haj pilgrimage by our nationals to Saudi Arabia. Haj Committee and Consulate General of India, Jeddah, jointly make arrangements for the accommodation of pilgrims in Makkah and Mdina. Additional staff is deputed to assist the pilgrims during Haj and a medical team is deployed in Saudi Arabia to provide necessary medical care. Medicines and medical supplies are also supplied. Haj volunteers called Khuddam-ulHujaj from various States accompany groups of pilgrims from those States. The Haj establishment of the Consulate General of India is strengthened by providing additional staff for the assistance of the pilgrims. Carriage

of pilgrims by air/sea is organised by Haj Committee with the support of the government. Special arrangements are made to facilitate completion of pre-departure formalities.

(b) and (c). From time to time, requests are made for augmentation/improvement of these facilities. These are carefully considered and every effort is made to rectify shortcomings and improve the arrangements. An exercise is conducted after every Haj to review the arrangements/facilities is consultation with representatives of the Central and State Haj Committees with a view to drawing lessons for the future.

[*English*]

LPT at Marthanam in Tamil Nadu

1841. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a low power TV transmitter at Marthanam in Kanya Kumari district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Marthandam in Kanya Kumari district of Tamil Nadu lies within the service area of the High Power (10KW) Transmitter functioning at Kodaikanal. Setting up of TV transmitter at Marthandam and other simi-

larly situated locations in the country, would depend on the availability of resources and *inter-se* priorities in future plans of TV expansion.

Newspapers published from Orissa

1842. DR. KARTIKESWARPATRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered dailies, weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers and magazines published from Orissa and number of their circulations:

(b) the quantity of newsprint allotted to these newspapers and magazines during the last three years;

(c) the names of newspapers and magazines whose publication has been stopped after registration during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some periodicals/newspapers have violated the code of conduct; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) As per records maintained in the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India, 52 dailies, 89 weeklies, 70 fortnightlies and 224 monthlies were registered with RNI as on 31.12.1992 and their total circulation was 12,37,000 copies.

(b) Newspapers/periodicals in Orissa were allotted a quantity of 5899.67 MT of newsprint in 1990-91, 2930.19 MT in 1991-92 and 1092.06 MT in 1992-93. However, during the year 1992-93, three dailies having more than 200 MT of annual entitlement of newsprint were issued open Entitlement

Certificate for import of newsprint without specifying the quantity.

(c) No newspaper/periodical has ceased publication after registration during the last three years.

(d) and (e). Such information is not maintained by the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India.

Construction of Third Hooghly Bridge

1843. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:
SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to construct a 3rd Bridge over Hooghly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) : Presumably, the hon'ble Member is referring to the proposed Second Vivekananda Bridge over Hooghly on National Highway No.2 in West Bengal. Techno-economic Feasibility study for the Project is in progress. It is too early to indicate the likely date of completion of the Bridge.

Central Road Fund

1844. DR. VASANT NIWROVTTI PAWAR:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has been requesting the Union Government from time to time to release the full amount of revised Central Road Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to release the due amount to the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The question of implementation of the revised resolution for CRF has been referred to the Group of Ministers. As such, it is too early to indicate the time by which the funds will be made available to the Maharashtra Government as per Revised Resolution.

Expert Committee Recommendation on F.P.I.

1845. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up an expert committee to recommend measures and give a new thrust to the Food Processing Industries;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of this committee; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to

(c). An Expert Committee headed by the former Chief Secretary of Assam and Meghalaya and consisting of 13 other members has been constituted to study the existing status of Food Processing Industry in the North Eastern States and to suggest long-term and short-term action plans for development of food processing industries there. The Committee is expected to submit its Report shortly.

[Translation]

Progress of Work on National Highway NO. 16 in Madhya Pradesh

1846. SHRI MANKU RAM SODI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which National Highway No. 16 linking Jagdalpur-Bastar-Nizamabad via Bhopalpatnam in Madhya Pradesh was accorded approval;

(b) the amount provided so far for the construction of the highway along with the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether the construction work is behind schedule;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Year 1989.

(b) to (e). Works aggregating to rs 127.52 lakhs have been sanctioned for the development of National Highway No. 16 in Madhya Pradesh. The works are progress-

ing as per schedule.

Linking Roads of Orissa with National Highways

1847. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the allocation made by the Government for the National highways in Orissa for 1993-94;

(b) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any proposal for connecting some State roads with National Highways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) An amount of about Rs 1350 lakhs has been tentatively allocated for development of National Highways in Orissa for 1993-94:

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Following proposals have been received from Government of Orissa for declaring new National Highways during the Eight Plan:-

1. Gopalpur Port to Raipur via Gopalpur-Berhampur -Aska Daringbadi-Baliguda-Rampur-Titilagarh-Nawapara-Raipur.
2. Panikoli-to Rourkela via NH5 -Junction at 91 km at Panikozli Keonjhar-Barbil-Koira-Rajamunda NH23 junction.
3. Bhubaneshwar to Puri.

4. Balasore NH 5 to Laxmannath (Kharagpur-Balasore Section)

Power Generation and Distribution

1848. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Times of India dated January 8, 1994 about power distribution hitting power generation;

(b) whether the power generation capacity created in the eastern part of the country is not being fully utilised due to faulty transmission and distribution system;

(c) the details thereof and the installed capacity of generation of power available in this part of the country and the percentage of capacity utilisation so far;

(d) whether the Government have made any assessment of the amount needed to improve the present transmission and distribution system;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the reasons for not according top-priority to the implementation of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Government has seen the news-item.

(b) and (c). During the period April, 1993-January, 1994, the Eastern Region faced energy shortage of 14.2% and peak power

shortage of 30.8%. The details of power supply position during the period April, 1993-January, 1994 are given below:-

	<i>Energy (MU)</i>	<i>Peak Power (MW)</i>
Requirement	31650	7295
Availability	27171	5045
Deficit	4479	2250
	(14.2%)	(30.8%)

(d) to (f). An assessment of the transmission and distribution system has been made. Matching transmission network would be required for the ongoing planned generation capacity addition. The generation capacity addition projects are ordinarily cleared only when matching transmission projects form part of the system.

[English]

Auditions conducted by Doordarshan

1849. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy/guidelines exist as regard to auditions of news, dramas, announcements etc. to be conducted by the Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(b) if so, whether the guidelines have been followed in this regard during the past few years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Investment in Power Sector

1850. SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made in the Power Sector in the country during the last three years;

(b) the total amount invested in the Power Sector particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether private investors have been allowed to produce power and supply the same to the consumers including the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Details are given below:

(Rs in crores)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Total approved outlay for the Power sector</i>	<i>Approved outlay in Power Sector for Tamil Nadu</i>
1993-94	16419.91	515.66
1992-93	12781.02 (Revised outlay)	456.40
1991-92	14517.89 (Actual)	446.82 (Actual)

(c) and (d). Private Sector entrepreneurs can set up enterprises, either, as Licensees, or as generating companies. A licensee company holds a license issued by the State Government concerned to supply and distribute energy in a specified area and may or may not have a generating station (s). A Generating company normally supplies to the Grid. Generating companies can enter into a contract for the sale of electricity generated by it with the State Electricity Board in any State where it owns/operates generating stations(s) or in any other state it is carrying on its activities or with any other person with the consent of the competent Government.

Wayside Amenity on National Highway in Andhra Pradesh

1851. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the details of rest rooms constructed/ proposed to be constructed on National Highways in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Wayside amenities have been constructed at Pedda Amberpet and Jadcherla on NH 9 and 7 respectively. Such amenities are also under construction near palamaner on NH 4 and are proposed to be constructed at New Zahiabad on NH 9 and at km. 82 on NH 4.

Metro Channel Programmes

1852. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy adopted by the Government to monitor and regulate the

programmes being telecast on Metro Channels;

(b) whether the programmes telecast on time slots are vulgar in content; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ban telecast of such programmes on Metro Channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) The Programmes telecast on the Metro Channel of Doordarshan are reviewed on a regular basis and suitable changes carried out wherever warranted.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Desiltation Programme in Ganga

1853. DR. ASIMBALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any desiltation proposal in Ganga from Farakka to Sagar Island;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of navigational programmes launched in river Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Steps are being taken by the Inland Waterways Authority of India to ensure that regular dredging is undertaken in Farakka-Calcutta stretch of the Ganga by a departmental dredger and a minimum depth of 2 m

is maintained for navigation. As regards Calcutta-Sagar Island stretch, sufficient depth is maintained by Calcutta Port Trust for ocean going and, as such, the question of desiltation on this stretch does not arise.

(c) Schemes for providing terminal facilities at Calcutta and Patna have been sanctioned. Acquisition of land for both the projects is in progress. As a part of the scheme for introduction of experimental-cum-promotional IWT operations by private operators on the Ganga, it is proposed to hire 2 nos. of 600 tonnes capacity vessels by IWA from CIWTC Ltd., and give them to private operator (s) free of hire charges for a period of one year. The above vessels would be handed over to the private operator namely Goa Barge Owners Association shortly. Another scheme for promotion of IWT in Ganga by way of giving compensation of 10 paise per river KM tonne of cargo moved for non-availability of infrastructural facilities like mechanised terminals, night navigation facilities, proper channel etc. initially for a period of 5 years was approved by the Government in 1993. The modalities of operation of this scheme have been finalised.

Cooperation with G-15 Countries in Food Sector

1854. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of India's cooperation with G-15 countries in food sector; and

(b) the advantages to be accrued to India as a result of this cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Indonesia is the

Coordinating country for the G-15 project on cooperation in food sector. An Expert Group Meeting on this project held in Jakarta (Indonesia) on 20-22 April, 1992, was attended by India. The meeting discussed the following two project proposals preferred by Indonesia:

(i) Training programme on food production for agricultural technicians;

(ii) Apprenticeship Programme for farmers on food production.

These training programmes will be offered to participants from G-15 countries in the fiscal year 1994-95.

In view of similarities in climatic conditions in certain parts of India and Indonesia, it is expected that India can benefit from the Indonesian experience in cultivation of rice.

Non-Renewal of Contracts to Indians in Saudi Arabia

1855. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December 31, 1993 regarding non-renewal of contracts awarded to Indians in Saudi Arabia; and

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI

R.L. BHATIA: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government had received some reports containing information on non-renewal of contracts of some Indians from some companies in Saudi Arabia. The matter was taken up at diplomatic level with Saudi authorities who have denied any intense discrimination against Indians. Embassy of India, Riyadh and Consulate General of India, Jeddah have also rendered assistance whenever required.

Inland Water Transport between Bhagalpur and Rajmahal

1856. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the dredging of the Ganga and for introducing inland water transport between Bhagalpur and Rajmahal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Steps are being taken by Inland Waterways Authority of India to ensure regular dredging in Patna-Bhagalpur-Rajmahal-Farakka-Haldia stretch of the Ganga (N.W.No.1), for the purpose of removing the shoals which are considered hinderances to achieve the minimum depth required for navigation. Apart from dredging and band-alling, channel marks are also being provided for the benefit of waterway users.

Steps are also being taken to ensure 2.0 m depth in the Ganga, including Bhagalpur -Rajmahal stretch, so that there is smooth and unhindered movement of inland water transport vessels.

Widening of Grand Trunk Road

1857. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four laning or widening work on Grand Trunk Road stretch between Dehri-on-Sone and Varanasi has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in completion of the work; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be completed to make the road traffic worthy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). Out of the 136 km. length of Grand Trunk Road between Varanasi and Dehri-on-Sone, a length of only four kilometres through Sasaram Town is being widened to four lanes. The widening work is in progress. An expenditure of Rs. 42.00 lakhs has been incurred upto August, 1993. The targetted date of completion of the work is September, 1994.

World this Week in Regional Languages

1858. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce "World This Week" programme in regional languages from all the Doordarshan Kendras of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Visit of French Delegation

1859. SHRI B.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether delegation of French Senate Committee for Foreign Affairs had visited India recently as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated February 12, 1994; and

(b) if so, the bilateral issues figured in their talks with Indian leaders and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During talks between the delegation and Indian leaders, bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields were discussed. The delegation conveyed the French Government's desire to impart further momentum to Indo-French relations in various fields.

FPI Units

1860. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of industrial units set up under the Ministry of Food Processing

Industries and the details of items being produced therein State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such units in Sikkim also during 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c). The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing units directly in any State. However, it has formulated many developmental Plan Schemes for implementation during the 8th Five Year Plan period, for the development of food processing industries. Under these Schemes, assistance is provided to State Government Organisations, Joint Sector Companies, Cooperative Societies, Voluntary Organisations etc. for setting up/upgrading food processing industries.

Metro Channel and National Network Facility in State Capitals

1861. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all State Capitals in the country have been provided with Metro-Channel and National Network facility;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) by when these are likely to be provided with such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) to (c). Whereas National service programmes are available at the capitals of all States/Union Territories, Metro Channel Programmes are available at 6 State capitals viz., Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Lucknow and Hyderabad. Besides, TV transmitter projects are under implementation for relay of Metro Channel Programmes at Jaipur, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Trivendrum, Patna and Cuttack. Similar facility is also State/Union Territories in the country, in a phased manner, subject to availability of adequate resources for the purpose and inter-see priorities in the future plans of TV expansion.

Public Sector Steel Plants

1862. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Steel Plants are facing competition with the Private Sector; and

(b) the details thereof and the measures adopted to make public sector steel plants more competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The delicensing and deregulatory measures together with progressive reduction in Customs duty and easier availability of imports has led to an extremely competitive situation in the steel industry.

(b) Some of the steps taken by public sector steel plants to improve their competitiveness include:

- (i) Improving quality by strictly following technological discipline.

(ii) Adopting various cost reduction measures.

(iii) Tuning product-mix to market requirement.

(iv) Better customer service.

(v) Modernisation and technological upgradation of plant and equipment.

Power Projects Handed over to Multi-national Companies

1863. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to hand over the public sector power projects to multinational companies; and

(b) if so, the names of such plants and the reasons for taking such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). While there is no general decision to hand over public sector power projects to private sector the possibility of implementing new projects, cleared for public sector, by the private sector is also being explored.

[*Translation*]

Maintenance and Repairs of Roads in Uttar Pradesh

1864. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between the allocation of funds for the maintenance and repairs of roads and the amount actually spent therefrom during each of the last three years in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the amount has been actually spent for the purpose it was earmarked; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Government of India is responsible for the maintenance and development of National Highways in the State of Uttar Pradesh. maintenance and repairs of all roads other than National Highways regards national Highways, the amounts allotted and the amounts actually spent for the maintenance and repairs of National Highways during the last 3 years in the State of Uttar Pradesh are indicated as under:

<i>(Rs in lakhs)</i>		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Allotment</i>	<i>Amounts actually spent</i>
1990-91	1108.51	1142.80
1991-92	1312.05	1366.62
1992-93	1394.96	1462.38

(b) The amounts have been actually spent for the maintenance and repairs of National Highways in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

Illegal Extraction of Stones

1865. SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the illegal extractions of precious stones in various parts of the country;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check this illegal extraction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). Sporadic incidents of clandestine mining of precious stones have been reported from Bihar, Orissa and Tamil Nadu from time to time.

(c) To check illegal mining State Government take appropriate legal and administrative steps from time to time. The Government of Orissa have enacted the Orissa minerals (Prevention of Theft, smuggling and other unlawful Activities) Act, 1989 and have also notified appropriate Rules there under. The State Government of Tamil nadu has identified such areas for future development after granting leases. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Ordinance 1994 has also enhanced powers of State Governments for carrying out searches to stop illegal mining.

[English]

National Highway projects in Bihar

1866. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing National Highway Projects in Bihar, extent of completion, target date of completion and funds spend thereon so far; and

(b) the details of proposals for New National Highways received from the State Government of Bihar during the last two years and the stage at which the same is pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JADISH TYTLER): (a) 112 on-going National Highway projects amounting to Rs.9336.00 lakhs are in various stages of progress in Bihar. A sum of Rs.4332.00 lakhs has so far been incurred on these works to be completed by March, 1994, another 42 by March, 1995 and the remaining one is targetted to be completed by March, 1996.

(b) During the 8th Plan, the State Govt. has forwarded proposals for declaration of 6 State Roads as National Highways, but it is difficult to declare any new National Highway at present due to meagre allocation of

funds for Central Sector Roads during the 8th Plan.

[Translation]

AIR Stations in Uttar Pradesh

1867. SHRI SWAMI SURESHANAND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Akashwani Stations presently functioning in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of new Akashwani Stations likely to be set up in the State during 1994-95;

(c) the number of projects for setting up of new Akashwani Stations in Uttar Pradesh that are near to completion as on date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) In Uttar Pradesh, 14 All India Stations are functioning at present.

(b) Four new All India Radio Stations are likely to be set up in Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95.

(c) and (d). As per statement enclosed.

STATEMENT**STATEMENT SHOWING THE PRESENT POSITION OF ONGOING AIR PROJECTS IN UTTAR PRADESH WITH THEIR TARGET DATES OF COMPLETION.**

S.No.	Project	Target date for completion and commission
1.	Chamoli 1 KM MW Transmitter Multi-purpose Studios	1995-96
2.	Pauri -do-	1994-95

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Target date for completion and commission</i>
3.	Pithoragarh 1KW MW Transmitter	1994-95
4.	Uttarkashi -do-	1994-95
5.	Aligarh 2X3 KW FM Transmitter	1995-96
6.	Mussoorie 2X5 KW FM Transmitter	1994-95

[English]

New Post Offices in Bombay

1868. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified any new places for opening of Post Offices in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Opening of new Post Offices at the following places in Bombay has been approved:-

1. Evershine Nagar (Malad West)
2. Kastur Park (Borivli West)
3. Poonam Nagar (Jogeshwari East)
4. Lokahndwala Complex (Andheri)
5. Saibaba Nagar (Borivli West)
6. PMG (P) Colony (Mankhurd)

7. Kurar Village (Malad East)

(c) The opening of these post offices is dependent on availability of suitable accommodation for which continuous efforts are being made. Therefore, no specific time frame can be indicated about their opening.

[Translation]

Educational Programmes on Doordarshan

1869. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise expansion being made to educate the students of schools and colleges through courses being telecast on Doordarshan; and

(b) the names of such Doordarshan Kendras and the details of facilities provided to these kendras in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGHDEO): (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present under consideration to enhance the telecast time of Doordarshan's educational television

programmes for school/college going students. The details of such programmes being telecast at present are, however, annexed as statement.

STATEMENT

TELECAST DETAILS OF SCHOOL TELEVISION AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES ARE GIVEN BELOW:

1. ETV Programme from Monday to Friday:
 - 10 A.M. to 10.45 A.M. (Maharashtra)
 - 9.45 A.M. to 10.30 A.M. (Andhra Pradesh)
 - 10.30 A.M. to 11.15 A.M. (U.P., Bihar, M.P., H.P., Rajasthan and Delhi)
 - 11.15 A.M. to 12 Noon (Gujarat and Orissa)

These programmes are produced by the State Institute of Educational Technology (SIET) located at Lucknow, Patna, Bhubaneshwar, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Pune and supplied to Doordarshan in capsule form through the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) or directly by the SIET concerned.

2. STV Programmes from Delhi, Madras and Bombay Kendras:
 - 10.15 A.M. to 11.45 A.M. (Delhi CH-II Monday to Friday)
 - 10.45 A.M. to 11.05 A.M. (Bombay CH-II Monday to Friday)
 - 11.00 A.M. to 11.30 A.M. (Madras CH-II Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)

These programmes are produced by these Kendras using their existing facilities as part of their normal programme activity.

3. Syllabus based programmes for the students of IGNOU on National Network - 6.30 A.M. to 7.00 A.M. - Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

These programmes are produced by the University.

4. Country-wide classroom of UGC for National Network telecast as per the following details:
 - i) 1.00 P.M. to 2.00 P.M. - Monday to Saturday
 - ii) 6.00 A.M. to 6.30 A.M. - Monday, Wednesday, Friday in Hindi.
 - iii) 6.00 A.M. to 7.00 A.M. - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday in English.

These programmes are produced by UGC.

[English]

Proposals from Foreign Countries

1870. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from foreign countries for strengthening the media operations;

(b) if so, the nature of such proposals;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and whether some of the proposals are being finalised on reciprocal basis; and

(d) the steps being taken to strengthen our external news service for Doordarshan and AIR during Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Doordarshan does not have an external service. In so far as the external service of All India Radio is concerned, the steps being taken include upgradation of the power of existing transmitters and installation of new high powered transmitters.

Interest on Telephone Deposits

1871. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons registered for telephone connections are paid any interest on their deposits;

(b) if so, rate of such interest with criteria adopted for calculation of such interest;

(c) whether such interest is paid from the date of registration till installation of connection;

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

(e) the rate of interest paid to persons registered during 1986; and

(f) the rate of interest to be paid to the persons registered during 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The waiting charges are payable on registration fee deposited by applicants for new telephone connections.

(b) to (d). The Registration Fee carries

a waiting charge for the period commencing on the date of payment and ending with the date immediately preceding the date of installation of the telephone connection, at the rate of interest payable by the SBI on fixed deposits made with them for a period of one year and the waiting charge is calculated for the completed number of months at the rate in force on the date of payment of the Registration Fee. In case the Telephone connection is not provided within six months from the date of registration for OYT registrants and 2 years from the date of registration for Non-OYT registrants, the registration fee will carry an additional waiting charge of 3% over and above the normal waiting charge. The additional waiting charge is payable from the month following the specified period i.e. from the 7th month in the case of OYT Registrants and the 25th month in the case of Non-OYT Registrants and till the month preceding the month in which the telephone connection is provided. Waiting charge alongwith additional waiting charge is payable to these registrants who have paid the registration fee on or after 28th April, 1993.

(e) The rate would be as payable by the SBI on fixed deposits made with the Bank for a period of one year, in force on the date of payment of Registration Fee by the registrant.

(f) The rate is as in (e) above for applicants upto 27th April, 1993 and with additional waiting charge as in (b), (c) and (d) above for applications from 28th April, 1993 till date.

Minorities in Pakistan

1872. PROF. M. KAMSON: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to request U.N. Human Rights Commission to go into the plights of minorities in Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) It is the duty of the Government of Pakistan to protect the rights of all its citizens including those belonging to the minority communities. The Government of India is of the view that in terms of Simla Agreement neither India nor Pakistan should interfere in each others internal affairs. Government of India has seen reports of international NGOs, the US State Department and Pakistan's own Human Rights Commission where the pitiable conditions of minorities in Pakistan have been detailed. It is regrettable that Pakistan, instead of taking steps to ameliorate the conditions of its minorities is indulging in anti-India propoganda. In exercise of its right of reply, Government of India has in international fora drawn the Interanational Community's attention to the report mentioned above.

Mobile Post Offices in Gujarat

1873. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start mobile Post Offices in the cities of Gujarat like Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar to provide more postal facilities in localities situated at long distance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to appoint handicapped persons for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

Seaman Training Institute

1874. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Seaman Training Institute at Kakkodi near Calicut;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the Institute; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (d). The Government of India have agreed, in principle, to set up a Rating Training Establishment in Kerala. Since the land for it is yet to be allotted by State Government, it is too early to indicate the precise location or the time schedule for completion of the pro-

posed Institute.

setting up lignite based power plants; and

Lignite Based Power Plants

1875. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where lignite based power plants have been set up;

(b) whether there is large scope for increasing power generation in Rajasthan by

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The names and details of the Lignite based thermal power projects existing, sanctioned/ongoing and techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in various States are as follows:

<i>Name of the Project and State</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
<i>Existing</i>	
1. Kutch Lignite Units-1&2, Gujarat	140 MW
2. Neyveli TPP, Tamil Nadu	600 MW
3. Neyveli Second Mine Cut St.II, Tamil Nadu.	840 MW
<i>Sanctioned/Ongoing</i>	
1. Neyveli Second Mine Cut St.I, Tamil Nadu	210 MW
2. Kutch Lignite Extension U-3, Gujarat	70 MW
3. Farsingsar Lignite TPP, Rajasthan	240 MW
<i>New schemes techno-economically cleared by CEA:</i>	
1. NLC TPP Extension Project, Tamil Nadu	420 MW

(b) and (c), as per report of the Committee or selection of sites for large thermal power stations (June, 1990). Lignite deposits estimated in Gurha (Bikaner Distt.) and Chapurdhi & Talipa (Bikaner Distt.) in Rajasthan are sufficient to sustain the establishment of 78 MW of power generation subject to availability of resources. The Barsingsar Thermal Power Project (240 MW) was sanctioned in April, 1991 for implemen-

tation by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation in the Central Sector, but could not be taken up due to resource constraints. In order to speed up the implementation of work on this project the State Government are thinking of setting up a joint sector company for the installation of mining cum power generation project at Barsingsar and are considering floating a global enquiry inviting offers from prospective partners to the project.

[*Translatio*]

Telephone Exchange in Bihar

1876. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased set up so far;

(a) the places in Bihar where electronic exchanges have been set up so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up telephone exchanges in Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof with locations and capacity of these exchanges; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) At 611 places upto 31.3.93

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Details are enclosed in the statement.

STATEMENT

Details of Telephone exchanges Planned to be set UP during 1993-94

Sl.No.	Name of Location & Capacity	Sl.No.	Name of Location & Capacity
A. EXCHANGES COMMISSIONED FROM 1.4.93 TO 31.1.94.			
1.	Tillayadam C DOT 128p (88L)	11.	Pandra RLU (1K)
2.	Gandey "	12.	Deo C-DOT 128p (88L)
3.	Surda "	13.	Naraini MILT 64P (56L)
4.	Narpatganj "	14.	Saraigarh C DOT 128 P (88L)
5.	Rankaraj "	15.	Musrigharari MUKT 64 P (56L)
6.	Hinoo RLU (2K)	16.	Basaitha C-DOT 128 P (88L)
7.	Champapur C DoT 128 p (88L)	17.	Dheng "
8.	Baghat "	18.	Durgawatee "
9.	Baruna "	19.	Balumath "
10.	Sheosagar "	20.	Chiraiya "
		21.	Makdumpur "

Sl.No.	Name of Location & Capacity	Sl.No.	Name of Location & Capacity
22.	Rahua Tulsiyahi	37.	Ujan
23.	Kothia	38.	Kusothar MILT 64P (56L)
24.	Sonbarsa	39.	Andama
25.	Gondhwar	40.	Hopalpur C-DOT 128P (88L)
26.	Ayarkota	41.	Doriganj
27.	Sanholi	42.	Manjhi
28.	Karakat	43.	Hasanpura
29.	Meral	44.	Piprakothe
30.	Basal Patratu	45.	Bhilahe MILT 64P (56L)
31.	Chapuadih	46.	Bela Simri C-DOT 128P (88L)
32.	Dobhi	47.	Kurtha
33.	Sheoganj C DOT 128P (88L)	48.	Salukhua
34.	Katrisarai	49.	Azam nagar
35.	Murajpur	50.	Godakhar
36.	Gamaharia	51.	Meru
		52.	Dwarparhari

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of Location & Capacity</i>	<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of Location & Capacity</i>
53.	Ganpur MILT 64P (56L)	58.	Kansi
54.	Karaipersurai	59.	Rampattee
55.	Purai	60.	Rabilgani
56.	Ekatha	61.	Sathai
57.	Majhauia	62.	Neterhat

<i>B. Exchanges to be Commissioned by 31.3.94</i>			
<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of location</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Sl.No.</i>
1.	Tarsarai	128 C -DOT (88L)	6.
2.	Kollak	"	7.
3.	Vishanpur	"	8.
4.	Jogipur	"	9.
5.	Salim	"	10.

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of location</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
	Udwant Nagar	"
	Majhion	"
	Rajpur	"
	Bajpattee	"
	Udhwa	64p MILT (56L)

*[English]***AIR's Foreign Broadcasts**

1877. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of languages included for
AIR's foreign broadcasts;

(b) the daily duration of such broad-
casts, language-wise;

(c) the reception hours in the target
areas; and

(d) the number of letters received from
the listeners in the target areas during 1993,
language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):
(a) to (d). The information is being collect-
ed and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NTPC Bonds

1878. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to
state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power
Corporation (NTPC) propose to issue non-
convertible bonds to mop up a substantial
amount of capital at very attractive rates of
interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating
the total amount proposed to be mopped up,
rate of interest offered, the purpose for
which the mopped up capital is proposed to
be utilised, etc;

(c) whether the investors in National

Thermal Power Corp'n. bonds are proposed
to be offered any tax concessions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V.
RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The Na-
tional Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
has recently made a Public Issue of
15,00,000 Secured Redeemable Taxable
(16.5%) Bonds of Rs. 1000/- each for cash at
par agregation Rs. 150 crores. The issue
opened for public subscription on 25.11.93
and closed on the earliest closing date i.e.,
14.12.1993. The issue was over subscribed
more than three times. The NTPC has made
allotment for bonds agregating Rs. 187.50
crores, including retantion of 25% over sub-
scription as allowed by Securities and Ex-
change Board of India (SEBI). Besides the
above, there is no plan to issue Bonds to
Public in the immediate future. The funds so
raised will be directly deployed on NTPC's
ongoing/new projects.

(c) and (d). In terms of the provisions
contained in the prospectus for public issue,
interest income arising from bonds would be
eligible for Income Tax exemption under
Section 80 L of the Indian Income Tax etc.
1961, subject to approval of the Govern-
ment.

[Translation]

Road Accidents in Delhi

1879. SHRI SURENDRAPAL PATHAK:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have
received the report of Ved Marwah Commit-
tee set up to go into the causes of road
accidents in Delhi;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Revalidation of Telephone Connections

1880. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 17 on July 26, 1993 and state:

(a) whether inordinate delay is taking place in revalidation of the sanctioned telephone connections in cases of those persons whom the same has been sanctioned on out of turn basis by him but the same had not been used by the concerned persons;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the revalidation of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKHRAM): (a) and (b). Sir, As the CBI who was entrusted with an investigation into fake/forged out of turn sanction orders issued on January/June 1991 is yet to submit its findings, some sanction orders, are still being withheld.

(c) The genuine sanction orders will be

released after the receipt of the CBI's findings.

Calcutta Port Trust

1881. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Port Trust (CPT) has approached his Ministry for permission to obtain loan from the Dock labour Board (DLB);

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present;

(c) the reasons for CPT's financial difficulties;

(d) whether CPT is also requesting the Government to grant a moratorium to its outstandings; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to assist the CPT financially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Permission has already been granted to Calcutta Port Trust to obtain a loan from Calcutta Dock Labour Board.

(c) The CPT's financial difficulties are due to excess of expenditure over income.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Government provides funds for plan work and has increased dredging subsidy on account of the work of dredging and maintenance of shipping channel leading to Haldia from 90% to 100% from the year 1992-93

Trunk Call Rackets

1882. SHRI AMARROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trunk call rackets (both national and international) involving businessmen and telephone operators detected during January, 1992 to December, 1993.

(b) the places where such rackets were detected during the above period. State-wise:

(c) the outcome of enquiries conducted if any and the number of persons held responsible and the punishment awarded to them. and

(d) the remedial steps Government have taken to check this malpractice and to remove the deficiencies in the existing system if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d). The required information is being collected from the circles concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Sikh Community in Kuwait

1883. SHRIMATI KESHARBAISONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent reports regarding attacks on Sikh Community in Kuwait:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible therefor:

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Kuwait: and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Since October 1993, Government have received reports of the following five incidents involving Sikh members of the Indian community in Kuwait:-

- (1) In October 1993, twenty Sikhs were detained by local police in Kuwait. They were later released. The reasons for their arrest and detention were not made known to the detainees.
- (2) On 3rd November, 1993 the dead of an Indian national, Mr. Prithpal Singh was found by Khaitan Police in Kuwait.
- (3) On 23rd January, 1994 a car in which four Indian national were travelling was fired at on Ammen Street in Salmia area in Kuwait resulting in the death of Mr. Manmohan Singh Anand and injury to two others.
- (4) A fire took place at Al Mutawa and Sahni Tyre Company belonging to Mr. Mohinder Singh Sahni in Sharq Industrial Area.
- (5) On 10th February, 1994 Shri Devinder Singh Sachar was fired upon in the his car on Mecca Street in

Fahaheel area. Kuwait. However, Mr. Sachar escaped unhurt.

2. The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait has taken up the matter at very senior levels with the government of Kuwait including the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He has conveyed the concern of the Indian community over the incidents and requested thorough investigations and measures to dispel the feeling of insecurity among the members of the Indian community. The Government of Kuwait has expressed its own concern about the incidents and assured full investigations so that the culprits are traced and brought to justice. The Government of Kuwait has also stated that it would take all steps to dispel any feeling of insecurity prevailing among the members of the Indian community and adopt necessary measures so that incidents do not recur.

The Indian Ambassador has also met leaders of the Indian community to inform them of the steps taken and has assured them all necessary assistance.

[English]

Bauxite Reserves

1884. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total bauxite deposits in the country;

(b) whether any new bauxite deposit areas has been identified recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALARAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The total recoverable reserves of bauxite in the country are 2525 million tonnes.

(b) and (c). Preliminary explorations carried out recently by Geological Survey of India have identified six occurrences of massive pisolitic bauxite/aluminous laterite in the Pandrapat plateau of Raigarh district, Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

Branch Post Offices in Bihar

1885. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken to open Branch Post Offices in the villages of Madhubani and Darbhanga districts of Bihar;

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

(c) the time by which the said decision is likely to be implemented;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to upgrade the existing Branch Post Offices in the villages under Madhubani district;

(f) if so, the locations thereof; and

(g) the time by which these are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d). Details of the extra departmental branch Post Offices opened in the districts of madhubani and Darbhanga

during Annual Plan 1993-94 are given below:

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of Extra departmental branch Post Office</i>	<i>Name of district</i>	<i>Date of opening</i>
1.	Kalikapur	Madhubani	4.6.93.
2.	Nagardih	Darbhanga	27.8.93.
3.	Gobarsitha	Darbhanga	26.8.93.

(e) There is no such proposal.

(f) and (g). Do not arise in view of (e) above.

Transmission Faults from AIR/Doordarshan, Gorakhpur

1886. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received in regard to constant faults in transmission from Akashwani and Doordarshan Kendra, Gorakhpur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Two representations were received regarding interruption in transmission of Akashwani Gorakhpur. These were followed up and the faults rectified with the result that interruptions have now reduced. Doordarshan is also setting up a permanent earth station at Lucknow and the quality of reception will consequently improve.

[English]

Telephone Bills In Hyderabad

1887. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone bills in Hyderabad city of Andhra Pradesh are not issued on time and the authorities are insisting the subscribers to collect the same personally without despatching them through post and thereby resorting to disconnections for delayed payments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to ensure that telephone bills are sent to the subscribers regularly through post on time and not to resort to disconnections without proper notice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Bills are posted generally on time through post Offices except during January 1994 when there was delay due to computer problem.

(c) Bills are sent regular by post to all the subscribers. No disconnections are done without notice.

STD/PCO'S In Karnataka

1888. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of Public Call Offices/Payphone Booths (STD) and Telephone Exchanges set up in Karnataka during the last three years and proposed to be set up during the current year and in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): The number of Public Call

Offices/Payphone Booths (STD) and Telephone Exchanges set up in Karnataka during the last three years are as below:

	1990 -91	1991-92	1992-93
STD PCOs	902	722	952
Telephone Exchanges	80	76	92

Targets to be achieved for 1993-94 and during the first quarter of 1994-95 (near future) are as follows:

	1993-94	1st Quarter (94-95)
STD PCO's	1800	100
Telephone Exchanges	60	5

Facility to Extra Departmental Employees

1889. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to improve the facilities provided to the Extra Departmental Employees of Postal Department; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). The Department of Posts makes sustained efforts to improve the service conditions of ED Agents to the extent possible within the overall financial constraints. This is a continuous process. As a result, the ED Agents have been brought within the purview of a Group Insurance Scheme with effect from 1.4.92. The

quantum of *ex-gratia* gratuity payable to them has also been increased from Rs 3000 to Rs 6000 with effect from 1.1.93. The Combined Duty Allowance payable to the ED Sub-Postmasters/Branch Postmasters who are entrusted with the work of conveyance/delivery of mail has since been raised to Rs 75/- p.m. from Rs 50/- p.m. with effect from 1st July, 1993. With effect from 01.01.94 the EDBPMs are being compensated for workload upto 100 points instead of upto 80 points as was the position earlier. In addition, the ED Agents have been sanctioned interim relief @ Rs 50/- p.m. with effect from 16th September 1993.

Power Shortage in Andhra Pradesh

1890. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought any assistance from the Union Government to meet power shortage in the state; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). APSEB authorities sought additional assistance of 25% from the unallocated portion of Central Sector power to meet power shortages. Taking into consideration all the relevant

aspects, including relative percentage short-ages amongst the four constituent states of the Southern Region, additional assistance to the extent of 25% of available unallocated power was made available to Andhra Pradesh, with effect from 1.3.1994.

Nepal as Rendezvous of ISI and Militants

1891. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in *Navbharat Times* dated January 5, 1994 regarding use of Nepal as a transit territory by ISI;

(b) if so, whether Nepal has emerged as rendezvous of Kashmiri militants and ISI;

(c) if so, details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government are aware of the use of Nepal as transit territory by terrorists who are linked to Pakistani intelligence agencies.

(b) and (d). The matter has been raised with the authorities in Nepal, who have extended cooperation in efforts to prevent such illegal activities within Nepal.

Establishment of Restaurants by Pepsico

1892. S H R I
SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO ADDE:
SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal for establishing a chain of restaurants in India to be fully owned by a subsidiary of the US multinational Pepsico;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the Government have permitted corporate mergers between multinational corporation and Indian brands of soft drinks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether research is underway to study the impact of multinationals on the soft-drink market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). Two subsidiary of Pepsico Inc. viz. Pizza Hut International & KFC have been granted approval for establishing operations in India for setting up of restaurants through 100% owned companies. The total components of US \$ 20 million in 7 years. The restaurant operations foreign exchange inflow. Technical services fees of 5% will be charged and the repatriation of dividends/

profits will not be made for an initial period of 7 years. The restaurants may also be established through joint ventures between the subsidiary and Indian entrepreneurs and also through Indian franchises.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). This Ministry is not aware whether any research is underway to study the impact of multinationals on the soft drink market. However, the multi-nationals have to compete with the existing manufacturers.

[*Translation*]

Import Price of Copper

1893. SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO:
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of copper has been made duty free;

(b) whether the accumulated price system of Copper has been abolished;

(c) the names of Institutions involved in mining and production of copper in India;

(d) whether the Government propose to fix the import price and distribution of copper through Hindustan Copper Limited;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM
SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The administered pricing policy of copper has been discontinued since March, 1992.

(c) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) a Public Sector Undertaking under the Central Government, is engaged in mining of copper ores and production of refined copper metal. Besides HCL, Hutti Gold Mines Company LTD., a Public Sector Undertaking under the State Government of Karnataka and Sikkim Mining Corporation, a joint venture of Government of Sikkim and the Central Government are also engaged in mining of copper ores and production of copper concentrates. The copper concentrates produced by them are sent to HCL production of refined copper.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Do not arise

[*English*]

Purchase Scandal in Mineral Explorations Corporation

1894. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN
THORAT:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multi-crore purchase scandal in the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., has recently come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the nature of the irregularities committed and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). The Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) placed orders for purchase of 29 drill machines and certain tools and accessories amounting to Rs 3.36 crores during January-February, 1990. The allegation that orders were placed for drills spares and tool not required by MECL has been referred to CBI for enquiry. The CBI on the basis of preliminary enquiry have filed an FIR against seven officials of MECL.

Import of Films

1895. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether cinematograph feature films and video films imported without licence by Doordarshan, All India Radio, Film and Television Institute of India and the National Film Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new film import policy imposed some curbs on the import of any particular kind of films; and

(d) if so, broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d). As per import policy, import of cinematographic feature films and video films may be made without a licence by the National Film Archive of India, Film and Television Institute of India and Children's Film Society of India. Import of these films may be made without a licence by other importers also, including Doordarshan, All India Radio and National Film Development Corporation Limited, provided that the importer has obtained from the Administrative officer, Central Board of Film Certification, a

certificate to the effect that the film has: (i) won an award in any of the International Film Festivals notified by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India; or (ii) participated in any of the official sections of the notified International Film Festivals; or (iii) received good reviews in prestigious film journals notified by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

Extradition Treaty

1896. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with whom the government have concluded extradition treaty; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Government to conclude extradition treaty with other countries, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) We have signed extradition treaties with Bhutan, Belgium, Canada, Nepal, Netherlands, Uganda, UK and USA.

(b) At present efforts are being made by the Government to conclude extradition treaties with Hong Kong, Federal Republic of Germany, UAE France and a new extradition treaty with USA.

[Translation]

Telephone Connection from M.Ps Quota

1897. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the total number

of telephones connections sanctioned by his Ministry during the last two years on the recommendations of the Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Funds for Kerala

1898. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for expansion of telecom. facilities in Kerala during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) whether the funds allocated during 1993-94 are less than the funds allocated during 1992-93;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor:

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the quantum of funds allotted to the State during 1994-95; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The amount allocated during 1992-93 Rs 300 Crores. 1993-94 Rs Crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Funds are allocated keeping in view physical targets set for the respective Telecom Circles and overall availability of

funds in the Department of Telecom. Since the Targets of Kerala Telecom. Circle for 1993-94 are less than those for 1992-93, funds allocated for 1993-94 are also less.

(d) and (e). Allocation for 1994-95 will depend upon physical Targets and overall availability of resources in the Department for which the Demands for Grants are yet to be voted in Parliament.

National Highways in Assam

1899. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy traffic on the National Highways between Barpeta and Guwahati in Assam;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to widen these Highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to meagre allocation of funds, it is not possible to take up further widening for the present.

Telephone /Telex/Fax Connections in Gujarat

1900. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone, telex and fax connections provided during 1991-92 and 1992-93 in Gujarat , district-wise; and

(b) the number of connections proposed to be provided during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Information is furnished in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The information regarding fax connections is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

Number of New Telephone/Telex and Fax Connections provided during 1991-92 and 1992-93 in Gujarat.

Sl. Name of District	No. of New Telephone Connections provided		No. of New Telex Conns. provided		No. of New Fax Conns. provided.	
	1991-92	1992-93	91-92	92-93	91-92	92-93
1. Ahmedabad	9411	19284	19	-8	2	3
2. Gandhinagar	1712	1457	-	-	-	-
3. Baroda	2934	7850	20	78	-	-
4. Rajkot	3250	4073	8	9	-	-
5. Surat	7912	12001	11	-26	-	-
6. Nadiad	3015	6001	3	1	-	1
7. Bulsar	1872	2995	-4	-12	-	-
8. Dangs	7	59	-	-	-	-
9. Mehsana	3333	3535	7	6	-	-
10. Bhavnagar	827	1697	7	1	-	-
11. Junagadh	2260	1245	-1	3	1	-

Sl. Name of District	No. of New Telephone Connections provided		No. of New Telex Conns. provided		No. of New Fax Conns. provided.	
	1991-92	1992-93	91-92	92-93	91-92	92-93
12. Jamnagar	1644	1288	2	-1	-	-
13. Bhuj	1536	2708	13	13	-	-
14. Amreli	415	710	1	1	-	-
15. Himatnagar	1003	2515	-	-	1	-
16. Palanpur	1333	3920	-1	-	-	-
17. Surendranagar	460	1653	-	-2	-	-
18. Bharuch	2593	3501	11	-1	-	1
19. Panchmahals (GDH)	223	2505	-	3	1	-
Total	45740	78997	96	65	5	5

[*Translation*]

Gold Deposits in Bihar

1901. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that rich deposits of gold in the foothills of subernarekha river in the hilly and adivasi areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for exploration, purification and production of gold; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) investigations have not revealed any rich deposits of gold.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

**Convergence of Views on NPT
between India and US**

1902. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any success has been achieved in regard to convergence of views on NPT between India and the US; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks were held in this regard with the US; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (d). Since 1992, three rounds of official level bilateral talks have been held between India and USA, in June 1992, November 1992, and September 1993 respectively. The subjects discussed during these talks include all disarmament, non-proliferation and regional security issues. Regarding the NPT, the US Government has stated that it is in favour of its unconditional extension in 1995. Government's position on the NPT that it is a discriminatory treaty has been conveyed to the US Government. Government have also stated that with the end of the Cold War, there exists an opportunity to develop a new international consensus to tackle the non-proliferation issue. The bilateral talks are part of an ongoing dialogue intended to develop a better understanding of each other's concerns and positions.

**Pressler's views on US Military Aid
to Pakistan**

1903. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in Jansatta dated February 11, 1994 regarding Senator Larry Pressler's views on resuming of US military aid to Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have noted that, following opposition from Congressional quarters, the revised draft of the Foreign Assistance Act, now renamed as Peace, Prosperity & Democracy Act of 1994, sent by the US Administration to the US Congress, retains the Pressler Amendment. In the first draft, the US Administration had proposed repealing this Amendment. The likely repeal of the Pressler Amendment has been one of the issues discussed with Senators Cochran, Pressler and Brown during their visit to India during 9-13 December, 1993.

Government have conveyed their concern on several occasions about the effect on India's security environment of the transfer of frontline weapon systems from the US to Pakistan. Government remain alert to further developments in this regard and are committed to take all necessary steps to safeguard India's national interest.

[Translation]

Extension of Ahmedabad – Vadodara Express Highway

1904. SHRI DHARMANNA
MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for extending the Express Highway between Ahmedabad and Vadodara upto Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the names of the funding agencies; and

(d) the time by which this work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Feasibility study of the proposed Bombay-Vadodara Expressway has been completed and action for its detailed engineering study has been initiated. The rough cost of the project is Rs. 4500 crores.

(c) The Asian Development Bank has approved financial assistance for undertaking detailed engineering for the project.

(d) It is too early to indicate the time by which the project is likely to be started.

Rahabilitation of Bhati Mines

1905. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) when the Bhati mines were closed down and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether these mines will be restarted; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Due to fatal accident in May, 1990 involving life of seven persons, mining operations in Bhatti Mines were closed down in June, 1990 by a prohibitory order issued by Director (Mines Safety).

(b) There is no such proposal. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Amount Released from C.R.F.

1906. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN
PRABHU ZANTYE:
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount credited to the Central Road Fund (C.R.F) during each of the last three years till the end of June 1993;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released for various schemes under C.R.F during 1993-94 and proposed to be sanctioned during 1994-95 State-wise; and

(c) the estimate of funds allocation, State-wise during the Eighth Five Year Plan under C.R.F in general and for Goa in Particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The total amount credited to Central Road Fund are calculated financial year-wise, the details for tentative accruals for the last three years as per old Resolution are as under:

1990-91	Rs 17.80 crore
1991-92	Rs 19.23 crore
1992-93	Rs 20.77 crore

(b) and (c). A Statement indicating the tentative allocations of funds under C.R.F during 1993-94 is annexed. The funds are allocated State-wise and not schemes-wise. It is too early to give likely estimate of funds allocation during 1994-95 and during Eighth Five Year Plan as a Revised Resolution passed by the Parliament in May, 1988 is yet to be implemented.

STATEMENT

Tentative allocations under Central Road Fund to various State/ U. Ts during 1993-94.

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Tentative Allocation (Rs in lakhs)</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
3.	Assam	40
4.	Bihar	40
5.	Chandigarh	Nil
6.	Delhi	100
7.	Goa	5

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Tentative Allocation (Rs in lakhs)</i>
8.	Gujarat	80
9.	Haryana	30
10.	Himachal Pradesh	15
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	15
12.	Karnataka	40
13.	Kerala	50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	40
15.	Maharashtra	100
16.	Manipur	10
17.	Meghalaya	10
18.	Nagaland	10
19.	Orissa	40
20.	Pondicherry	Nil
21.	Punjab	50
22.	Rajasthan	5
23.	Tamil Nadu	70
24.	Uttar Pradesh	100
25.	West Bengal	20
26.	Tripura	5
27.	Lakshadweep	Nil
28.	Sikkim	20

[*Translation*]

**Development of National Highways
in West Bengal**

1907. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes submitted by the Government of West Bengal to the union Government during each of the last three years for the development of National Highways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Year-wise details of 136 National Highway proposal received from the Government of West Bengal are as under:

		<i>No. of Proposals</i>
1990-91	- -	51
1991-92	- -	62
1992-93	- -	23
Total:		136

(b) Out of 136 proposals, 95 have since been sanctioned and remaining 41 have been returned to the State Government for technical compliance.

[*English*]

Development of Roads in A.P.

1908. SHRIDATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted proposals regarding development of State and national highway roads in A.P with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Work of four laning including strengthening of Vijayawada-Chilakaluripet. Section of NH 5 in Andhra Pradesh was included in the list of works projected to World Bank to be considered for possible assistance. However, the work has now been included in the loan agreement signed with O.E.C.F (Japan). A separate proposal for improvement of 11450 Km of State Highways, major District Roads, Rural Roads and Coastal roads in Andhra Pradesh, has also been posed to the World Bank for possible assistance.

**Safety of People of Indian Origin in
Afghanistan**

1909. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure the safety of Indians and persons of Indian origin residing in Afganistan due to recent disturbances in that country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Government

have been taking up with the Afghan authorities the issue of the safety of Indians and persons of Indian origin and have been extending liberal visa facilities to Afghans of Indian origin desirous of traveling to India due to disturbed conditions in Afghanistan. Government have not come across any incident involving Indians or persons of Indian origin specifically targeted due to the recent disturbances.

[*Translation*]

Acquisition of Immovable Property Abroad

1910. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in regard to acquisition/construction of immovable property for office or residential accommodation abroad;

(b) the details of proposals pending as on 31st December, 1993 and since when these are pending;

(c) the estimated escalation in cost due to delay in respect of each proposal; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) It has been the policy of the government to purchase/build accommodation abroad for our Missions' offices and residences of officials. Besides meeting our functional requirements, these properties enable us to effect saving of rents, that are invariably on the increase. As a result of sustained efforts in this direction, we now own:

1)	Chanceries	61
2)	Residences for Heads of Missions/Head of Posts	66
3)	Houses / flats	509

(b) to (d). The following proposals for purchase of properties were being processed as on 31st December, 1993:

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Details of property</i>	<i>Date from which being processed</i>
1.	Residence of high Commissioner of India, London.	August, 1993.
2.	Residence of Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York.	November, 1993.
3.	Residences for 4 officials of Embassy of India, Berne.	December, 1993.
4.	A building for Indian Cultural Centre & Indian School at Dhaka.	May, 1993.
5.	Residence for Ambassador of India, Tel Aviv.	December, 1993.

While the purchased at Dhaka has been approved on 28th February, 1994, the remaining proposals are being processed as expeditiously as possible keeping in view administrative, financial, technical, budgetary and legal procedures. There has been

no cost escalation on account of the time taken to process the above cases.

The position in regard to construction projects under process as on 31st December, 1993 was as follows:-

-
- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Construction of Chancery, Ambassador's Residence and residences of 44 India-based Officials, Embassy of India, Riyadh. Escalation in cost due to delay, if any: The contract for the Riyadh construction project has been awarded in December, 1993 at a cost of Saudi Riyals 47,189,413 (equivalent to US \$ 12,568,928 or Rs 39,65,49,689). The escalation in terms of US \$ has been 0.5% only). | August, 1989. |
| 2. | Construction of Chancery, Ambassador's Residence, Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi | September, 1989 |
| 3. | Residence of the High Commissioner of India to Pakistan, residences for officers and staff of the High Commission of India, Islamabad (total units 121) | April, 1993. |
| 4. | Indian Cultural Centre in Mauritius
*(fresh approval based on revised scope of construction obtained in February, 1994) | January, 1990 |
-

During 1990-91 and 1991-92, construction projects were not undertaken due to financial constraints. The Gulf crisis delayed implementation of the projects in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi as the process of prequalification of contractors and tendering had to be undertaken afresh after the Gulf war. The construction proposals at Sl. No. (2) to (4) above are being processed as expeditiously as possible keeping in view various administrative, financial, Budgetary, technical and legal procedures. The escalation in cost, if any, due to the time taken in processing these proposals is not known as the works have not been awarded to the contractors.

[English]

Remote Switching Unit by C-DOT

1911. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for development of Telematics (C-DOT) has developed a remote switching unit (RSU) technology in order to extend the geographical area covered by its rural and large exchanges in a cost effective manner; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The RSU supports all the requirements/ Features of the main C-DOT exchange. It can provide services to as many as 1232 subscribers, using PCM channels. The subscribers will have the same features and facilities as are available to subscribers connected directly to local exchanges.

[*Translation*]

Widening of National Highways, Gujarat

1992. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy traffic on National Highway No.8;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to widen the National highways in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Annual plan of Sanctions, for 1993-94 includes a provision for widening to four lanes in 66 Km length of NH 8 and 6 Km length of NH 8 C.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Construction/Renovation of Bridges in West Bengal

1913. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from the Government of West Bengal for the construction/renovation of bridges on the national highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken on these proposals so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Eleven proposals for construction/renovation of bridges amounting to Rs 295 lakhs have been received during 1993-94. Out of these, five have been sanctioned, two returned to the State Government for modifications and the remaining four are under process.

[*Translation*]

Inter-State Roads and Bridges in M.P.

1914. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to share 1/3rd of the total cost incurred by madhya Pradesh on the construction of inter-State roads and bridges as a special case in view of its having borders with other seven States who bear the expenditure on 50:50 basis; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). No, Sir. As per the existing policy in vogue under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of State

Roads of Inter-State or Economic importance, the Central Government provide 100% loan assistance for roads and bridges having inter-State Character in the programme irrespective of the State involved.

PCOs out of Order in Delhi

1915. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public Cell Offices installed in Delhi, particularly in Trans Yamuna area are functioning properly;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir. Most of the PCOs installed in Delhi including Trans Yamuna area are functioning satisfactorily. Whenever any complaint for any faculty PCO is received, the same is attended promptly.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

[English]

Programmes of National School of Drama

1916. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National School of Drama has sent any representation for the telecast of their programmes on Doordarshan;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) According to Doordarshan no such request has been received by it.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Haj Act

1917. SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Haj Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) (a) Government have been planning to introduce a new bill on Haj to replace the existing Haj Committee Act (NO.51) of 1959.

(b) The Legislative proposals to be incorporated in the Bill are under active consideration.

(c) The new Bill is proposed to be introduced after all aspects have been examined.

[English]

New Unit of Modern Food Industries

1918. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new unit of Modern Food Industries Limited in Model Town area of Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Refund to Haj Pilgrims

1919. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are refunding the difference of amount between the existing Government exchanges rate and commercial exchange rate to issue foreign exchange to the Haj Pilgrims of 1993;

(b) whether the Government have not refunded so far the difference of amount to the Haj pilgrims of 1993; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be refunded to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No Sir. The duality of rates of Foreign Exchange has been abolished.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Common Censor Procedures

1920. DR. Y. S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a common procedure of censoring films to be observed by all States and Union Territories in the Country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). The existing procedure for certification of films for public exhibition is regulated in terms of the provisions contained in Part II of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952) and the Rules and Guidelines framed thereunder. The Act, the Rules and the Guidelines extend to the whole of India. The certificate issued to a film by the Central Board of Film Certification is valid for exhibition of the film throughout India.

Widening of National Highways

1921. SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA: PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways which are proposed to be widened during the Eighth Plan period, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the volume of traffic likely to be

carried by double lane during the above period?

is attached.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A statement

(b) The design capacity of a double lane carriageway is 15,000 PCUs (Passenger Car Units) per day. However, the volume to be carried will depend upon actual traffic using the facility.

STATEMENT

Details regarding Widening of National Highways

Proposals for widening of NHs in 8th Plan and sanctioned during 1992-93

1992-93 Length in Km 8th Plan Length in Km

1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	117
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
3.	Assam	-	.65
4.	Bihar	-	123
5.	Chandigarh	-	-
6.	Delhi	-	26
7.	Goa	-	65
8.	Gujarat	11	78

Sl.No.	Name of State	Proposals for widening of NHs in 8th Plan and sanctioned during 1992-93	
		1992-93 Length in Km	8th Plan Length in Km
9.	Haryana	.	124
10.	Himachal Pradesh	.	175
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	.	
12.	Karnataka	.	269
13.	Kerala	.	112
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10	247
15.	Maharashtra	.	97
16.	Manipu	.	41
17.	Meghalaya	.	.
18.	Nagaland	.	.

Sl.No.	Name of State	Proposals for widening of NHs in 8th Plan and sanctioned during 1992-93	
		1992-93 Length in Km	8th Plan Length in Km
19.	Orissa	-	100
20.	Pondicherry	-	-
21.	Punjab	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	-	143
23.	Tamil Nadu	-	73
24.	Uttar Pradesh	-	35
25.	West Bengal	-	117
Total		33	2007

(Works for widening of NHs will be taken up during 8th Plan depending on the availability of funds for the purpose).

**Bilateral Relations with China and
Japan**

1922. SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scope for enhancing further the bilateral relations with Japan and China in various spheres including economic, trade and industrial spheres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). The potential for enhancing further India's bilateral relations with Japan and China exists in various fields including economic, trade and industrial sectors. As a result of Government efforts, there is now much greater interests in Japan in expanding economic relations with India since the launching of economic reforms. Japan sent a large Government-sponsored economic delegation to India in January 1992 and a second one is expected in March 1994. The on-going preparation of a feasibility study for an Industrial Model Town (IMT) in Haryana by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is also expected to lead to increased industrial investment by Japanese firms in India. Government are discussing various ways and means, with the Chinese side, especially in the fields of direct shipping, air and banking links and an agreement on avoidance of double taxation, to facilitate a fast-paced growth of trade, investment and other economic ties with China.

**Deep-Sea Fishing in Andhra
Pradesh**

1923. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry monitors continuously the deep-sea fishing industry in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the shortcomings observed during 1993-94;

(c) whether any survey has been done on the problems being faced by deep-sea fishing sector in Visakhapatnam;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to solve these problems; and

(e) the State-wise subsidy given to the deep sea fishing in 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The Ministry keeps itself abreast of various developments in the deep sea fishing industry in the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The industry faced the problems, of low catch per unit effort increased operational costs, non-availability of trained crew, reluctance of financial institutions to provide working capital loans etc.

(c) and (d). A study was made through FAO on the problems of the deep-sea fishing industry in Visakhapatnam. The Ministry constituted a Technical Committee for in-depth study of the problems in this sector and to suggest remedial measures. Apart from this, the Government provides assis-

tance to the sector under different schemes.

assistance to various States under Plan Schemes (Grants-in-aid) for deep sea fishing.

(e) Year wise disbursement of financial

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	(Rs. in lakhs)			
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	
1.	Tripura	15.15	-	-	
2.	Karnataka	22.50	-	-	
3.	Kerala	94.50	75.00	-	
4.	Lakshadweep	15.60	26.25	-	
5.	West Bengal	101.90	-	-	
6.	Maharashtra	-	-	67.50	
7.	Andhra Pradesh	-	39.50	-	
8.	Orissa	-	21.00	10.50	
9.	Punjab	-	58.00	-	
10.	Gujarat	-	86.00	-	
11.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	28.43	69.50	

This assistance has been provided to create, infrastructure for fish processing and cold chain. etc. Besides, interest subsidy, assistance for diversified fishing, equity participation in deep-sea fishing projects and HSD price reimbursement schemes are also in existence for the development of the deep-sea fishing sector.

Performance of Visakhapatnam Port

1924. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any appreciable growth of traffic and use of Visakhapatnam Port during each of the last

five years;

(b) the details of tonnage carried by this port during the above period;

(c) whether the turn-round time for ships is increasing; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to reduce turn-round time for ships in Visakhapatnam Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The volume of cargo handled by Visakhapatnam Port during the last five years and first 11 months of the current financial year along with the growth rate is as given below:

	Cargo handled (Million tonnes)	Percentage growth
1988-89	20.37	
1989-90	21.12	3.7
1990-91	19.42	(-) 8.0
1991-92	21.52	10.8
1992-93	22.77	5.8
1993-94 (April -Feb.)	22.98	11.6*

*Compared to April-February, 1992-93.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The average turn round time for ships at Visakhapatnam Port during the period April-January, 1993-94 was 6.24 days as against 7.49 days during the corresponding period of the previous year. Constant efforts is made to reduce the turn-round time to the minimum.

Objections by C.B.F.C

1925. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Censor Board of Film

Certification has objected to the screening of some new films during the past few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in spite of objections by CBFC, the films have been approved and given no objection certificates; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

New Passport Offices in Gujarat

1926. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open new passport offices in Surat and Rajkot in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of passport offices proposed to be opened in the country during 1994-95, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The opening of new Passport Offices is based on various parameters including work-load and resources available. The opening of new Passport Offices does not

itself improve the service until the necessary infrastructure and personnel are available. The Government is, therefore, concentrating on clearing the backlog of pending applications, trying to cut down on delays in issuing passports and streamlining and simplifying procedures.

[*English*]

Acquisition of Container Vessels

1927. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic shipping industry has made any request for level playing field for the acquisition of container vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The Government decided in May, 1992 to throw open, to all Indian Shipping Companies, those liner routes where the three Indian Shipping companies (viz. Shipping Corporation of India, India Steamship Company and Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited) are not operating. Government have not received any request from the domestic shipping industry for revision of this policy.

Foreign Investment for Power Generation

1928. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some investment agreements for power generation have been signed between India and some foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the terms of reference of such agreements;

(c) whether such power generation programmes are also proposed to be undertaken in Sikkim;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No agreements are signed with foreign countries for investment proposals from foreign private parties in power generation. Prospective investors directly offer proposals to the State Electricity Boards either in response to an invitation for bid or through negotiations.

(b) 75 offers of interest from private sector companies including 35 from foreign investors/NRIs have been received for setting up power plants in India. The terms of agreement are finalised with the promoter by the State Electricity Board concerned under the policy framework prepared by the Government of India.

(c) to (e). Sikkim Government have advertised the following projects for implementation by private sector companies. Response is a waited:

1. Teesta St. V (660 MW)
2. Teesta -III (1200 MW)

Construction of Roads under CRF in Kerala

1929. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of roads constructed under CRF in Kerala during each of the last five years;

(b) the reasons of delay in the completion of these roads;

(c) the new roads proposed to be taken-up in the State under CRF; and

(d) the funds allocated/released so far, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Four roads were constructed under Central Road Fund during the last five years in Kerala. The delay in completion of these roads as reported by the State Public Works Departments who are responsible for the execution and monitoring of these works, is due to financial constraints, incapability of the contractors and objections from the Forest Department.

(c) One road work. i.e. Link road connecting NH 47 to NH-17 from Mannuthy to Thriuvathra via Trichur, Guruvayoor, costing Rs. 120.00 lakhs has been sanctioned under Central Road Fund.

(d) Funds under Central Road Fund are released in lumpsum and not projectwise.

[*Translation*]**Power Generation/Demand In Bihar and Uttar Pradesh**

1930. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap between power generation and demand in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the demand and actual power generated during the last two years and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap;

(c) whether the Government propose to privatise the power generation and distribution system; and

(d) if so, the names of the States in which power generation has been privatised and details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The required details of energy generation and power supply position in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are furnished below:

	<i>BIHAR</i>		<i>UTTAR PRADESH</i>	
	<i>1991-92</i>	<i>1992-93</i>	<i>1991-92</i>	<i>1992-93</i>
1. Energy Generation (Gross)	2586	2963	43916	47266
2. Power Supply Position (MU) net				
Requirement	7415	8220	31540	32415
Availability	5215	5243	28280	29118
Shortage	2200	2977	3260	3297
%	29.7	36.2	10.3	10.2

In order to bridge the gap between demand and availability in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, Various measures are being taken to improve the availability of power which include maximising the generation from the existing generation system, implementation of Renovation & Modernisation Programme, reduction and energy conservation measures losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures and

assistance from neighbouring states and systems.

(c) Government policy and legal provision permit private sector participation in generation and distribution.

(d) As on date expressions of interest have been shown by the private promoters for setting up of 75 power projects amount-

ingto32661 MW costing Approx. Rs. 104151 crores in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Of this, the details of such project proposals in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi are indicated as under:-

STATEMENT

Name of Project State	Foreign /Indian	Capacity (MW)	Prov.cost	Name of the Company
Chandil TPS/Bihar	Indian	500.00 (2x250) (Coal)	1637.00	RPG Enterprises
Vishnuprayag HEP/ Uttar Pradesh	Indian	360.00 (3x250) (Hydel)	612.88	Jaiprakash Enterprises Ltd.
Rosa TPS /Uttar Pradesh	Forgn./ Indian	750.00 (3x250) (Coal)	2625.00	Indo-Gulf Fertilisers &Chemicals/ power Generation U.K.

Diversion of D.T.C Bus Service

1931. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether regular D.T.C. bus service operating on Delhi-Etah-Aliganj-Rampur-Farrukhabad-Delhi route has been diverted to Delhi-Etah-Aliganj-Kayamganj-Farrukhabad-Delhi route;

(b) whether this route diversion has caused inconvenience and difficulties to the general public;

(c) if so, the reasons for route diversion;

(d) whether the Government propose to restore the previous regular route;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(f) if not, the alternative arrangements made or proposed to be made to obviate the inconvenience being faced by the common public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The DTC bus service operating on Delhi-Etah-Aliganj-Rampur-Farrukhabad-Delhi route

was diverted to Delhi-Etah-Aliganj-Kayamaganj-Farrukhabad-Delhi route, on account of bad road condition. It caused some inconvenience to the residents of Rampur.

(d) The previous route has been restored w.e.f. 25-9-1992.

(e) and (f). Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Automatic Exchanges

1932. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(b) whether all these exchanges are working with their full capacity; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). The number of automatic exchanges set up during 92-93 is given in Statement Normally, the exchanges are loaded up to 94% of their capacity or less, depending on the traffic and/or waiting list.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Number of Automatic Telephone Exchanges set up during 1992-93

Sl.No.	Name of States	No of Exchanges
1.	Assam	15
2.	Andhra Pradesh	*2
3.	Bihar	121
4.	Delhi	8
5.	Gujarat	91
6.	Haryana	65
7.	Himachal Pradesh	24
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	20
9.	Karnataka	92
10.	Kerala	13
11.	Madhya Pradesh	387
12.	&	
13	Maharashtra & Goa	
14	to	157

Sl.No.	Name of States	No of Exchanges
19	North East (Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunchal Pradesh and Nagaland)	4
20.	Orissa	58
21.	Funjab	39
22.	Rajasthan	122
23.	Tamil Nadu	12
24.	Uttar Pradesh	
25.	&	122
26.	West Bengal and Sikkim	16
	Total	1364

* Some of the small exchanges when replaced by big exchange then total No. of exchanges decreases while capacity either remains same or increases.

[English]

Mini Steel Plants

1933. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an experts group have recommended to the Union Government some measures for the survival of mini steel plants in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and the steps to be taken by the Government to revive the mini steel plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV): (a) and (b). The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry have recommended various measures to the Governments for bringing about improvements in conditions of the mini-steel industry. Government have constituted an Evaluation Group to suggest a comprehensive action plan for implementing these recommendations. This report is expected in April 94.

The recent budget has reduced the import duty on steel melting scrap from 12½ to 10%.

Export Oriented Aluminium Plant at Rayagada (Orissa)

1934. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose

to set up a 100% export oriented aluminium plant at Rayagada in Orissa;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the proposed installed capacity, the expected time of commercial production and potential of employment generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Electronic Machines in M.P.

1935. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new electronic machines are proposed to provide in various telephone exchanges of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new electronic machines have not been provided so far in telephone exchanges of Burhampur;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There are 2056 numbers of Telephone Exchanges in M.P. out of which 1981 are already Electronic type as on 31.1.94.

3 more telephone exchanges are planned to be converted into electronic in 1993-94. Remaining telephone exchanges will be converted into electronic type progressively.

(c) No Sir. One Elect. Exchange is already working in Burhampur and second exchange is yet to be converted into electronic.

(d) and (e). Advance Purchase Order for a 3000 lines CDOT type Electronic Exchange for Burhampur has also been placed. The Electronic Exchange is likely to be commissioned during 94-95 which will replace the existing electro-mechanical exchange.

[English]

PFC Financing the Private Companies

1936. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power projects to be set up by Private companies are financed by Power Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the number of such projects financed during the last three years; and

(c) the criteria adopted to provide finances to such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

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

National Permit

1937. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to modify the norms adopted for national permit scheme for trucks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Shipyards

1938. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct new shipyards;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the proposed locations;

(c) whether offers of foreign assistance have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of total quantum of funds offered for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Government have no proposal to set up new shipyards.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Power Generation in Gujarat, Maharashtra and A.P.

1939. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity of power generation at present in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh from each of the Power generating plants;

(b) the details of power generated during the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 from these plants; and

(c) the details of the share of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh which they are getting from the power projects of the neighbouring States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The required details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh do not have any shares in the power projects owned solely by the neighbouring states. However, they have shares in the central sector as well as jointly owned projects. The details are given below:

(i) <i>Central Sector Power Stations</i>	<i>Gujarat</i>	<i>Maharashtra</i>
Korba STPS (2130 MW)	361 MW (17%)	618 MW (29%)
Vindhyachal STPS (1260 MW)	230 MW (18.3%)	410 MW (32.5%)
Kawas GTPS (645.36 MW)	184 MW (28.5%)	201 MW (31.1%)
Kakrapar (220 MW)	62.5 MW (28.5%)	68.5 MW (31.1 %)
Tarapur (320 MW)	160 MW (50%)	160 (50%)
(ii) <i>Joint project of M.P. and Maharashtra</i>		
• Pench HEP (160 MW)		53.3 MW (33.33%)
(iii) <i>Central Sector Stations</i>		<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>
Ramagundam STPS (2100 MW)		580 MW (27.6%)
Neyveli TPS 2 St. I (630 MW)		97 MW (15.4%)
Neyveli TPS 2 St II 840 (MW)		180 MW (21.4%)
MAPP (470 MW)		40 MW (8.5%)
(iv) <i>Joint Project of Orissa and A.P.</i>		
Machkund HEPS (114 MW)		80 MW (70%)
(v) <i>Joint project of A.P. and Kamataka</i>		
T.B. Dam & Hampi (72 MW)		57.6 MW (80%)

In addition to the above Gujarat, Maharashtra and A.P. have been allocated out of the 15% unallocated output of central

sector stations located in the respective regions. The details of which are furnished below:

<i>Gujarat (W.R.)</i>	<i>Maharashtra (W.R.)</i>	<i>Andhra Pradesh (S.R.)</i>
40%*	10%*	50%**

* After accounting for total specific allocation of 83 MW to BALCO (45 MW), Rourkela Steel Plant (30 MW) UTs of Daman & Diu (5 MW) and Dadra & Nagar Haveli (3 MW) from Korba STPS.

** After accounting for a specific allocation of 5 MW from Central Sector Stations of Southern Region to NFC and 2 MW to Kaiga APS from MAPP.

STATEMENT**DETAILS REGARDING POWER GENERATION IN GUJARAT, MAHARASHTRA AND A.P.**

The details of power generated during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 (April, 93 - Feb., 94) for each power plant in the state of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are given below.

State /Power Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	1991-92 (MU)	Power Generation during 1992-93 (MU)	Power Generation during 1993-94 (April, 93 -Feb. 94) (MU)
GUJARAT				
<u>Thermal G.E.B</u>				
1. Dhuvaran	534.0	2981	2730	2140
2. Ukai	850.0	4282	4336	3813
3. Gandhinagar	660.0	2730	4019	3533
4. Wanakbori	1260.0	5820	6944	6336
5. Sikka	240.0	564	646	750
6. Kutch Lignite	140.0	424	557	607
7. Utran	45.0	234	175	196
8. Utran GT	144.0	0	56	489
9. Dhuvaran GT	54.0	253	182	147
Total		17288	19645	18011

State /Power Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	1991-92 (MU)	Power Generation during 1993-94 (April, 93 -Feb.94) 1992-93 (MU)	(MU)
Hydro				
1. Ukai Hydro	305.0	534	419	873
2. Kadana	120.0	301	240	265
Total		835	659	1138
Nuclear				
1. Kakrapar	220.0	0	62	655
PRIVATE				
AE Co.	80.0	312	195	205
Sabarmati	330.0	2021	1913	1870
Vatwa GT	99.0	323	611	550
Total		2656	2719	2625
NTPC				
Kawajs GT	644.0	0	1463	2059
TOTAL GUJARAT				

State /Power Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	1991-92 (MU)	1992-93 (MU)	Power Generation during 1993-94 (April, 93 -Feb. 94) (MU)
Thermal		19944	23827	22695
Nuclear		0	62	655
Hydro		835	659	1138
Total		20779	24548	24488
Maharashtra				
MSEB				
Thermal				
1. Nasik	910.0	4852	4996	4595
2. Koradi	1100.0	6031	6085	5725
3. Paras	62.5	424	344	260
4. Bhusawal	482.5	2717	2980	2335
5. Parli	690.0	2594	2201	2796
6. Chandrapur	1840.0	5089	5631	6871

<i>State /Power Station</i>	<i>Installed Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>1991-92 (MU)</i>	<i>Power Generation during 1993-94 (April, 93 -Feb.94) 1992-93 (MU)</i>	<i>(MU)</i>
7. Khaper Kheda -II	420.0	2511	2322	2581
8. Udran GT	672.0	2920	2622	1531
Total		27178	27181	26694
HYDRO				
1. Koyana	880.0	3237	3145	3058
2. Koyana Dam	40.0	172	97	158
3. Vaitarna	60.0	180	130	112
4. Paithon	12.0	34	21	31
5. Tiliari	60.0	124	108	137
6. Bhira Tail	80.0	89	81	104
7. Bandardharu	10.0	14	8	24
8. Bhatsa	15.0	3	23	45
9. Small Hydro		164	151	177
Total		4017	3764	3846

State /Power Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	Power Generation during 1993-94 (April, 93 - Feb. 94)		
		1991-92 (MU)	1992-93 (MU)	(MU)
Trombay (Thermal)	1337.5	6194	6326	5486
Tata (Hydro)	276.0	1638	1219	1345
Tarapur (Nuclear)	420.0	1710	1935	1743
MAHRASHTRA				
Thermal		33372	33507	32180
Nuclear		1710	1935	1743
Hydro		5655	4983	5191
Total		40737	40425	39114
ANDHRA PRADESH				
THERMAL				
1. Kothagundam	680.0	2982	3134	2940
2. Vijaywada	840.0	5316	5662	5292
3. Ramagundam B	62.5	310	218	325
4. Bellore	30.0	119	104	103

<i>State /Power Station</i>	<i>Installed Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>1991-92 (MU)</i>	<i>Power Generation during 1993-94 (April, 93 -Feb.94) 1992-93 (MU)</i>	<i>(MU)</i>
5. Royalseema		0	0	0
6. Vijeswaram	99.0	357	417	474
Total		9084	9535	9134
HYDRO				
1. Machkund	114.7	806	795	686
2. T.B. Dam	72.0	206	224	192
3. Upper Sile	120.0	589	517	333
4. Lower Sile	460.0	1481	1295	963
5. N Juna Sagar	810.0	3011	2614	3122
6. N SGR EBC	90.0	226	229	216
7. N SGR LBC	60.0	0	65	97
8. Srusailem	770.0	3269	3183	3625
9. Nizam SGR	10.0	23	7	2
10. Pochampad	27.0	104	89	43

State /Power Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	1991-92 (MU)	1992-93 (MU)	Power Generation during 1993-94 (April, 93 -Feb.94) (MU)
11. Donkarai	25.0	131	99	37
12. Penna Ahob	20.0	0	0	0
Total		9846	9117	9316
N.T.P.C.				
Ramagundam STPS	2100.0	11277	12384	13143
ANDHRA PRADESH				
Thermal		20361	21919	22277
Hydro		9846	9117	9316
Total		30207	31036	31593

[Translation]

(c) the outcome thereof?

Purchasing of Cables

1940. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies to whom supply orders were placed in connection with the purchase of cables for new telephone exchanges;

(b) the number of companies submitted quotations to the department regarding supply of cables; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) List of companies to whom supply orders were placed is enclosed herewith.

(b) 16 companies submitted quotations.

(c) Bulk orders were placed on firms vide Sl.No. (1) to (13) of the enclosed Statement and letters of intent for educational orders were placed on firms vide Sl. No. 14 to 16 with the condition that firm purchase orders shall be placed on production of the type approval certificates by them.

STATEMENT**List of Companies**

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Company</i>
1.	M/s INCAB, Calcutta.
2.	M/s Finolex Cables Ltd., Pune.
3.	M/s Usha Beltron Ltd., Ranchi.
4.	M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd., Bombay.
5.	M/s RPG Telecom. Ltd., Mysore.
6.	M/s Hindustan Cables Ltd., Calcutta.
7.	M/s NICCO Corporation Ltd., Calcutta.
8.	M/s Vindhya Telelinks Ltd., Rewa.
9.	M/s Gujarat Telephone Cables Ltd., Ahmedabad.
10.	M/s Traco Cable Company Ltd., Ernakulam.
11.	M/s Telephone Cables Ltd., Chandigarh.

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Company</i>
12.	M/s UPCOM Cables Ltd., Lucknow.
13.	M/s Tamil Nadu Telecom. Ltd., Madras.
14.	M/s CMI Ltd., New Delhi.
15.	M/s Delton Cables Ltd., New Delhi.
16.	M/s Haryana Telecom. Ltd., Rohtak.

[English]

Indo-Iranian Steel Venture

1941. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the *Economic Times* dated February 3, 1994 captioned "4-way Indo-Iranian steel venture on anvil";

(b) if so, the details regarding the present status of the proposals under consideration and its implications;

(c) whether the Government have received similar proposals from other countries also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was concluded during the visit of Secretary (Steel) to Iran in October, 1993 which *inter-alia* envisages the establishment of a joint venture between M/s. Asxotech (a subsidiary of National Iranian Steel Company),

Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) and Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd. (MECON) of India for providing technical services in Iran, India and third countries. The proposals is being pursued with the Iranian authorities.

(c) and (d). No similar proposal for setting up joint ventures for providing technical services has been received from other countries.

Review of Construction and Repair of Bridges in Gujarat

1942. SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction and repair work of the bridges built over National Highway in Gujarat is not reviewed from time to time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the bridges in respect of which the construction and repair work has been reviewed during the last three years in the State; and

(d) the details of deficiencies found in the said work together with the action taken

by Government against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Number of bridges fro which
review of the work relating to their construc-
tion and repairs has been made during the
last three years is as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of individual bridge works reviewed</i>
1991	27
1992	26
1993	26

(d) No shortcomings have come to
notice in the course of such review.

Kozhikode-Vythiri-Goodallur Road

1943. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT
be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been
submitted by Government of Kerala regard-
ing Kozhikode-Vythiri-Goodallur Road un-
der Central Aid Programme; and

(b) if so, the present state of the propos-
al?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to limited allocation of funds for
Central Sector Roads Programme in the 8th

Five Year Plan, it will be possible to take up
only some selected projects under the
programme.

Resumption of Container Service

1944. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS-
PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of
India proposes to resume container servic-
es to Europe;

(b) is so, the details thereof and the
number of vessels acquired by the Shipping
Corporation of India for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be
taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The
Shipping Corporation of India Limited have
already resumed its exclusive container
service in January, 1994 from India, with
voyages commencing from Jawaharlal Nehru
Port, to meet the growing demand of India/
Europe Trade. The Shipping Corporation of
India have acquired three Cellular Container
Vessels for this purpose.

The vessels will call at selected Ports in
U.K. and in North Continent. The trade to
hinterland will either be served by feeding or
through road transport. On return voyage
the vessels will serve the Indian sub-conti-
nent trade from U.K. and North Continent as
also trade to Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

[*Translation*]

C-DOT Exchanges in Bihar

1945. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will
the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Members of Parliament to set up trunk media 30 channel V.H.F. system and 512 I.L.T. or 512 C-DOT exchange in rural area of Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKHRAM): (a) and (b). Government is not aware of any such specific representation. However, a large number of such systems have already been installed and are further being planned for Bihar.

[English]

Telecast Time of Doordarshan

1946. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total telecast time of Doordarshan system during 1992-93;

(b) the total time taken out of the above, by commercial advertisements;

(c) the total revenue receipts during the year from commercial advertisements; and

(d) the percentage that these receipts formed for the current expenditure of the Doordarshan system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). During the period 1992-93, the total telecast time of Doordarshan national network and the regional kendras was 19,419 hours out of which 448 hours

was used for commercial advertisements.

(c) and (d). The gross revenue earned by Doordarshan during the period 1992-93 was Rs 360.23 crores i.e. 57.22% (approx) of the current expenditure of the said period.

Suspension of Officers in NALCO

1947. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several senior officers of the National Aluminium Company Limited have been suspended last year;

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

(c) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(e) the action being taken on the C.B.I. report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). Shri S.N. Johri, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Shri R.B. Rao, Director (Finance) and Shri K.S. Iyer, Chief Manager (Finance) of National Aluminium Company Limited have been placed under suspension in connection with placement of funds with the financial institutions.

(c) The report of the Central Bureau of Investigation has not been received.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Major Steel Industries

1948. SHRI SURENDRAPAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether major steel industries are running in losses in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take steps to revive these industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Of the four major steel industries viz. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO), Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the former two are making profits and the latter two companies are incurring losses.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. In case of Indian Iron and Steel Company Government have decided to allow private sector participation in the equity and management of IISCO for the purpose of ensuring expeditious modernisation of its Burnpur Steel Works and thereby the revival of the Company. Government proposed to introduce a Bill for empowering Government to allow SAIL to transfer its share holdings in IISCO to private parties for this purpose. The Bill is currently under consideration of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry.

As regards Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, the main reasons for incurring losses

are low capacity utilisation as its production units are still in the process of stabilisation and high incidence of capital related charges, namely, Depreciation and Interest. With a view to improving financial viability of the Company, the Government has cleared a scheme for restructuring of capital base of the Company. This will enable the Company to reduce to some extent its interest burden owing to conversion of outstanding Government loans into equity and preference shares. The Company has also initiated various remedial measures to increase the capacity utilisation of its production facilities and the plant is expected to achieve 100% capacity utilisation by 1996-97

[*English*]

Telephone Connections to Panchayats in West Bengal

1949. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village panchayats in West Bengal directly connected with District Headquarters through telephones as on December 31, 1993;

(b) the number of village panchayats likely to be connected by March 31, 1994; and

(c) the number of village panchayats proposes to be connected in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 152 Panchayat villages.

(b) 50 additional Panchayat villages during the year 1993-94.

(c) 1029 Panchayat villages during the year 1994-95.

Safety Measures at Steel Plants

1950. DR.KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the various safety measures adopted by different Steel Plants during last three years to reduce the accident rates; and

(b) the results achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The measures taken by the public sector steel plants are given in the Statement.

(b) As a result of the various safety measures, there has been a decreasing trend in the rate of accidents in SAIL and VSP (Fatal and reportable). There is also better industrial relations on account of good safety standards adopted during work.

STATEMENT

I. The specific steps taken by different SAIL Steel Plants to reduce the accidents and improve safety performance during the last three years are as under:

- (i) Identification of various hazards at the work sites and steps taken to eliminate/reduce those hazards.
- (ii) Ensuring strict adherence to the standard operating practices while performing any job.
- (iii) Introduction of protocol system for carrying out hazardous work.

(iv) Monthly inspection of fire prone area including cable galleries for their upkeep and better house-keeping.

(v) Introduction of work permit system for all contractors job.

(vi) Induction training for the contractors and workers before starting a Job.

(vii) Introduction of 3-tier training programme on safety for Manager, Supervisors and workers (Contractors & Regular).

(viii) Strict safety supervision during the capital and major repair jobs round the clock.

(ix) Enforcement of use of personnel protective equipment by regular and contractors, employees.

(x) Checking of the heavy vehicles inside the plants for their road worthiness and speed limit.

(xi) Enforcement of use of crash helmets by power driven two wheelers' drivers at the gate and inside the plant roads.

(xii) Active participation of employees' organisations/trade unions in promotion/awareness of safety.

II Various safety measures adopted at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL) are as follows:

(i) All new entrants are given safety induction. Safety induction is also being given to all contractors before starting any work.

- (ii) High quality safety appliances conforming to BIS specifications are supplied free to all employees.
- (iii) Modern techniques like risk analysis, job safety analysis and safety audit are being applied to improve safety.
- (iv) Regular Shop floor inspections are done and unsafe conditions liquidated. Use of safety appliances is also enforced.
- (v) All accidents - minor or major - are investigated and remedial measures are taken.
- (vi) VSP has unique Safety Incentive Scheme whereby all employees in specified Departments get a cash benefit for achieving a Zero Reportable Accident in any month.
- (vii) Joint participation in safety is being encouraged through the functioning of 39 Departmental Safety Committees and Apex Central Safety Committee. Equal number of workers representatives with Management representatives are in these Committees.
- (viii) Safety Promotional activities like safety weeks, inter-departmental house keeping competitions and other safety competitions are held throughout the year. Safety representatives and safety captains have been nominated in all Departments.
- (ix) A major thrust is continuing on the safety education and training of regular employees as well as contractors' workers. Specified Safety Training programmes are also con-

ducted in assistance with Specialist Agencies.

[Translation]

Misuse of Telephones

1951. SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications is proposed to be armed with the right to conduct raids in order to check the misuse of telephones; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). At present there is no such proposal under consideration. Central Bureau of Investigation assistance is taken in raids on private premises.

[English]

Indian Missions

1952. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries where Indian Embassy/High Commission/Consulate has been opened during the last two years;

(b) the number of Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Consulate Generals etc. who were posted in Indian Missions abroad;

(c) the number out of them belonging to IFA, IAS and other Central Services, service-wise;

(d) the number out of them who are non-officials;

(e) the number of them belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/OBC communities;

(f) whether any quota has been fixed for persons of these communities for appointment as Ambassadors/Heads of Missions; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) the details of the 11 new Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates General opened in foreign countries during the past two years are as follows:

NAME OF MISSION	DATE OF OPENING
1. Embassy of India, Tashkent (Uzbekistan) (Upgraded from Consulate General of India)	18.03.92
2. Embassy of India, Kiev (Ukraine)	08.05.92
3. Embassy of India, Almaty (Kazakhstan)	09.05.92
4. Embassy of India, Minsk (Belarus)	14.05.92
5. Embassy of India, Tel Aviv (Israel)	15.05.92
6. Consulate General of India, Vladivostok (Russia)	09.09.92
7. Consulate General of India, Shanghai (China)	11.11.92
8. Consulate General of India, St. Petersburg (Russia)	12.01.93
9. High Commission of India, Bander Seri Begawan (Brunei)	18.05.93
10. Consulate General of India, Johannesburg (South Africa)	14.12.93
11. Embassy of India, Ashkhabad (Turkmenistan)	31.01.94

(b) to (d). A total of 106 Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Consuls Generals were posted in Indian Missions abroad since January 1992. Out of these 101 belong to IFS, IAS and other Central Services and 5 are non-officials.

(e) Of the Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Consul Generals posted since January 1992 thirteen belong to the Scheduled Castes and five to the Scheduled Tribes.

(f) No separate quota has been fixed for appointment of persons from SC/ST and OBC communities as Ambassadors/Heads of Mission.

(g) Question does not arise.

Power Sector

1953. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign/private investment in power sector approved by the Government so far;

(b) the total foreign/private investment to be made during 1994-95 in power sector, separately;

(c) whether the Government have approved seven power projects up till now;

(d) if so, the places where these power projects are proposed to be set up;

(e) whether foreign countries have expressed some doubts about regular payments by the State Electricity Boards for power supplied by these Boards;

(f) if so, whether the Union Government have guaranteed prompt payment by the State Electricity Boards; and

(g) if so, the time by which work on these projects is likely to be started and the total power generation capacity of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V.

RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) As on date Government has cleared 7 private power projects from foreign investment angle amounting to 5128 MW costing approx. Rs.21867 crores.

(b) The investment during 1994-95 will depend upon the projects reaching financial closure and starting construction work.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of the projects are given in the Statement.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Govt. of India may consider extending a counter guarantee if the concerned State Govt. makes a voluntary request to this effect after it has extended a guarantee for the payment obligations of the SEB to the private generating company and has also agreed to the terms and conditions laid down in this regard.

(g) a capacity of 5128 MW would be added with these projects. The start of work on these projects is expected after the proponents achieve financial closure.

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	Name of Project State	Foreign /Indian	Capacity/(MW)	Prov.cost/Estimate (Rs. Crs)	Name of the Company
1.	Jegurupadu GEPP/ Godavari Andhra Pradesh	Forgn.	235.00 (NRI)	827.00 (Gas)	GVK industries USA
2.	Kakinada GBPF	Forgn.	205.00 (NRI)	748.43 (Gas)	Spectrum Power Generation Ltd.
3.	Visakhapatnam TPS/ Andhra Pradesh JV	Forgn. Indian (Coal)	1000.00	3000.00	Ashok Leyland & National Power (U.K.)
4.	Mangalore TPS/ Karnataka	Forgn.	1000.00 (Coal)	5088.00	Cogentrix Inc. USA
5.	Dabhol COGT(LNG) Maharashtra	Forgn.	2015.00 (LNG)	9051.27	Enron Power Development Corporation & General
6.	Ib Valley TPS/	Forgn.	420.00 (Coal)	2025.60	AES Corporation USA
7.	Zero unit (NLC)/ Tamil Nadu	Forgn. (NRI)	250.00 (Lig)	1127.00	ST Power Systems Inc. USA
	Total		5128.00	21867.30	

[*Translation*]**Public Call Offices In Delhi**1954. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA
MUNDA:SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL:Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state:(a) the number of PCOs sanctioned by
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in
Delhi, zone-wise, during each of the last
three years and as on January, 31, 1994 and

the year-wise details thereof

(b) the number of PCOs for which O.B.
number has been issued but PCO has not
been installed so far, zone-wise; and(c) the reasons therefor and the the
steps being taken by the Government to
install these PCOs?THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI
SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, No. of PCOs sanc-
tioned by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam
Ltd., for the last 3 years area-wise is given
below:

<i>Area GMs</i>	<i>90-91</i>	<i>91-92</i>	<i>92-93</i>
GM (East)	182	1032	1000
GM (North)	267	1112	138
GM (South)	125	406	430
GM (West)	678	2452	2847
AM (Central)	131	181	203

The No. of PCOs sanctioned, Zone
Wise, as on 31.1.94 from 1.4.93 is being
collected and will be laid on the Table of the
House.(b) Sir, No. of PCOs for which O.Bs
have been issued but not yet installed,
Zone-wise is as under:GM (East) : 181, GM (South) : 25, GM
(North) : 65, GM (West) : 304, AM (C) : 47.

(c) Reasons are:

1. Normal time involved in installa-
tion procedure.

2. Technical non-feasibility.

Technically non-feasible cases are
being made feasible progres-
sively.[*English*]**NERAMAC Report**1955. SHRI PROBEN DEKA: Will the
Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUS-
TRIES be pleased to refer to the reply given
to unstarred Question No. 1467 on July
16, 1992 and state:

(a) the recommendations of the North

Eastern Region Agriculture Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) with regard to feasibility report on utilisation of agro-horticultural resources in North Eastern Region;

(b) the follow-up action taken thereon;

(c) whether any schemes have been formulated for implementation on the basis of these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). The feasibility report on utilisation of agro-horticultural resources in the North Eastern Region was considered by the Government and NERAMAC. However, the proposals in this regard could not be implemented because of financial constraints.

(c) No specific scheme was formulated for implementation.

(d) Does not arise.

Post Offices in Gujarat

1956. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Gujarat where there was no Post Office by the end of 1992-93;

(b) the number of villages having Post Office facility at present;

(c) the number of villages without such facility so far, district-wise; and

(d) the number of Post Offices proposed to be opened in near future, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 10,496 villages in Gujarat were not having Post Offices by the end of 1992-93.

(b) 8,050 villages are having Post Offices at present.

(c) The number of villages without Post Offices at present district-wise, is given in the enclosed statement A

(d) Opening of 8 Post Offices during the current year has been approved. District-wise details of these Post Offices are given in the enclosed statement -B

STATEMENT - A

Details of the Number of villages without Post Office Facility, District-wise in Gujarat

<i>Sl.No</i>	<i>Name of District</i>	<i>No. of villages with post office</i>	<i>Sl.No. Name of District</i>	<i>No. of villages with post office</i>
1.	Ahmedabad	244	11. Kheda	392
2.	Amreli	307	12. Mahesana	855
3.	Banaskantha	941	13. Panchmahal	1390
4.	Bharuch	654	14. Rajkot	463
5.	Bhavnagar	468	15. Sabarkantha	603
6.	Dang	255	16. Surat	733
7.	Gandhinagar	16	17. Surendranagar	339
8.	Jamnagar	365	18. Vadodara	1069
9.	Junagadh	573	19. Valsad	295
10.	Kachchh	415		

STATEMENT - B

Details of the Number of Post Offices Proposed to be Opened, District-wise in Gujarat

Sl.No	Name of District	No. of post officesproposed to be opened by 31.3.94	Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of post officesproposed to be opened by 31.3.94
1.	Ahmedabad	2	10.	Kachhh	-
2.	Amreli	-	11.	Kheda	-
3	Banaskantha	-	12.	Mahesana	-
4.	Bharuch	-	13.	Panchmahal	2
5.	Bhavnagar	-	14.	Rajkot	1
6.	Dang	-	15.	Sabarkantha	-
7.	Gandhinagar	2	16.	Su.at	1
8.	Jamnagar	-	17.	Surendranagar	-
9.	Junagadh	-	18.	Vadodara	-
			19.	Valsad	-
			Total		8

Compensation from Iraq

1957. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any compensation is proposed to be paid by Iraq in regard to property left behind by Indian Companies during the Gulf War;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this compensation is proposed to be made in the form of crude oil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Being subject to Economic Sanctions under UN Security Council Resolutions, Iraq has not till now proposed to pay any compensation for the property left behind by Indian companies during the Gulf War. Government has been informed that payments will be considered when sanctions are lifted.

(b) In all, total claims of US\$ 1220 million have so far been received from Indian companies for their losses suffered both in Iraq and Kuwait. These claims have been forwarded to the United National Compensation Commission.

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

Steel Production at Rourkela Steel Plant

1958. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rourkela Steel Plant is the

largest producer of special grade steel in the county;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant has led to a quantum jump in its special grade steel production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Rourkela Steel Plant is one of the largest producers of special grade steel in the country.

(b) The plant produces the following special grade steel:

- (i) **Plates** Ship Building Quality, Boiler Quality DIN 52.3, IS 961, IS 2062, Wheels, etc.
- (ii) **HR Coils** Ship Building Quality, Boiler Quality, Stainless Steel, MC, DD, EDD, etc. Thinner gauges 2.5 mm and below.
- (iii) **CR Products** D/DD/EDD, thinner gauges below 0.63 mm and below 0.5 mm and below.
- (iv) GP/GC sheets.
- (v) Electrolytic tin plates.
- (vi) HR and CR dynamo sheets.
- (vii) CRNO/CRGO steel for electrical industries.
- (viii) Electrical Resistance welded pipes; API and Commercial grades.

(ix) Spiral welded pipes: API and commercial grades.

The percentage of special grade steel in total saleable steel for last two years has been as follows:

1991-92	37%
1992-93	41%

(c) and (d). The modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant is under implementation. The quantum jump in special steel production has been envisaged after completion of modernisation in December, 1995, on which production of special grade steel is expected to be around 50%.

[*Translation*]

New Policy of Food Processing

1959. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new policy of food processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this policy will be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c). Action has been initiated to formulate a National Food Processing Policy which will address issues relating to accelerated growth and development opportunities and incomes, both in rural and urban areas, reduce post harvest losses, establish productive linkages between industry and farmers, increase exports of processed foods and generally

support the productive efforts of agriculture and allied activities.

Telephone Connections in Goa

1960. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in major cities of Goa as on December 31, 1993, city-wise;

(b) the number of fresh connections given during the last three years; year-wise and city-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any crash programme for providing telephone connections in these cities during next three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost to be involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Information is being compiled and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). 8th Five Year Plan envisages waiting period not to exceed two years in large telephone systems and telephone practically on demand in rural/tribal areas. Funds are allotted to individual circles each year based upon the funds made available to the Department and Commissioning Programme of each Telecom. Circle.

[*Translation*]

Levy of Taxes and Cess

1961. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund Cess, Joint Plant Committee Cess and Steel Development Fund Cess have been levied on the iron industry in the country besides excise duty;

(b) if so, the rates thereof ; and

(c) the amount collected annually through taxes and cess respectively during the last three years?

MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. In addition to excise duty the Steel Development Fund (SDF) Levy, Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund (EGEAF) Levy and Joint Plant Committee (JPC) Cess have been levied on sale of iron & Steel produced only by the main producers of steel namely Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), Tata Iron & Steel Company Limited (TISCO) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL).

(b) The present rates of these levies are as under:

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

(Rs. per tonne)

Name	Pig Iron	Steel Materials
1. Steel Development Fund (SDF)	Nil	350 to 500
2. Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund (EGEAF)	113*	300*
3. Joint Plant Committee (JPC)	Nil	3*

* Applicable only on erstwhile JPC categories.

(c) The amounts collected annually through these levies/cesses in the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Name	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Steel Development Fund (SDF)	371.40	380.21	390.66
Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund (EGAF)	151.09	195.78	184.43
Joint Plant Committee (JPC)	1.88	1.81	1.93

[English]

**Camera Units in Hyderabad
Doordarshan Kendra**

1962. SHRIDATTATRAYA BANDARU:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of camera units functioning in Hyderabad Doordarshan Kendra presently;

(b) whether the rural oriented programmes are not produced by camera units there; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to produce qualitative rural oriented programmes there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO):
(a) There are 4 high band units and 4 low
band units in Doordarshan Kendra,
Hyderabad.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indian Council of Cultural Relations

1963. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRIMATI GEETA
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
DR. Y. S. RAJASEKHAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the broad achievements of ICCR during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have made periodic reviews and assessment of the activities of ICCR and audit of its accounts:

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any demand has been received from Members of Parliament for shifting of ICCR to Department of Culture; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
R. L. BHATIA): (a) The information is as per
statement enclosed.

(b) and (c). The activities and programmes of the ICCR are constantly monitored and evaluated by the three statutory authorities of the Council namely the General Assembly, the Governing Body and the Finance Committee. The Governing Body, particularly under the Constitution of the ICCR, is responsible for the supervision and control of the work of the Council. The Financial Advisor in the Ministry of External Affairs is also Financial Advisor to the Council. This ensures that the activities and programme of the ICCR are carried out within the framework of the broad mandate given to the Council.

(d) No such demand has been addressed to the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

a) The broad achievements of the ICCR over the last three years can be briefly summarised under different heads as under:-

Scholarship and Student Welfare

This is one of the most important activity of the Council. It administers on behalf of the Government of India a number of scholarships for foreign students in India. On an average, the Council offers about 1000 scholarships under various scholarships scheme to overseas students to study graduate, post-graduate and post-doctoral courses. The Council is also responsible for the general welfare of overseas students in India, both scholarship holders and self-financing. During the last three years, the Council actually awarded 1812 scholarships.

The Council's scholarship programme is part of the Government of India's co- mmitment to South-South cooperation. The scholarship programme has created lasting bonds of friendship and understanding between Indian and various countries. In January, 1994, the Council organised first All India International Students Festival in which the international students from around 20 countries presented glimpses of the rich cultural heritage of their country.

Distinguished Visitors

Under this programme several eminent scholars, opinion makers, statesmen and academicians visited India and had interaction at various level. The Programme is designed to enable persons of influence and importance to gain first hand knowledge about India

and to exchange ideas at appropriate level. This helps to put across our own views, concerns and perceptions. Some of the distinguished visitors under this programme during the last three years were Dr. Haris Silajdzic, Minister for International Cooperation of the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Princess Wijdan All from the Kingdom of Jordan, Mr. Mir Musavi former PM of Iran, Ms. Fatima Meer the official biographer of Dr Nelson Mandela of South Africa, the Foreign Minister of Croatia, the Grand Mufti of Syria, Mr. E N Enkhbayas, Minister for culture of Mongolia, Chairman of the Academic Sciences of Tazkistan, Justice Ismail Mohamd, Chief Justice Supreme Court of Namibia etc. During the last three years, the Council hosted 241 distinguished visitors from abroad.

During the same period, the Council assisted 201 scholars, academicians and artists through travel grants to enable them to participate in important seminars and conferences abroad.

Exhibitions

During the last three years, the Council organised 19 exhibitions abroad on India's contemporary and traditional arts. Of these exhibitions, the most significant were an exhibition of Tagore's painting (China) magical Hands- Living Indian Crafts (Austria) and India Songs-Multiple Streams in Contemporary Indian Arts (Australia). During the same period, the Council organised 11 exhibitions in In-

dia from various countries.

and the International Music Festival in 1993 in India.

Seminar & Conferences

The Council is also active in the organisation of international seminars and conferences on issues of cultural interest. During the last three years, the Council organised 11 seminars and symposia. The most significant were "The International Seminar of Sufism", "International Seminar on Historical & Cultural relations between Egypt-India Through the Ages" and seminar on "Cross-Cultural Influences in Indo-Turkish Relations".

The Council also collaborated with the Khuda Baksh Library, Patna in organisation of the Seminar on "Historical & Cultural Links Between India & Uzbekistan from ancient times to present day".

Exchange of performing arts

Under the provisions of various bilateral arrangements, the Council hosted UZ cultural troupes from various countries and similarly the Council sent out 189 cultural troupes abroad to various countries under bilateral arrangements.

Festivals

The Council took a leading role in the organisation of the Festival of India in Germany in 1992. Similarly, the Council also took a leading role in the organisation of Festival of India in China in 1993. Apart from the country festivals, the Council organised First SAARC Festival in October, 1992 in India

Publication

Under its publication programme, the Council published the four volume book titled "India's Mauiana", Rubaiyat-e-Sarmad, Discovery of India (Abridged version), and the "Contemporary Relevance of Sufism". The Council's six quarterlies-two in English and one each in Hindi, Spanish, French and Arabic continued to be published regularly. The Council also published a special issue of its quarterly-Africa Quarterly-on Post -Apartheid South Africa on October 2, 1993 to mark the centenary of the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa. Similarly, the Council also brought out a special issue of its Hindi language quarterly-Gaganchal-on the occasion of the International Hindi Conference which carried for the first time a large number of writings in original Hindi by non-Indian scholars.

Indian Cultural Centres

The Council opened two Cultural Centres during the last three years in London (UK) and Cairo (Egypt). With these the number of Cultural Centres run by the Council abroad has gone up to 8.

These Centres promote greater awareness and appreciation of India's cultural heritage as well as disseminate information about contemporary developments in India.

Chairs & Professorships for Indian Studies abroad

The Council continued to maintain 16 such Chairs of Indian studies in universities abroad. Under the scheme, Indian academicians are regularly deputed abroad to teach variety of subjects including Indology, Indian History and Philosophy, Sanskrit, Hindi and other languages.

These are the broad achievements of the Council for the last three years. Apart from that the Council also organised the annual Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, the annual Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture and Maulana Azad Essay Competition in Hindi, Urdu and English in all citizens of SAARC countries under the age of 30.

Through these activities, the Council steadfastly worked towards realising its primary objectives of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries.

Letter of Intent to Multinationals

1964. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications had issued letter of intent to three multinationals in July, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has now decided to buy

one lakh digital switching systems from ALCATEL, the French Multinational;

(d) whether it is a fact that DOT had rejected the bid of ALCATEL on earlier occasions; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and why the said firm has now been given the order for supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). M/s. ALCATEL, France did not participate in the tender for procurement of Digital Switching Systems. SO the question of rejection does not arise.

[Translation]

Lease of Mines in Madhya Pradesh

1965. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed the Government of Madhya Pradesh to review its policy of awarding of iron ore, lime stone, bauxite and granite mines on lease;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the export of iron ore, lime stone, bauxite and granite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV):(a) and (b). No specific direction has been given to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding grant of prospecting licence/mining lease. However, in the context of economic liberalisation, all the State Governments have been advised to review the need for continued reservation of certain mineral bearing areas for exploitation in the public sector.

(c) For encouraging export of exportable surpluses of iron ore after meeting domestic demand, exporters have been given the benefits under section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act and the benefits of the Unified Exchange Act. Export duty applicable on Iron ore export was withdrawn with effect from 1.4.1993. Exporters of limestone, bauxite and granite enjoy the benefits available to exporters under section 80HHC of the Income Tax Act and benefits of the Unified Exchange Act.

Piparan Ship-Breaking Yard (Gujarat)

1966. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to close down the Ship-Breaking Yard at Piparan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of Ship-Breaking Yard at Piparan in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):(a) to (c). It has been reported by the Government of Gujarat that Gujarat Pipavav Ports Ltd. (GPPL), a joint sector company which has been set up for devel-

opment of Pipavav as a deep water direct berthing port, has taken up ship-breaking activity on a trial basis. The Company has started by developing 10 plots for ship-breaking. In order to facilitate the breaking of very large Crude Carriers, GPPL has sought financial assistance from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan for setting up a modern ship-Breaking Yard at Pipavav involving a capital investment of approx. Rs 140 crores. This proposal has been submitted by the Govt. of India to the Government of Japan for their consideration.

[English]

Resource Generation by Doordarshan / AIR

1967. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI,
RAMAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Doordarshan and AIR have decided /propose to generate their own resources to finance their expansion plan;

(b) if so, the details of the plans undertaken for expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):(a) The expansion plan of Doordarshan and All India Radio are drawn up in consultation with Planning Commission, depending upon the budgetary allocation of funds.

(b) For expansion of network, All India Radio has 131 schemes under implementation/envisaged at an expenditure of Rs.117 crores approximately. Doordarshan has 358 schemes under implementation/envisaged at an expenditure of Rs.719 crores approximately.

On-going Gas Based Power Projects

1968. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going gas based power projects and their locations, State-wise;

(b) the total power generation State-wise and plant-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have

any proposals for setting up of more gas based power projects; and

(d) if so, the details of such proposals and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):(a) The details of on-going gas based power plants and their location Statewise are given in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) The total power generation from gas based stations state-wise and plantwise are given in the enclosed statement-II

(c) and (d). In addition to the schemes indicated in Annexure-I the following gas based projects are proposed to be set up.

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity(MW)</i>	<i>State</i>
CENTRAL SECTOR			
1.	Faridabad CCGT	400	Haryana
2.	Agartala Gas Turbine	84	Tripura
STATE SECTOR			
1.	Rokhia GT Station Phase II	16	Tripura
PRIVATE SECTOR			
1.	Paguthan CCGT	654.7	Gujarat
2.	Godavari CCGT	208.3	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Jegurupadu CCGT	216.0	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Dabhol CCGT	2015.0	Maharashtra
5.	Bawana CCGT	660.0	Delhi.

STATEMENT - I
ONGOING GAS BASED POWER PROJECTS

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Location	Capacity(MW)
1	2	3	4
DELHI			
1.	Waste Heat Recovery Units at existing gas turbine stn.(DESU)		3x34 MW
RAJASTHAN			
2.	Ramgarh GT	Jaisalmer	1x3
3.	Ramgarh GT Extn.	Jaisalmer	1x35.3
UTTAR PRADESH			
(Central Sector)			
4.	Dadri CCGT	Ghazibad ST -2x146.5	GT-2x131 +
JAMMU & KASHMIR			
5.	Gas Turbine Project Pampore St. II	Srinagar	4x25

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Location	Capacity(MW)
1	2	3	4
Gujarat Central Sector			
6.	Gandhar Gas-based Project	Bharuch	GT-3x131 + ST-255
<u>MAHARASHTRA</u>			
7.	Trombay CCGT (TEC)	Gr. Bombay ST-1x60	GT-1x120 +
8.	Uran Waste Heat	Raigad	3x120 MW
<u>TAMIL NADU</u>			
9.	Basin Bridge GT	Madras	4x30
<u>PONDICHERY</u>			
10.	Karaikkal CCGT	Patinam ST-1x7.5	GT-3x5 +
<u>ASSAM</u>			
State Sector			
11.	Lakwa GT Extn. Project	Sivsagar	3x20 MW
12.	Amguri CCGT	Sivsagar ST-4x30	GT-8x30 +

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Location	Capacity(MW)
1	2	3	4
CentralSector			
13.	Kathalguri CCGT	Dibrugarh ST -3x30	GT-6x33.5 +
TRIPURA			
14.	Rokhia GT Phase -III		2x8

STATEMENT -II

GENERATION OF GAS-BASED STATIONS

State /Station	Gas based Generation Target (MU)	(April, 93 - Jan., 94) Actual (MU)
DELHI		
1. DESU GT	654	665
RAJASTHAN		
2. Anta GT	1775	2055
UTTAR PRADESH		
3. Auriya GT	2471	2893
4. Dadri GT	1560	1021
TOTAL (U.P.)	4081	3914
GUJARAT		
5. Kawas GT	1490	1898
6. Gandhar GT	60	0
7. Dhuvran GT	160	143
8. Ultran	80	185

State /Station	Gas based Generation (April, 93 - Jan., 94)		
		Target (MU)	Actual (MU)
DELHI			
9.	Ultran GT	85	436
10.	Vatwa GT	419	508
	TOTAL GUJARAT	2294	3170
MAHARASHTRA			
11.	Uran GT	2067	1396
12.	Trombay GT	0	184
	TOTAL MAHARASHTRA	2067	1580
ANDHRA PRADESH			
13.	Vijeswaran	0	425
TAMIL NADU			
14.	Nariman	16	31
ASSAM			
15.	Namrup GT	263	229

State / Station	Gas based Generation (April, 93 - Jan., 94)	
	Target (MU)	Actual (MU)
DELHI		
16 Lakwa Gas Turbine	163	159
TOTAL (ASSAM)	426	388
TRIPURA		
17. Baramura GT	32	33
18. Rokhia GT	74	51
TOTAL (TRIPURA)	106	84
All India	11369	12312

High Power T.V. Transmitter at Bettiah In Bihar

1969. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a high power T.V. transmitter at Bettiah in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Subject to availability of adequate resources and other infrastructural facilities for the purpose, it has been envisaged to set up a high power TV transmitter, in replacement of the Low Power Transmitter already functioning at Bettiah. The completion of a project to this magnitude takes approx. 3 years after commencement of civil works at the site.

(c) Does not arise.

Modernisation and Foreign Collaboration

1970. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether food processing industries are given high priority in the new economic policy;

(b) the development schemes evolved

to provide boost to Food Processing Industries and investment made by Government thereon;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost exports in the food processing sector and the names of States and Union Territories where Food Processing Units are proposed to be set up under the expansion programmes of Government;

(d) whether domestic producers have raised reservations about the entry of multinationals in this sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated several developmental Plan Schemes for providing assistance for developing food processing industries during the 8th Plan which *inter alia* include assistance to State Government Organisations/Cooperatives/ Voluntary Agencies/Joint Sectors etc. for setting up or enlarging Food Processing facilities, developing backward linkages with farmers, marketing support, Pork, Poultry and other Meat and Meat Processing facilities, tuna and other fish processing, setting up of cold-chain, Research & Development in Food Processing and packaging and training of manpower in certain sectors.

Several steps have been taken by government for enhancing export which *inter alia* include providing incentives for setting up of 100% Export Oriented Units, concessions under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme and a Scheme for assis-

tance formulated by this Ministry and APEDA for export production, infrastructure development, participation in international/national exhibitions.

(d) and (e). Under the Industrial Policy of July, 1991 foreign investment has been allowed in various sectors of industry including Food processing Sector. The Food Processing Companies with foreign/non-resident Indian investment has to compete with the existing and future domestic industries to market their produce. The Ministry has not received any such reports.

Decontrol of Newsprint

1971. PROF. M. KAMSON: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands have been made by the All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation for total decontrol of newsprint with protection to these newspapers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether members of Newsprint Advisory Committee while expressing their resentment over inactiveness of the Government towards their demands have resigned from their membership;

(d) whether the Government propose to take some steps to solve the problems of All India Small and Medium Newspapers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In the recently held

meeting of the Newsprint Advisory Committee, the All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation made a demand for decontrol of newsprint and suggested the maximum relief be provided to small newspapers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). The matter is under active consideration.

Research Centre for Food Processing Industries

1972. DR. K. D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any Research and Development Centre in the country for modernisation of food processing units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). Apart from the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore which undertakes research for the modernisation of food processing units the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology and Integrated Fisheries Project, Cochin are engaged in Research and Development of marine processed food.

Besides, under the Plan Schemes of this Ministry, the Post-Harvest Technology Centre, IIT, Kharagpur and Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur (Tamilnadu) are being funded for Research and Development and processes for efficient operation of rice-mills etc. These centres also impart education and training to carry out

extension activities for modernisation of rice-mills.

Protest Against Deep Sea Fishing Policy

1973. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:
SHRI RAMCHANDRAN
MULLIAPPALLY:
SHRI RAM NAIK:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI THAYIL JOHN
ANJALOSE:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the All India fisheries bandh held on February 4, 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons for the bandh and details of the demands of the fishermen;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken for redressal of grievances of the Indian fishermen;

(d) whether the new liberalised investment policies have removed all control for foreign investors in deep sea fishing; and

(e) the details of the licences given or proposed to be given to foreign companies for deep sea fishing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The fishermen alleged that the operation of deep sea fishing vessels under charter and joint ventures on the West Coast, affects their fishing operations adversely, specially in Gujarat and Saurashtra coast. Fishermen demanded that deep sea fishing vessels may be allowed to fish only beyond

24 nautical miles from the shore. The fishermen also demanded cancellation of permissions given under the deep sea fishing policy, among other things.

(c) The matter has been reviewed and it has been decided to constitute an Expert Committee for making an indepth study in consultation with the concerned State Governments and to suggest remedial measures.

(d) No Sir.

(e) No licence has been given or is proposed to be given to foreign companies for deep sea fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone. However, permission has been given to Indian applicants to set up joint venture companies for deep sea fishing in collaboration with foreign companies.

Linking of Humanitarian Issues with Trade Policy

1974. SHRI SHRAVANKUMAR PATEL:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had stressed at the recent annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos that humanitarian issues like human rights, child labour and environment should not be made part of trade policy and demanded that such issues be delinked from trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the World leaders, particularly the US, thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The Prime Minister in his address to the plenary session of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on

the subject "Redefining the basic assumptions about the great challenges facing mankind" stressed a number of humanitarian issues.

Some of the important points he made are:

"my realistic assumption indicates to me quite clearly that poverty will continue to be the most serious challenge to mankind during the greater part of the 21st century, if not longer"

"through the 21st century, there will continue to be vast numbers of people throughout the world who will still be unable to take care of their basic needs. New approaches and new programmes will therefore have to be formulated to solve this global problem, taking it as global. I feel that the fall out of mass misery would not affect specific groups, countries or regions only but would engulf the whole world."

"Alongwith poverty, many countries face widespread illiteracy."

"there is also a correlation between illiteracy and unplanned population growth. A cooperative global effort will be required to fight this combination by harnessing some of the major technological developments, particularly those relating to communications, I am hopeful that a literate world could be ensured within the first quarter of the coming century, even earlier, if determined efforts are made."

"We, in India and the East, on the other and, had always looked upon ourselves as a part of nature and subject to its laws. Man was thrilled by his mastery over nature and exploited it excessively and mercilessly. However, nature now threatens to commit suicide unless it obtains justice"

"Sustainable Development" is no longer a mere slogan of some enthusiastic environmentalists. It has come to be accepted as a major determination of development policy. It is important that the adversarial attitude towards nature is replaced with a healing relationship between the Earth and human civilisation."

The prime Minister did not make any reference in his speech to the delinking of issues such as human rights, child labour and environment from trade.

(b) Does not arise, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Bauxite Mining in Bihar

1975. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the Bauxite Mines lease holders of Bihar to spend two percent of their total profits on the welfare and development head of their workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the district-wise details of mine lease holders engaged in mining of Bauxite in Gumla, Lohardaga and Palamau districts of Bihar and the yearwise details of the amount spent on development and welfare head by these lease holders up to November 30, 1993 along with the names of the items where the said amount was spent; and

(d) action proposed to be taken against the lease holders who did not comply with the criteria adopted in leasing of Bauxite Mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV):(a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Cost Escalation of Mine Projects in Madhya Pradesh

1976. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some mine projects in Madhya Pradesh are pending for execution and the delay has caused escalation in cost;

(b) if so, the names of such projects, and the reasons for delay in their execution; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the execution of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV):(a) No sanctioned mining project of the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Mines are pending for execution in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Cost Effectiveness of Steel

1977. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned Indian steel most cost effective appearing in the Economic Times dated No-

ember 1, 1993;

(b) if so, whether various grades of iron being manufactured in the country were cheaper before taxation as compared to the iron produced by other countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether various types of tax and cess have been imposed on production of iron in the country;

(e) if so, the types of taxes imposed, the grades of iron, and their rates respectively;

(f) whether the price of iron went up steeply in the domestic market due to these taxes; and

(g) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to make the prices competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In the absence of any authentic information on the cost of production of iron in other countries, it is not possible to compare the cost of production of iron in India with cost of production of iron in other countries.

(d)and (e). Besides excise duty, a levy on account of Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund (EGEAF) is levied on sale of pig iron produced by SAIL (excluding IISCO), VSP and TISCO. Presently, the rates of excise duty and EGEAF levy are as under:-

i) Excise duty	: 10% advalorem
ii) EGEAF	: Rs. 113/- per tonne

(f) Excise duty and EGEAF levy amount to about 12% of the ex-works price of pig iron produced in SAIL plants.

(g) Some of the proposals contained in the Budget for 1994-95 such as reduction of interest rate on term loans, allowing MODVAT on capital goods and petroleum products, etc. will help in lowering the cost of production of pig iron in the country.

[*English*]

Nuclear Non-Proliferation

1978. SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:
SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are engaged in bilateral talks with various countries in regard to nuclear non-proliferation;

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

(c) whether nuclear non-proliferation treaty in its present form is discriminatory;

(d) if so, whether the Government had taken any initiative in this regard on account of various international developments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Government have held bilateral discussions with the US, UK, FRG, France and

Japan on disarmament, non proliferation and international security related issues, including on nuclear non proliferation. These talks offer an opportunity for exchange of views in details on these subjects with a view to developing a better understanding of each other's concerns and positions. These talks are part of an ongoing dialogue.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir.

Government has consistently stated that it will not sign the NPT in its present form because of its discriminatory nature which seeks to establish a permanent division between the nuclear haves and have nots. Government had presented an Action Plan for ushering in a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World Order at the Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1988. At the summit meeting of members of the Security Council in New York in January 1992, Prime Minister had stated that with the end of the Cold War, there exists an opportunity to develop a new international consensus to tackle the non-proliferation issue.

Plants Processing Baby Food

1979. DR. AMIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL:
Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of all the milk plants processing baby food in Gujarat state;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up milk plants in the State to process baby foods;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total amount proposed to be invested; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING IN-
DUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to

(d). The following plants manufacture baby
Food in Gujarat State:

	<i>Name of the Unit</i>	<i>Plant Capacity MT/day</i>
1.	M/s. Kaira Distt. Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd., Anand (Gujarat).	65
2.	M/s. Mehsana Distt. Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd., Mehsana (Gujarat)	112
3.	M/s. Saharkantha Distt. Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd., Saharkantha (Gujarat)	72
4.	M/s. Banaskantha Distt. Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd., Palampur (Gujarat)	12.5

Central Government does not set up the Food Processing Industries directly. As per the New Industrial Policy, no Industrial Licence is required for setting up of units for manufacture of milk products including baby foods. No proposal has been received in this Ministry from the State Government of Gujarat to establish a plant for manufacturing/preparing/making baby food in Gujarat. The Government has not received any complaint regarding shortage of baby foods in the country.

Allocation of Funds to National Highways and Bridges in Maharashtra

1980. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:
SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN
THORAT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation funds during 1994-95 and Eighth Plan Period for National Highways, their Maintenance and repairs construction of bridges, conversion and broadening of National Highways, new roads extension etc. for Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the proposals received in this regard from the State Government and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the details of proposals cleared and still pending including the proposal for foreign investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):(a) The allocation of funds for development and maintenance and Repair of National Highways in Maharashtra during first three years of Eighth Plan is as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Development</i>	<i>Maintenance & Repair</i>
1992-93	3280.00	1506.677
1993-94	3080.00 (Tentative)	1734.63 (Tentative)
1994-95	2600.00 (Tentative)	Cannot be indicated at this stage.

(b) and (c) 8th Plan Provisions for National Highways in Maharashtra and proposals cleared so far are as below:

<i>Category</i>	<i>8th Plan provision</i>	<i>Cleared so far</i>
Widening to 4 lane	161 Kms.	58Kms.
Widening to 2 lane	40 Kms.	- -
Strengthening of Weak pavements	169 Kms.	16 Kms
Improving riding quality	200 Kms.	53 Kms
Paved Shoulders	138 Kms.	79 Kms
Bridges	56 Nos.	15 Nos.

No proposal for foreign investment is pending.

[*Translation*]

Electric -ARC Furnace Steel

1981. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of electric arc furnace-steel has been declining for the past three years;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether 50% units have been closed down due to high taxation rates on steel-scrap imports; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to rehabilitate these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d). It is a fact that

production of electric arc furnace units has been declining for the past three years. The performance of electric arc furnace units in the country has been affected due to various factors such as demand recession, higher power tariffs and increase in the input costs specially due to the rise in international search prices, which has led to the closure of 85 out of 180 such units. Government have recently constituted an Evaluation Group to examine the problems of Electric Arc Furnace units and suggest a comprehensive action plan for their development.

[English]

Performance profile of NALCO

1982.SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Economic Times dated January 10, 1984 under the caption "Nalco-

heading for a debt trap";

(b) the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein;

(c) the details of action proposed to be taken thereon;

(d) the performance profile of Nalco for the last three years; and

(e) the projected profile for the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is not heading for a debt trap.

(d) and (e). The performance profile of NALCO for the last three years and the projected profile for the Eighth Plan are given below:-

STATEMENT

Item	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	VIIIth Plan (from 1992-93 to 1996-97)
Alumina (in lakh tonnes)	6.52	6.72	8.04	40
Aluminium (in lakh tonnes)	1.51	-1.92	1.91	10.41
Turnover (Rs. in crores)	884.04	974.03	1169.11	6854.54
Net Profit (Rs. in crores)	71.94	59.14	134.88	1037.86

[*Translation*]**Contract Labour**

1983. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUHDARY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether work is being undertaken through contract labour system in the corporate offices under his ministry in various states;

(b) the names of such States where contract labour system is being adopted and the names of the States where this system has been abolished;

(c) whether the Government have any scheme to abolish the contract labour system in the remaining States also and to employ the labourers departmentally; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):(a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]**Allocation and Action Plan for Food Processing Units**

1984. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked annually by the Government for food processing units in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh during Eighth Plan, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any special action plan for Haryana and Uttar Pradesh during the Eighth Plan in this regard;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI):(a) to (d). The outlay approved for the Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during the 8th Plan is Rs. 146 crores. No State-specific earmarking of Plan funds is made. However, assistance under the Schemes is provided to State Government Organisations/Cooperatives/Voluntary Organisations etc. for setting up or enlarging processing facilities, developing backward linkages with farmers, marketing support, pork, poultry and other meat processing facilities, tuna and other fish processing facilities, deep sea fishing and processing, setting up of cold chains, research and development in food processing and packaging and training of man power in certain sectors etc.

Persons displaced due to Srisaillam Hydel Project

1985. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons were displaced in Andhra Pradesh on account of establishment of Srisaillam hydro-electric project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of persons affected as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government have worked out a package for the rehabilitation of these persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). 30,979 families involving 1,10,097 persons are likely to be displaced due to setting up of Srisailem Hydro-electric Project.

(c) to (e). As per the rehabilitation package formulated by Government of Andhra Pradesh about Rs. 40 crores was paid to the affected families. The displaced persons have approached the courts for enhancement of compensation and an additional amount of Rs. 49 crores has been paid towards enhanced compensation to various claimants under orders of the courts. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has in October 1993 constituted Lok Adalats to settle the cases of rehabilitation and an additional amount of Rs. 146 crores is required to be paid to the claimants. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is providing infrastructural facilities such as water supply, hospitals, roads etc. and has incurred an expenditure of about Rs.8 crores for providing these facilities. In addition under the Irrigation Project Resettlement and Rehabilitation programme, an amount of Rs. 13.37 crores is being provided with World Bank assistance for giving further facilities to the oustees of the project.

Fisheries in Andhra Pradesh

1986.SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme relating to development of fisheries in coastal areas of the country in general and coastal Andhra Pradesh in particular;

(b) the number of sick fishing units in Andhra Pradesh proposed to be revived under these schemes; and

(c) the details of the multinational companies permitted to venture in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI):(a) The following Central/Centrally sponsored schemes are under implementation for development of coastal marine fisheries in the country including Andhra Pradesh:-

1. Motorisation of traditional crafts.
2. Introduction of Plywood crafts.
3. Introduction of intermediate type of crafts for pelagic fishing.
4. Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on high speed diesel supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20 mtr. length.
5. Assistance to States for enforcement of Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA) and setting up of artificial reefs and sea farming projects.
6. Establishment of 37 Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs) including 6 in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh for providing a package of technical, financial and extension support to shrimp farmers.

7. Establishment of pilot shrimp seed hatcheries, demonstration shrimp farms and demonstration-cum-training centre.

Apart from the above, the state Government have their own plan schemes such as Assistance to fishermen for procurement of craft and gear, Assistance to fishermen for mechanisation, Development of infrastructural facilities for fish processing, marketing and distribution etc.

(b) There is no proposal for revival of sick fishing units under the above schemes as all the above schemes are meant for development of coastal fisheries in order to encourage marine fish production. However, under a scheme announced for Rehabilitation of Sick Deep Sea Fishing Units, 21 deep sea fishing units from Andhra Pradesh are proposed to be revived.

(c) There are no multinational companies in coastal fishing or deep sea fishing at present. No permission has been given to any multinational company for deep sea fishing since the announcement of the new Deep Sea Fishing Policy in 1991.

[*Translation*]

Indian Bureau of Mines Office in Madhya Pradesh

1987. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh has a regional office of Indian Bureau of Mines;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to open a regional office of IBM in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Oil Exploration at Godavari and Krishna Basins

1988. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted aeromagnetic surveys over parts of Godavari and Krishna basins for oil exploration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow one after the other. Please be brief.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a quantity of 40 lakh tonnes of newsprint has piled up in newsprint manufacturing paper mills. A quantity of upto 200 tonne newsprint was permitted to be imported free of excise tax for small and medium scale newspapers. The present requisite quantity of news-print is 5 lakh

tonne and 4 and a half lakh tonne of that is manufactured indigenously and only one lakh tonne news-print used to be imported but for the last few years the import has been made free of Excise Tax and it has resulted in import of 3 lakh tonne newsprint and registration of lakhs newspapers has been done. Thus, the paper mills are closed because the newsprint has piled up in the whole indigenous industry. An amount to the tune of Rs. 450 crores is spent on importing news-print. Earlier, news-print was being imported at the rate of 700 to 800 dollars per tonne but now the foreign companies have started dumping their news-print in our country by bringing down its price. With a result there of such a situation may arise in our country which may lead to the closure of all the mills.

Mr. Speaker Sir, our mills were producing news-print as per our requirement but this Government has worked towards closing down of indigenous industries of our country by making its import free of Excise Tax. Similarly, 10 percent excise duty has been increased on agro based industries which were producing paper based on bagasse. All those industries are facing a crisis today which manufacture boxes and which have been considered agro-based and thus, were exempted from duty. I, therefore, would like to make a submission, through you, that the news-print manufacturing mills are facing a crisis in our country and these industries have a pile-up of 40 lakh tonne newsprint, we have given our currency of Rs. 450 crores to foreign countries by way of import of news-print and foreign paper-mills are dumping their produce here. When all the industries will close down here and our print media will face a grave crisis for want of newsprint, we would be made to pay for it. This is a very big crisis. We would like to draw the attention of the Government to this fact.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Suddenly 11 mills, under National Textiles Corporation, Bombay, are closed down yesterday and as a result thereof 15 thousand workers have become unemployed. This is a grave problem and the mill-worker of Bombay will not be able to withstand this blow. The main cause for this closure is started to be the non-payment of electricity bills to the tune of Rs. 4 crores by National Textiles Corporation due to Tata Electric Company. It has resulted in closing down of Jam, Sitaram, Poddar, Madhusudan, Kohinoor, Appollo, Bombay, Jupiter, New Hind, Bharat and Digvijay mills etc. from yesterday onwards. The question is, whether the Central Government can not expedite this payment to the Tata company and even if the payment was not made, should they have cut the electricity connection? Has the Industry Dept. of the Central Government come to such a pass that it is not in a position to pay them? Their union has also submitted a serious proposal in this regard yesterday.

I demand that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Finance Minister should come with statements in this regard. A way-out must be found. If no way-out is found, then, a large-scale agitation will have to be launched. The Government should make a statement in this regard immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would expect the Government to make a statement on this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Definitely.

You please take it up with the Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year the civil services exams had been suspended due to the leakage of papers. The matter was sent to Supreme Court. Supreme Court has given its verdict. Now Government has to implement that decision. Most of those candidates who were not allowed to appear in this examination for no fault of their have crossed the upper age-limit this year. As assured by the Government, these candidates should be given a lenient view. Otherwise they will suffer for no fault of their own when they become over-age for this year's exam.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Charles? You have not given any notice—

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): I gave a notice at 10.30. I will be very brief. The Russian tourists and other foreign tourists staying in the ITDC, Janpath Hotel, New Delhi are being abused. They are being harassed by the security staff. Yesterday at mid-day some tourists arrived from Bombay.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not raise it with the Minister concerned?

SHRI A. CHARLES: This is a very serious issue. The image of the country has been affected.

MR. SPEAKER: You have given a notice at 10.30 only.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I request that the Home Ministry may look into it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a petty matter.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I request that an inquiry may be conducted and appropriate action should be taken. Foreigners are being treated badly.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that this matter should be taken up with the Minister.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): I would like to raise the following matter of public importance during today's Zero Hour.

Vayudoot has been in action since 1981. The accumulated loss of the Company during the last 20 years is more than Rs. 200 crore. The total employment of the Company is round about 1,500. The Government, with the consent of the Prime Minister had taken a decision to merge the Vayudoot with the Indian Airlines on 25th May, 1993. Moreover, the administration of Vayudoot have decided to stop all flights of Avro planes with effect from 31st March, 1994. This will badly affect the Vayudoot service from Bombay to Kolhapur, Diu, Kandla, Porbandar, Pune, etc. There will be widespread discontent among the employees of Vayudoot. The employees of Vayudoot had gone on fast unto death to press their demand and to express discontent. The Government have assured them of appointing two sub-committees to look into their grievances as well as to streamline the merger of Vayudoot with the Indian Airlines. However nothing concrete has transpired from these promises and the fate of 1,500 employees is in the dark. I would urge upon the Civil Aviation Minister to look into this matter urgently and take effective steps for the merge of the two companies, Vayudoot and Indian Airlines and also to make a statement to that effect.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH (Shahdol): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 6 people died on the 5th of this month in Kotma Coal mine in my constituency due to caving-in of the mine. This mine was closed and was in a delapidated condition. Even then, the labourers were forced by the officials to enter the mine and extract coal. Even the sufficient ex-gratia amount has also not been provided to the Kith and Kins of the deceased. Such mishaps keep occurring in mines. My submission is that their dependents should be provided jobs and they are duly compensated. The stringent action must be taken against those officials who forced the labourers to work in the already closed mine.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to draw the attention of the entire House and the Treasury Bench too to the disastrous situation prevailing in the National Textile Corporation Controlled Mill, particularly in West Bengal and in the entire Eastern Region.

Sir, a letter has been received by the Eastern Region officials from the holding company regarding the budgetary subsidies and the working capital. The Eastern Region requires a sum of Rs. 30 crore annually. It is apprehended that from the 1st of April they would be receiving only Rs. 10 lakhs and the wages of the employees would be stopped. Already in the NTC mills in West Bengal, production has been stopped due to paucity of funds and due to paucity of cotton and other raw material.

Under the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government to release funds immediately, not only for the wage payment

but also the required raw material from the CCI or the Maharashtra Cotton Corporation so that the mill can start its production immediately. On this matter, we had asked the Textile Ministry to look into this matter several times. The Hon. Textiles Minister had assured us that suitable funds would be released and also the modernisation programme would be taken up. But up till now, nothing has been done in this regard.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. speaker, Sir, you are kind enough to allow us to raise some important matters and we will do that within a short time. But, Sir, even the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is not here.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Faleiro is here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am sorry. I am glad that he is listening. Sir, I earnestly request you to see that some response is made within a reasonable time, at least within one or two days because thousands and thousands of people are being involved and their wages are not going to be paid. I, therefore, earnestly request the hon. Minister to do the needful in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): Shri Shuklaji has come.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: It is good that Shri Shuklaji has come. I would request the hon. Minister to pay attention at least to human miseries and do the needful in this regard.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a delay in releasing funds for the construction of the bridge at boudh and Kiakota. The Central Government had delayed to release

the necessary funds. As a result of which, the State Government is unable to float the tender. Since summer has commenced, I would wish that work for the construction of the bridge should begin immediately. Otherwise, the cost of raw materials and other things will increase and a revised estimate has to be prepared. Therefore, to avoid delay and begin the construction work immediately, I would request the hon. Minister to take up this matter with the State Government and do the needful.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the present budget excise duty has been raised particularly on cotton yarn and polyester yarn. Consequently, in Gujarat...[Interruptions]...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are going to discuss the same thing in the Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: They are on strike since yesterday. And the textile mills have been closed down since the 6th of March...[Interruptions]...Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government in the august House that all the factories including handloom and Powerloom factories, small scale Engineering small scale steel factories and all the one and a half lakh small scale factories have gone on strike since the 6th March, 1994 in Gujarat and for 1 or 2 days all over Maharashtra. Even the engineering, foundry small scale industries, brass and textiles industries all are on strike. In such situation specially the cotton industries would be shattered in the country and 5 lakh workers would be rendered jobless

within next one month. Be it textiles, steel or foundry, all the small scale industries will be adversely affected in the time to come. All the powerloom and handloom industries have gone on strike since yesterday and the remaining industries are also likely to go on strike. On behalf of the people of Gujarat I would like to urge upon the Government that it should give assurance to all the small scale industries in the House and the hike in the excise duty should be withdrawn...[Interruptions]..

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA (Chatra): Nearly 15 lakh farmers grow tomato in my area but it is being sold at the rate of 25 to 30 paise per kilogram there. In such a situation I would like to urge upon the Government that Units of Food Processing Industry should be set up at Chatra and Palamau districts at the earliest.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Mharah Ganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the teaching and non-teaching staff working at the Bharat Coking Coal Limited have been on dharna at Jantar Mantar for their genuine demands for last three months.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year the then Hon. Minister of Coal had taken notice of their genuine demands and assured them on moral grounds that the Government would accept their genuine demands. Their first and foremost demand is that they should be awarded the pay-scale at par with the Government teachers of the State. But this has remained an assurance only so far. Not to speak of their second demand, even their first demand regarding their pay scale has not been met.

Sir, their other demand is that their children should be provided concession in study fees and the medicines supplied for their health should be made available to

them. But none of these demands has been fulfilled so far. The teachers there—who are the controllers of their fate of lakhs of children are starving and have sat on the roads here. But the Central Government is not considering their genuine demands. Before the situation goes out of hand, the Government should take initiative and pay attention to the demands of these teachers so that their condition may not be worse.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Half a minute should be allotted to myself also. They are not getting their salary even equal to the minimum wages.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record...[*Interruptions*]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nitish Kumar, she has done it very ably. She does not need your help.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE (Bombay-South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bombay city, following the closure of mills 70,000 mill workers have already been rendered jobless for last two and a half or three years and today...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rawle, I have asked the Government to make a statement on that point. Mr. Chauhan, please.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: I want to submit only this much that...

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked the Government to make a statement on the statement made by you here.

[*English*]

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN (Amroha): Sir, four Pakistani and one Bangladeshi ultras were arrested by the Delhi Police late last week, along with a local contact. Police have also recovered explosives and sensitive documents and found a laboratory manufacturing explosive devices.

It is informed that all the six of them were instructed by Pakistan's ISI to plant explosives, poison wells and organise strike all over the country to cripple the Indian economy.

This is the first time that Pakistan has utilised its own nationals for terrorist activities. Earlier, the Kashmiri and Punjabi militants, along with some fundamentalists were used for terrorism in India. All the six arrested are well trained in Guerilla warfare and use of rockets and artillery guns. One of the four Pakistanis, Khalid Pahelwan, participated in an attack on an Indian Army post in Poonch last year.

I demand that the Government comes out with full details about this and also checks infiltration from Pakistan and Bangladesh...

I would also like to say here that the ISI activities have increased in Nepal and Bangladesh and, as such, on this basis the Government should take up the matter with Nepal and Bangladesh also to check these activities.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance to a problem in my constituency. The regional office of the Union Bank of India has been in operation for last ten years in my area. But that regional office is being shifted without any reason. Thirteen districts under the Bareilly, Moradabad, Kumaon and Agra Divisions are controlled by this regional office. By this not only department will have to borne an additional financial burden of Rs. 20 lakh but the other staff working therein and the customers will also be affected by doing so I, therefore, would like to urge upon the Hon. Minister of Finance to look into this issue and issue orders to let remain this regional office at Bareilly itself.

12.22 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review on the working of Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for 1992-93 and Statement for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I beg to lay on the table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts under section 24 of the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 1992-93.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-5477/94]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 5E of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948:-

- (a) (i) Annual Report of the Cochin Dock Labour Board, Kochi, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Review by the Government on the working of the Cochin Dock Labour Board, Kochi, for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-5478/94]

- (b) (i) Annual Report of the Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Review by the Government on the working of the Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-5479/94]

- (c) (i) Annual Report of the Madras Dock Labour Board, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Sh. Jagdish Tytler]

- (ii) Review by the Government on the working of the Madras Dock Labour Board, for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-5480/94]

- (4) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No LT-5480/94]

- (5) A copy of the Ministry of surface Transport, Research Officer (Wage Revision) Recruitment Rules, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 78 in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 1994 issued under proviso to article 309 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No LT-5481/94]

Errata to the Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (No.6 of 1993) (Commercial) - Steel Authority of India - Bokaro Steel Plant.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): I beg to lay on the table:-

a copy of the Errata (Hindi and English versions) to the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 6 of 1993) (Commercial)-Steel Authority of India Limited-Bokaro Steel Plant.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5482/94]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Damodar Valley Corporation, Calcutta for 1992-93 and Statement for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): I beg to lay on the table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section(5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948

- (ii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No LT-5483/94]

12.22 1/2 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Sixty-first Report

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Sir, I beg to present the Sixty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of Public Accounts Committee on action taken on 164th Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Alleged

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unauthorised importations of plant and machinery, misdeclaration and under-invoicing of goods by a textiles manufacturer.

versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Manipur or 1993-94.

[Placed in Library, See No LT-5486/94]

12.23 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (JAMMU AND KASHMIR), 1993-94

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for 1993-94.

[Placed in Library, See No LT-5484/94]

12.23 1/2 hrs.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BUDGET, 1994-95

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library, See No LT-5485/94]

12.24 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (MANIPUR), 1993-94

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to present a statement of (Hindi and English

12.24 1/2 hrs.

MANIPUR BADGET, 1994-95

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Manipur for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library, See No LT-5487/94]

12.25 hrs

RE: DISCUSSION ON MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, on a point of information. Today the Prime Minister is due to reply to the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. We would like to know the exact time because probably we shall have to help the ruling party for maintaining the quorum in the House. So, if we know the exact time, it will help both the sides.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, it was decided by the Leaders and then in the Business Advisory Committee that the Prime Minister will reply to the debate on 8th morning, immediately after the Question Hour, and in between we can take up discussion on either the Railway Budget or the General Budget... [Interruptions].

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, we are then losing the importance of this Motion if...*[Interruptions]*.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, we had decided about 8th morning because all the time that has been allocated by the BAC has been taken up. Only three minutes remain. So, according to the decision of the House, we can take up the other discussion. We can take up discussion on Railways or discussion on the General Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the business of the House is being transacted in a very casual manner.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: This is very unfair what do you mean to say by casual manner?...*[Interruptions]*...

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Railway Budget or the General Budget has not been included in today's Agenda. The list of Business is being manipulated in a very casual manner. The list of Business is circulated by Secretariat...*[Interruptions]*...Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has stated that the hon. Prime Minister would reply tomorrow in the meantime the Railway Budget or the General Budget will be discussed. It is nothing but a casual manner. This is our objection here...*[Interruptions]*...

[English]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, it was decided between the leaders and then later on in the Business Advisory Committee...*[Interruptions]*...

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR. Just now, when

the Hon. Member Shri Ram Naik had raised this issue, it was said that the Prime Minister would give reply on 8th morning. How the House will run, if it is discussed today and afterwards the railway or the general budget is taken up...*[Interruptions]*...An issue is first decided in the B.A.C. meeting, then the House approves it where as you are asking to take up this or that proposal...*[Interruptions]*...It is seen that the quorum is not maintained, when the House reassembles after the lunch. The bell have to be rung for at least three times. The House is not being run as per the items mentioned in the list of business...*[Interruptions]*...How the business of the House will be accomplished. The Government is not interested in it and even you do not take any stern action, the result is that they are taking liberty...*[Interruptions]*.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in brief my submission is that generally the discussion on the President's Address concludes immediately. There were some circumstances when it could not be completed. During that discussion, in accordance with your ruling, taking in view the predicament of the Government the ordinance on Jammu & Kashmir was taken up. There was another violation when the discussion on railway budget was taken up on Friday during this discussion. Today the discussion on the President's Address was to be taken up. There is no mention of railway budget in the list of business we have got.

[English]

I submit to the Speaker that this debate which is already fractured twice is likely to collapse. If the debate on the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament collapses in Lok Sabha, then I think, it is not a matter that has to be treated as a causal

matter of merely re-arranging the business of the House.

I understand the obligations of the Government and the Treasury Benches. We are ever mindful of the convenience of the Hon. the Prime Minister. But even the Treasury Benches and the Prime Minister must take into account the convenience of the House and some consideration for the prestige of the House.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: My submission is, the programme was fixed after consultation that on Monday the Prime Minister would be replying. So, the Prime Minister is committed for today.

You are now proposing that any new business can be ordered to be taken up. Will it create a good precedent in the House? I am not going into the reasons that are given. The reasons are true. But it will not create a good precedent in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I will explain to you.

In all fairness to the Minister and to the Government, I must say this. He had discussed this matter and said: "May be the Prime Minister would be required to speak on the 8th of this month". At that time, we had thought, generally the debate spills over and if we have fixed 10 hours' time, it would take 12 hours' time. If it is 12 hours' time, it would take 16 hours. I said, "Maybe, there are so many others who would like to speak on this and we would allow them to speak and then if it is absolutely necessary for him to speak on 8th, he will be allowed to do that".

That is why, I am of the view, if there are Members who want to speak on this, they should be allowed to speak.

As far as taking up of the business is concerned, well if it is absolutely necessary, we will do that. But then, we should allow the Members to speak rather than taking up some other business.

And then, Jammu and Kashmir Budget and all those things are there. You know the Resolution was taken up for continuing the President's rule. At that time, it was stated that the Budget might not be discussed because all that was to be discussed in the Budget might have been discussed while discussing the Resolution itself. That was the position.

I am intending to allow the Members to speak on the President's Address because generally whenever we have fixed 10 hours' time, they have taken 12 hours and whenever we have fixed 12 hours' time, they have taken 16 hours. We do not want to disappoint them. We would like to give them time.

[Interruptions]

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If the Members who want to speak are not present; what will happen?...[Interruptions]..

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to take part in the debate in this respect. My submission is that for the first time the discussion on the President's Address has become meaning less as if a weak animal, becomes use less... [Interruptions]..

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to submit that this is perhaps for the first time in the history of our Parliament that none is ready to speak on the President's Address. I do not want to

[Sh. Jaswant Singh]

hurt anyone's feelings but my submission is that there is no time to speak on retrenchment of 1.40 lakh cloth mill workers. The hon. Minister of steel is sitting here. There can be no discussion if the 70 rolling mills are closed down. Mr. Speaker, Sir, your assertion is right that each issue should be raised in the House as per rule. We cannot raise such issue which is related to the lives of lakhs of people. Only because discussion cannot be held on it since it is not on the agenda and the things which are on agenda cannot be discussed since the Government is not ready for discussion on them.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): He is sick.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR: I do not want to comment on personal things. If he is sick, it would be better if the House is adjourned till tomorrow. I am saying it very seriously.... [Interruptions]..

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have the facts that is why you are saying like that. Here I have the list of 50 people.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR: If there are people, who want to speak, then ask them to speak. Such a situation should not arise in future in the House and it has never happened earlier that the hon. Prime Minister has not turned up in the House at the fixed time for some other reasons to reply the President's Address, in case he is sick then it is altogether a different case. Therefore, such situation should not take place. It's impact remain on this Parliament, the prestige of the Parliament and its proceedings

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We can decide the matter with the approval of the House. We

are doing it to facilitate the Members to speak because our record shows that whenever 10 hours are fixed, 12 hours are given and whenever 12 hours are fixed, 16 hours are given.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): I have to protest. There are a number of speakers who want to speak and they are not given time to speak. How are their names deleted?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Chaliha as well as your kindself has said that there is a list of speakers. I would like to draw your attention towards the statement of Shri V.C. Shukla [Interruptions]. Shri V.C. Shukla has asserted that there should be no debate on this subject, since it is too late and therefore either the Railway Budget or the General Budget should be taken up... [Interruptions]..

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is exactly what liberalisation is. You can comment on anything at any time. Please sit down. This is too much.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am helping you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not need your assistance. I do not need your help. Please sit down. I am quite capable of helping myself. This is too much of intelligence.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: What the hon. Minister has said can be verified from the

record *[Interruptions]*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to speak... *[Interruptions]*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to tell that thing to me.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit a few things.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not submit anything since the facts are not with you. When you do not have the facts, why are you speaking.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I am seeking your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: Making submission without facts creates problems. Please take your seat.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I want to speak on this very issue.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not required I agree with Chandra Shekhar ji that there should be a detailed discussion on President's Address. This is because the Government take this opportunity to present its achievement of one year through the Hon. President and every Member is allowed to express his views. There can be a serious discussion on this matter. There is no use of raising the issue of 11 textile mills facing closure, during Zero Hour. This issue can be raised while speaking on President's Address and not only two minutes but 10-15 minutes can be taken on this subject. The serious situation in Jammu-Kashmir can

also be discussed at length while holding discussion on President's Address. There are various aspects of foreign policy which can also be a subject of discussion during that course. Issue like tax in the Budget were also raised during Zero Hour. Such an issue relating to our economic policy can also be raised.

We should speak only on a subject that has been included in the agenda after a due deliberation; we should not speak on a matter that does not form part of the agenda. All these items are included in the President's Address and Members will be allowed to give their comments. If we relegate the importance of the President's Address into background by raising such an issue which should actually be raised while holding discussion of President's Address, then I think that will not be good for a democratic system. The list that is with me include the names of eight Members from the Congress party, seven-eight members from the Bhartiya Janta Party, three-four members from the Janta Dal and four-five independent members who have all to make submission. Perhaps Shukla ji could not recognise the fact that there are so many members to speak.

[Interruptions]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: His contention was that Railway Budget or General Budget should be taken up for discussion because time is over.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): I merely stated that the Time was allocated by the Business Advisory Committee...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I was not having the list.

[English]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Then in case, it is necessary, we could take up other items.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I was not having the list, now I am aware of it when the list has come to me.

[English]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I might remind the Hon. Members that while discussing it in the Business Advisory Committee, we had said that in case more than seven hours were required we could carry it on to 16 hours. That was the decision. And the Hon. Prime Minister may be called upon to speak on the 8th morning. This was the decision. And unnecessarily this is being said that debate is collapsing, the Prime Minister is ill. There is no question of that. The Prime Minister can come any time to reply to the debate. But according to the decision of the Business Advisory Committee, we have advised him that the reply would be on 8th, immediately after the Question Hour. Therefore, he is going to reply on 8th at 12 o'clock. This is the only thing. And unnecessarily a mountain is being created out of a mole hill.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He said just two minutes earlier that time was over. [Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: I have facts whereas you have not. President's Address is an very important thing. It contains both Government's achievements of the preceding year and what is on its agenda for the coming year. It is prepared by the Cabinet after a serious consideration and then it is presented by the President. Now, if we waste our energy and time and set aside the importance of President's Address, then that is a different thing. [Interruptions]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aroja): When will the Hon. Prime Minister make a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD WADAV: Discussion on the Railway Budget has begun since 4th March. Position regarding this must be made clear.

MR. SPEAKER: Today discussion will be held on the President's Address. Tomorrow the hon. Prime Minister will make reply. There was some time at our disposal on the 4th March, that is why discussion on the Railway Budget was taken up.

[Interruptions]

12.39 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Need to under take drilling operations by ONGC in Kerala**

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kerala). It is said that the Indian continent is floating on oil. But enough exploratory work not been undertaken in the regions which have enough oil potential

Kerala is a State which has good potential of oil and natural gas. A survey has revealed that the off-shore region of Kasargode and Cochin has vast potentials. But no worthwhile effort has been made to undertake drilling operation there. Too much concentration in.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to direct the ONGC to undertake drilling operations in the State of Kerala.

- (ii) **Need to take Instal a Hig Power/ Low Power transmitter in punalur, quilon district, Kerala to improve Doordarshan Tele-cast there**

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Punalur is the headquarters of Pattinapuram Taluk and is centre of Quilon District. Pattinapuram Taluk comprises very vast area covered by hills, mountains and rubber plantations. This place is densely populated and has many institutions like Rehabilitations Plantations Ltd., State Farming Corporation of Kerala, Kallada Hydro Electric Project etc. There are so many educational institutions and other public and private undertakings. Punalur is the second Municipal Corporation in Quilon. This area is advanced culturally, educationally. Besides this area has many tourist spots. Pilgrims from all over India, on way to the famous Sabarimala Temple are making use of Punalur for taking their food and for stay.

12.41 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

Majority of the people in this area are having television sets. But the reception of the telecast of Trivandrum Doordarshan is very poor and not clear. Due to the geographical features of this area the reception is obstructed. The only remedy for the above is installing a relay transmitter linking

DDK Trivandrum. Punalur, being a border town, a sizeable population belonging to Tamil Nadu also reside there. They prefer to see Tamil programmes in their TV sets. For this also a linking relay transmitter is necessary.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take necessary steps for setting up Low Power Transmitter of High Power Transmitter at Punalur as early as possible.

- (iii) **Need to check pollution caused by discharge of effluents in Barahmani and Ib River by Orient Paper Mills, Brajaraj Nagar and Fertilizer and Power Plant, Talcher in Orissa**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): The rivers Barahmani and Ib are the most polluted rivers in Orissa as much as their water is unfit for human consumption. Due to the effluents discharged from the Orient Paper Mills at Brijraj Nagar, the waters of the Ib river has been polluted and it becomes difficult even for the fish to survive. So also such discharge from the fertilizer plant and the power plant at Talcher Coalfields pollutes the river Brahmani. Pollution in these two areas is causing environmental pollution besides aggravating the menace of pollution in the rivers. This being a serious problem, it needs proper study and immediate redressal measures.

- (iv) **Need to check pollution caused by discharge of effective steps to check pollution caused by several industries in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh**

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Emission of effluent through certain Chemical and other industries locat-

[Dr. Laxminarayan]

ed in different States cause pollution to the environment. Such industries violate the Central and State Governments rules in this regard and consequently creating hazards to the public. There are several factories in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh that are not mending their ways even after giving frequent warning to them by the Government. Sajjan Chemicals, Baredia Chemicals, Jayant Vitamins and Alcohol Plants located in Raisen, Shajapur and Rattam districts of Madhya Pradesh are such industrial units whose emission of effluent have polluted the ground water to the extent that within the periphery of 15 kilometers villagers are not getting drinking water even at the depth of 300 feet. People of those areas are not only facing the crisis of drinking water, polluted water is also having adverse effect on agriculture. Houses and agricultural equipments are also not spared from its adverse effect. Hundreds of animals and birds have died due to polluted water during the last few days. Villagers coming under those areas have become victim of various diseases.

I would request that the Union Government should take stern action against such industrial units and if required there should also be amendment in law.

[English]

- (v) **Need to take measure to improve the condition of Looksan Tea Estate, Jalpaiguri, a TTCI Managed Tea Garden for making it viable**

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): I like to draw the attention of the Government to the deplorable condition of

TTCI managed tea garden viz. Looksan Tea Estates, Jalpaiguri. It has been taken over by TTCI in early 1980s. Its condition is deteriorating day by day despite having a blooming future. To revive this garden and to save the employees from being unemployed, I urge upon the Government to meet the following demands immediately.

1. Regular and on-time payment of salaries/wages and supply of ration;
2. Adequate supply of coal to run the machines;
3. To clear the liabilities of the Estate;
4. To replace the old and back-dated machines to yield more; and
5. To ensure proper and efficient management.

(vi) **Need to Remove Restrictions imposed on Passengers to avail concessional fare by travelling between the mainland and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM (Tiruchengode): During my recent visit to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, many people represented to me saying that a number of restrictions have been imposed on passengers travelling between mainland and Port Blair for availing concessional fares in flights and in ships. These conditions caused a lot of hardship to people travelling between mainland and the Island. I request the Government of India to remove all these conditions and restore the facilities available earlier. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration may be asked to take early action in this matter.

(vii) Need to provide speed post facility at Rampur Town in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA (Rampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Lok Sabha constituency, Rampur, which has a population of five lakh, has several industries and sugar mills. From the viewpoint of trade it has the biggest centre of Menthol and every year Menthol worth crores of rupees is exported from there. But till date no arrangement has been made for speed post in this area, whereas several cities with the same size of population have been provided with speed post facility. In the absence of speed post facility the work regarding trade and other fields cannot be done speedily and efficiently. Several memoranda have been given in this regard but till date, no decision has been taken.

So I urge the Central Government to make arrangements for speed post facility in Rampur city for smooth development of the area.

(viii) Need to protect the interests of workers of national textile mills in Kanpur, UP

SHRI KESRI LAL (Ghatampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kanpur is a very important industrial city, not only for UP but for the whole country. It was famous for production of cloth by NTC mills but at present NTC mills in Kanpur are in a very critical condition. The same is true of famous TEFCO company. Lakhs of workers have become unemployed and their families are on the verge of starvation.

Therefore, I urge the Government to revive the closed NTC mills in Kanpur and

take effective steps to make TEFCO and other mills which are incurring losses viable so that the workers are not rendered jobless.

12.48 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further consideration of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Shri Kirip Chaliha was on his legs. He may continue now.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other day I was speaking about the response of the opposition parties. There was a condemnable response when the Prime Minister called for an approach of consensus to deal with the difficult situation prevalent in the country at that time. The country was facing disaster on many fronts. I had already pointed out to the 'one point national agenda' of triviality and frivolity of the BJP.

I had also pointed out the great fighting qualities of our friends in the Janata Dal who instead of fighting poverty and hunger, fight among themselves like Spanish matadors. In that process, I had also pointed out the secret about hon. Shri Chandra Shekhar's loneliness and anger.

Today, should I say something about their allies - allies of the Janata Dal the little communist parties? The leftists are a bundle of contradiction in an ocean of confusion. [Interruptions] The communists are just relic of a dying dream. They themselves do not believe in what they say. When others

{Sh. Kirip Chaliha}

believe, they get surprised. There are no longer left ist party. They have become leftover parties, a mere addendum, an appendage it is like the *nota bene* of a love letter. When a couple is in love, as you know, their whole world consists of themselves. They write long love letters praising each other. When they finish the letter, at the end, they write: "N.B. Please pay my respects to your parents." This is a totally unserious addendum. They do not mean anything. It is not serious at all.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani):

Sir, I have a point of order. Is this House meant for hurling abuses? [Interruptions] Please here me. [Interruptions] He had stated that they did not believe in what they professed or what they said. It is plainly saying that one is intentionally lying. That is about a party and the cause which is unparallel in sacrifice and integrity even now in the whole country and not like those saleable goods. [Interruptions].

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: He is not raising any point of order. [Interruptions] He is countering my allegation. [Interruptions] I am not yielding. [Interruptions] Is it a point of order? [Interruptions].

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: That must be removed from the proceedings of the House. [Interruptions]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You continue. [Interruptions]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: I stand by what I say. [Interruptions] They get surprised when people believe them. The leftist parties. N.B. as I said, in a love letter. They have become an 'NB' of the Janata Dal. They have no programmes of their own. They

have no agenda of their own. Standing on the precipice of oblivion, they are destined to be drowned further in the history. That is why in spite of the great eloquence of Mr. Somnath Chatterjee and in spite of the fact that he poses like reincarnation of 'Kalki' - Marxist 'Kalki' - in this House, I am sorry to say that the Communist parties have really let us down. [Interruptions] The opposition is a foil through which the performance of the Government gets illuminated. [Interruptions] I must say that moderation, response and constructiveness were never the strongpoints of the opposition. [Interruptions]

As I said, they have only one-point agenda - agenda of negativism, agenda of scepticism. [Interruptions] That is why day after day, their incompetence and their failures get exposed more and more. [Interruptions] Who is having the last laugh? This is the question I have been repeatedly asking. The last laugh is the best laugh and the winner has always the last laugh. Let me assert with the fullest confidence and without any fear of contradiction that the winner in the last two years has been our magnificent, praiseworthy and steadfast leader, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and the Congress party led by him. His sagacious wisdom along has rescued this country which was on the brink of disaster.

Sir, from conflict to cooperation, from despair to hope, from hatred to love, from triviality to profundity have been the contribution of Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao to this country.... [Interruptions].... I am coming to the policy now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is an introduction to the policy matter.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: For the last two and a half years, he has been derisively

called Mauni Baba. His achievements are so vast that before him, all your sound and fury signify nothing. Like a skilful artist, Prime Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao is trying to weave India into a colourful fabric which will inspire generations of future Indians...(Interruptions)... Like gold in fire, all your criticisms will make him shine more and more. Some of them talk about his indecisiveness. In basics concerning this country, Mr. Narasimha Rao has shown decisiveness which is mind-boggling in its stupendousness. No great man live in vain and the history of the world is nothing but biographies of great man. Let me assure that Narasimha Rao's name will be written in golden letters in the history of India. Please try to learn from my leader. If you cannot follow him, at least, do not try to obstruct him because history will never forgive you for this aberration. This aberration borders criminality. I will summarise by saying this. The year is at the spring, the day is at the morn, the lark is on the wing, the God is in heaven, Narasimha Rao is in power, everything will be all right with India. This has been the true substance of the Address of the President of this country. This is the central reality for use the phrase of Mr. Jaswant Singh having said all that, I must point out four or five things on which I could like to have some kind of unanimity in this House. This is, of course, a great expectation but I hope that at times you will rise above petty politics and unite in certain matters national importance.

Corruption has become a cancer in our society. Corruption has polluted our society very badly. Corruption is not only at high places but it has engulfed the country from top to bottom and it is eating away the political system. I agree with Somnathji and Indrajitji on this point. The whole system is in danger because of corruption. I will definitely request the Prime Minister to come

out with a heavy hand against corruption all over the country. That should be given the next priority now.

The second point is about casteism. Even communists have started treating casteism as one of their rallying points. I will come to it at a later stage. I am really ashamed about the controversy in changing the name of a university and adding the name of Baba Saheb Ambedkar to it. It has become a matter of controversy. This is really shameful for us. There should be no castes for Indians. We cannot have a caste identity. We must have only one identity, that is, the identity of an Indian. We must try to enforce it at all levels, not only at the political level or for getting power. We must abolish casteism all together from our society. Anybody who is sane and sensible should be ashamed of calling himself a brahmin or this or that. There should be no casteism in future.

Lastly, I will talk about the North-East. I have to say something about the North-East. The situation there has improved. And I will come to the details of it during the Budget discussion. Here, I must point out one thing honestly to this House and through you, to the hon. Minister of Finance.

13.00 hrs.

The whole of North East is in a vicious circle. There is no development. That is why there is insurgency. Insurgency further leads to deterioration of law and order situation which, in turn, results in no development. Something has to be done to rescue my area from this vicious cycle. When the fruits of liberalisation are coming to the mainland, North East cannot be allowed to remain farther and farther behind. Something must be done.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore):

But who is responsible for this non-development? who is behind it?

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Shri Indrajit Gupta is our senior most and most respected Member of the House. I must say he, by himself, is an institution. He also should put his head together with all of us. I appeal to all of you, through the hon. Deputy Speaker, to put your heads together and unanimously request the Finance Minister for the development of North East, highlighting the backwardness of the North East in particular and also regional disparity as a whole.

Finally, I would like to speak just two or three sentences about Assam. Assam should never become a killing field. It will be a very sad day if Assam becomes a killing field. *[Interruptions]*. There is no use blaming each other. These are national issues. Please listen to the voice of a sane person. When none of us wants that Assam should be a killing field, let us all put our heads together to see that there is peace and progress in Assam. When our cause is national prosperity and when nationalism is in danger, no person is important and no political party is important. I appeal to all of you to put your heads together and work in this direction. Please listen to the rising voice of the younger generations of Assam and see that in that part our country, nationality triumphs fully and totally. We should never be complacent about it. I agree with all of you when you talk about these aspects.

In the end, I thank you Sir, for giving me time. I also thank hon. Members for their response. In spite of my severe and little criticism, they have been quite restrained in not shouting me down, though I could see that Shri Bhogendra Jha has been quite agitated over my speech. I thank you for

your kind cooperation. I hope the same kind of unanimity, cooperation and positiveness will come forth from the depth of your hearts for the common cause of progress and prosperity of our nation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Khanoria please.

[Translation]

MAJOR D.D. KHANORIA (Khuangra): Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the President's Address.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we adjourn for Lunch. You may please resume your speech after Lunch. The House stands adjourned to re-assemble at 14-05 hours.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Five Minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assemble after Lunch at Thirteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS- *CONTD.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Major D.D. Khanoria to continue his speech.

[Translation]

MAJOR D.D. KHANORIA: Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you.

Discussion on the President's Address is going on in the House and several Members have expressed their views on it. But I think that President's Address is nothing but a narration of success story of the Government. If failures of the Government would also have been mentioned along with the success, people would come to know about the lacunae in functioning of the Government. President's Address has created a picture as if Narasimha Rao Government has achieved an all-round success last year and people have backed him. Had the failures been also included in it, the people of the country would have thought it has presented the real picture but it has not been done. No mention has been made about price-rise. In its election manifesto, the congress party had promised to roll back the prices within hundred days. But now several hundred days have passed and inflation is raising day by day. The people in the country were really taken aback when prices of essential commodities were raised ten days before the commencement of session of Parliament. Budget Session is going on and it is too early to feel the impact of the Budget.

Sir, hon. President has suggested some concrete steps to improve the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir, but that can be done only when the actual result of those steps could be known to the people. My Parliamentary constituency is adjacent to Jammu and Kashmir. Kangra constituency of Himachal Pradesh is the most affected by terrorist activities taking place in Jammu and Kashmir. Terrorism had also afflicted Himachal Pradesh and the Government should pay attention towards it. I would not

like to say much on the debt taken from other countries, corruption and law and order situation in the country because my colleagues have already said too much on these points. I would like to say that minimum debt should be taken from the other countries, and corruption should be minimised if it cannot be removed altogether. Actually removal of corruption at every level should be our priority.

Sir, Himachal Pradesh is a hilly area which has only two things in excess. Firstly we have enormous water. It is being used to generate electricity and is also being given to other States like Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Farmers of other States irrigate their fields with this water and become prosperous but the dryland of Himachal Pradesh does not get the required amount of water. Electricity is generated from this water for which royalty should be given to the State. When other areas which produce coal, oil, petrol etc. given royalty then why Himachal Pradesh is not given royalty for the electricity produced by it. An agitation took place in support of this demand in the State and people had come over to Delhi in this connection but the Government has not accepted this demand. I, therefore demand that whosoever may be in power but Himachal Pradesh Government should be given royalty for the electricity produced by it.

Unless we get the royalty we will not have the money. We will not be self-sufficient and we will have to depend upon Delhi. Himachal Pradesh has the capacity to produce 20,000 MW of electricity. But even after so many years of Congress rule only 250 MW of electricity is being generated. Had we been producing 20,000 MW of electricity, our royalty at 10 percent agreed to by the Centre, would have come to Rs. 1600 crores every year. But the Central Government never gives it a thought.

[Maj. D.D. Khanoria]

Sir, another thing is that, Himachal Pradesh abounds in stones. We can produce cement from it. When the BJP Government was in power, in Himachal Pradesh it had given approval for setting up of several cement industries. But now in the name of pollution, their numbers has been decreased. My request is that their number should not be decreased and the sanctioned cement industries should be set-up immediately to meet the problem of poverty and unemployment in H.P. to some extent.

How Information and Broadcasting minister is sitting here. In Kangra and Dharamshala the construction works of building of radio station has been completed. Machinery has been installed. But required staff has yet not been appointed there. As a result there of broadcasting activities could not be started. I request the Hon. Minister to take immediate steps in this regard so that we can develop our ancient culture all over the nation. Similarly, in Chamba and Kangra districts the T.V. transmission signals are not clear and the people could not see even 25 percent of the programmes telecast by Doordarshan. I want to urge the minister to make arrangements to instal high, low and very low TV dish towers, so that the people of that area can view the Doordarshan programmes.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to another issue. In Himachal Pradesh Government is allotting land to Mujahiros. It is welcome step that land is being given to the teller. The Mujahiros are being given 50 Kanals of land and the people who had been owner of that lands for generations, are being given only 5 to 10 Kanals of land. I urge that the sufficient land should also be made available to the people who are the owners of that land, they must be given

some compensation for land acquired from them at the market rate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, few days back an announcement was made that one time increase will be made the pensions of ex-vice men, But in this regard 22/23 categories have been left out. I urge that these categories should also be included.

During the discussion on President Address the members of Himachal Pradesh asked for giving subsidy on fruit. I support their demand but I would like to say that besides apples, galgal, lemon, kinnu, orange, litchee, etc. Are also produced in Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, not only to apple growers but Governments should grant subsidy to other fruit grower also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope the Prime Minister would answer the points which I raised during the discussion on the President Address.

14.24 hrs.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (TRIVANDRUM) :
Sir, I stand to support the motion of thanks moved on the address by the President of India to Parliament. The Hon. President of India has rightly pointed out that though the year 1993 faced many difficulties in the beginning fortunately, the year ended on a note of optimism.

The unprecedented food reserve in our granary, our record production of foodgrains in the year, the reduction in trade gap, the strength of our economy to face any global challenge, improvement in law and order situation of the country, be it in Punjab, Kashmir, North Eastern States including

Assam, especially after the very unfortunate disgraceful demolition of the Babri - Masjid disputed structure, whether there was a temple or not, but the structure that was there was a place of worship - all these are good signs of improvements. Under these circumstances, now every citizen of this country, every right thinking person, feels that there is a sense of confidence that has been restored.

Sir, what really worries me is this. I have been listening to the speeches of many of my colleagues in the Opposition. It was Shri Jaswant Singh who had initiated the debate from that side. In fact, I, not only myself but all of us, have great regard for him - he is not here now - for his unusual gift of putting across things, his unusual style of presenting the facts and his capacity to defend even the weakest of the cases. I had listened to his speech carefully. He ended his speech by lamenting "nationalism has reeded and there is for material and far less spiritual." Sir, I totally agree with that feeling, with that concern expressed by the hon. and distinguished Shri Jaswant Singh. But may I ask his friends who are here now, through you, Sir, as to who was responsible for bringing this country to such a state of affairs? What was the message conveyed to the people of this country through Rath Yatra, Ekta Yatra and the demolition of the Ayodya structure? They have been repeatedly demanding for the abrogation of article 370 of our Constitution, to which every Member of this august House had pledged and committed and every hon. citizen of this country take pride. here does the BJP stand, especially in respect in respect of Kashmir? Do they want today to do anyway with Artical 370? Do they wan the territory of Kashmir or the people of Kashmir? Sir, what we want is a heaing touch. What we want is to give a sence of confidence. They are the people who were in the mainstream. When Paki-

stan attacked India twice it was these citizens, these patriots, who guarded the borders of our country against adverse climatic conditions and against all adverse situations. And if we are going to accuse them as the people who are against the interests of the nation, what is the message conveyed to them and who is responsible for that?

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) :
You are responsible for that.

[Interruptions]

SHRI A. CHARLES: You go and read the history. We had listened the speech of Shri Jaswant Singh without making any report. We will listen to your speech also. After all, this is Parliament and we are a democratic country. When I am speaking, you should have at least patience to listen to me.

Shri Jaswant Singh had also complained about the way in which Hazratbal situation had been tackled. I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, Hazratbal situation had been tackled. I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Home Minister and everyone, who had taken part in dealing with such a situation and also for their patience, wisdom and confidence that they had shown. Had there been any damage to the Hazratbal shrine or to the relic of Hazratbal Shrine, then what would have been the fate of this country today? So, instead of accusing, at least they should appreciate the way in which the Congress Government under the able leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, is trying to tackle one situation after the other.

Sir, their memory is very short. I may remind to their kind memory as to what had happened when Shri V. P. Singh was the Prime Minister and they were supporting his

[Sh. A. Chaugles]

Government. We had not forgotten as to what had happened when Dr. Rubia, the daughter of the then Home Minister, Shri Mufti Mohd. Syed was kidnapped. What was the ransom that we had to pay to get her released? I can understand the pain of a father to protect the life of his own daughter. But, the Home Minister when he weighed the whole future of a nation and the life of his own daughter, it is really said that Home Minister for whom his daughter's life weighed more than the lives of 85 crores of people of this country. I sympathise with him. After the release of his own daughter, if he was honest enough, he should not have sat on the Chair of the Home Minister.

I conclude that portion of my speech there because I feel that the present Government with all the problems, with all the limitation that we are facing in the last four decades, in an hour of crisis, risen to the occasion and is guiding the country to the threshold of a future prosperous India.

On the economic reforms, he has again said one thing and is about the number game. He started his speech by saying that our Government is playing with the number game. He was just consoling why you fear about the Opposition. We know that you are a minority Government. If you have some problem at one time, we will support and at another time they will support. After all, were we not supporting? So, what is the reason for getting more members. At the beginning of the Tenth Lok Sabha not even a single political party including the Congress was bold enough to go to the people for elections within a reasonable time. So, they were waiting for a chance because they were not enough to go to the people and tell them that we are going to seek your mandate because whatever the mandate has been

given to them in four States, we saw what happened. So, they were waiting for a chance. If there is any element of truth in what he has said then why did all of them combined together and voted for the No Confidence Motion. If that No Confidence motion had not been defeated the Congress would not have been damaged; the Congress would have survived because we are not here to rule the country for eternity but the people would have shattered. The country was not ready for another election. When the country is in crisis; when we are facing the globalisation when we are unable to face the whole world; when they themselves said that we had to surrender our economic sovereignty, in it time to go for another election? They have to answer the people why did all of them, the BJP, the Marxists, the CPI and all other splinter groups joined together with only one message of defeating Shri Narasimha Rao and throw away the Government? Why did you speak of number game? Are we responsible for dividing their party? In all humility, let me ask my hon. friends in the Janta Dal - I can understand their embarrassment because they do you not know who is their President. Is it V.P. Singh? Is it Ram Vilas Paswan? Is it Shrad Yadav? Is it S.R. Bommalam is it nobody? I can tell only one thing. Most of your Members are Members who have been thrown out of our party. If you want a leader, we will give you a leader. So, why do you worry about it? We can supply because we have many leaders. We can give you a leader also. So, do not worry about our future.

We are capable of keeping our party as one. So, do not speak of number game. They are splitting themselves because they do have any ideology. They have no programme. They have no economic programme. All that they have is the Mandalisation of this country, dividing the country between forward and backward

classes, between the rural and the urban, between the rich and the poor. They want to fish in the troubled waters. It is very unfortunate. During the whole period of their rule you were one of their crutchies, supporting them and now after sharing power for two and a half years with them, you now come out and say that Congress is responsible for everything. I would humbly plead with them to kindly try to understand what has been happening in the last about forty-five years... (Interruption). Yes, we have been for the last forty-five years. And what has been the result? we were here for more than four decades... [Interruptions].

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Charles, you need not respond to their queries. You proceed on your own lines.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I agree with you, Sir, but still I would say that when this country got freedom, we were only 33 crores of people.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chiryinaiki) : What were you doing for forty-five years?

SHRI A. CHARLES: If you listen to what I am saying, I may teach you. I am not telling you, I may teach you. When this country got freedom in 1947, our population was 33 crore. Is it not a fact that we were importing more than fifty per cent of the foodgrains, for more than 17 crores of our people? When I was a boy, when I was in the middle school I and I used to go for buying rice ration, I used to ask for Burma rice because at that time we were importing rice from Burma. Today we are ninety crores and there is a unusual Green Revolution. We have plenty of foodgrain reserves. Shri Jaswat Singh Ji has been lamentating what will happen if there is a drought. What are 'ifs' and 'buts'? If these two words 'ifs' and 'buts' were not

there in the English language, then they would not have been able to express anything here. I am putting another question. Recently there was a severe earthquake at Latur in Maharashtra. The whole country, forgetting the party politics, caste, creed and religious difference, stood as one. May I ask another question? Suppose another earthquake comes, then what will happen? Why do you ask such questions when we are masters of our economy? So, without realising the situation, all pessimistic views have been put forward just to accuse Congress Government.

Now I shall come to a few of our achievements. What are our achievements on the economic front? For the last two and a half years, the main criticism was that the Congress is selling the economic sovereignty of the country, that we are now subjugating ourselves to the IMF, that we are now listening to America and the Clinton Administration. What has happened during the last one year? What is the strength of our economy? This is the first time after we started taking loans that repayment has started even ahead of our schedule. I feel proud of the reforms initiated by our Finance Minister. There has been an achievement because of the Dunkel Draft. I do not know how many [Interruptions].

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Mr. Charles, How much interest have you to pay this year?

SHRI A. CHARLES: Don't worry, we shall continue for two-and-a-half years. We shall repay and you may not even come to the House next time. You try to understand what exactly Dunkel is.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY: Yes, we know that you have the money to purchase the M.P.s.

SHRI A. CHARLES: You should go read Budget try to understand what Dunkel is. Without knowing what exactly is the Dunkel, they accusing that the whole subsidy has been withdrawn. If you see the Budget, there is Rs.2,000 crore more for subsidy on fertilisers and another are Rs.2,000 crore again for food subsidy. So, we increased our subsidy on food and fertiliser.

This is for the first time that prices of rice and wheat in the open market are less than that of in the ration shop. It is because, we have raised the procurement price for the farmers for which you are against. The procurement price has been increased respecting the demands of peasantry. We are giving remunerative price and at the same time, we are giving subsidy so that, the poor men not affected.

Again, for rural development, the increase in the allocation of rural development is 40 per cent this year so that the poor people who are below the poverty line living in the rural areas may get employment opportunities and they may be at par with other people.

Two and a half years of administration by our Prime Minister has now proved that we a country capable of surviving and progressing ahead. Nobody should forget that it was one of the darkest hour of history after the sad assassination of our dear beloved, Shri Rajivji. When the whole country was shaken, when we were groping in the dark, when we were searching for a leader, when we were searching for a father, when we were consciously worried about the future of the country, Shri Narasimha Rao was chosen as the leader by the Congress Party. His bold initiatives in the two and a half years period have proved that our country is marching ahead and it is in the right direction. The

country is feeling confident of the future. The bold initiatives taken by Dr. Manmohan Singh have strengthened our economy. His credibility, his knowledge, the way in which he is taking the country, watching the TV as a citizen, I used to feel proud of him when I see him in the TV speaking in the international fora, traouring all over the country taking bold steps.

These are the salient points highlighted in the President's Address. I am concluding with a quotation from a Book written by Nani Palkhivala. I do not share all the views expressed by him in the book, *We the Nation*. But I totally agree with the last paragraph of the first chapter, *Are we Master of Our Fate?*:

"When you read Dr. Jhonson's *The Imprisoned Splendour* and frit of Capra's *The Tao of Physics* you understand why Shri Auribindo and Rabindmath Tagore were convinced that India is destined to be the teacher of all lands. Saints never contradict on another and mystics have never been known to disagree. Eastern culture aand Western culture shared the same heritage of apiritual experience."

This is for our friends from BJP and hon. friends on the other side

"More and more men have taken to realise that we are the Peeping Toms at the keyhole of eternity."

We are the master of our own fate. Panditji jas said, mam is mater of his own fate. Today the Congress Government deciesd the fate of the country, would decide the future of the country. It has given confidence to the country. We are on the threshold of the 21st cēntury, a century of prosper-

ity, a century of leadership, a century where even the common man in the street will have the hope of better life. With these words I conclude and I support with all strength of my command. the motion of Thanks moved by Shiv Charan Mathur.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President has addressed the House at a historic occasion when the nation is facing the period of crisis. This challenge is not only economic, even on social and political fronts also we are facing challenges. But I have to say with regret that in his address President has nowhere mentioned about nation's situation, the international situation and the challenges before our nation and the world. That is why effective solutions has been given as to how we should face these challenges. The crisis before us not that. There is immense price rise in the country or our economic policies are passing through a transitional phase and there is unemployment on large scale which is endangering our national unity. In my view the biggest challenge, is that the whole world is looking for a new direction. Science technology, transportation, means of telecommunication and atomic power has created a new world. If we consider on it from a philosophical angle we will see on the one hand there is competition for materialism, the competition is only to as to how to increase our wealth. On the other hand there is a view that if atomic power is used, it would result in global devastation. As a result of this the wealth accumulated by mankind, instead of using to remove poverty and unemployment was used to produce atomic weapons, which started the nuclear weapons race.

I think this is the biggest challenge before us today. India could have given a

new direction to other countries. Other nations used to look towards India as it was different from capitalist countries, communist countries. And that India will try to show a new path and insert new energy to the countries of third world and the countries who were poor and slaves at a time and who were newly independent. These countries had their problems which were historical and pertained to livelihood, clothing and development. It was their belief with to India. The people had faith in India for a long time. India tried to show a new path, when we took the initiative for the non-aligned movement and adopted the mixed economy. Because we knew this fact that capitalists countries were bound to act as per their characteristics. The capitalist businessmen in India are capitalists in true sense. They only believe in earning money. They do not feel pride in investing their money on infrastructural industries. That is why, after attaining independence the capitalists of this country did not feel it fit to invest in the pharmaceuticals industry. They neither took any interest in establishing a Steel plant or in electrification of the village, or in exploring oil in this country. Under those odd situations, we set up public sector in his country. No other country in World was ready to do so but we basically observed that we should setup here the public sector be it Steel plants, oil exploration, agriculture, agricultural reserach or any other field, we have established the infrastructural industries. Such was the situation in our country that even we had to bring cloth industry and hotel industry into the public sector. The capitalists of this country did not have any interest in the works of public sector and public welfare. That is why we had to opt for public sector and today everybody knows about the contributions made by the public sector towards the development of the country. No other country in World was ready to explore oil our country. We were told that we should

[Sh. Chandra Jeet Yadav]

import oil and instead concentrate on other fields like agriculture and irrigation in the villages and there was no need of going production insted we should depened on import. We knew that unless we become self-reliant we would not be able to protect only self-respect.

I am sorry to say that in the name of new economic policy, the self-reliance policy of this country is being weaken. I have every doubt that they are going to destory our self reliance. Today, a question was raised in the house in which it was told that 70 mini steel plants have been closed. Near about 80 of our cloth mills have already been closed. I am concerned with the fact that thousands of small and medium factories are being closed and lakhs of labourers are becoming unemployed. I come from that area where the weavers provide cloth to the entire population to cover their bodies and simultaneously consrtibuted towards making the nation self-reliant. Now the weavers are worried about the existence of their skill and means of earning bread? Today, they are heading towards destruction. The President's Address does not mention anything in this regard. We will be nowhere if we detract from our policy of self-reliance.

I want to tell something to Shri Jakhar. Some times ago, a few senior M.Ps of Britain were in India to participate in a meeting of Parliamentary Association. One of them has written me a letter. I do not want to quote that letter but want to mention one point. She is a senior M.P in House of commons and belongs to Labour Party. She has written that she loves and support the India people. She further says that India will not commit the same mistake in the name of new economic policy which her country had committed 15 years ago. As a

result thereof, unemployment is incerasing there at the rate of 12 percent. Today, the Prime Minister of England visits other countries merely for selling his country goods to overcome the crisis. We are just following the Western countries. I want to put a blame on this Government that it does not have the least feeling that we are taking the nation towards such a great danger. You cannot even imagine the situation if public sector is ruined. The cottage industry had been a symbol of our talent, our skill, our land and our requirements for the last thousands of years. You have simply destroyed them with multinationals. We are getting into this trap. We have left the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Jawahar Lal and thereby leaving our traditional ways. By following the Western countries we are taking the nation towards this danger. Hon. Sir, when Shri Charles gives his speech then he says that Janta Dal resorted to casteism. Janta Dal is instrumental in creating a rift between the lower and upper castes. Janta Dal has tried to divided this nation. In fact Congress Party is responsible for it all. The fault lies with the leadership that it is unable to cope up with the new developments. The provisions of the constitution of the country were done away with, the constituent Assembly, was not represented by any member of Janata Dal. The Chairman of Constituent Assembly, was Late President Dr. Rajendra prasad, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was Prime Minister and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel was our Home Minister. It provided for reservation for backward classes under Article 340. A high level commission was formed. Dr. Ambedkar and Pandit Jawahar Lal, both of them were of the view that the Dalits in this country have been identified because they are untouchables, we already know them but there is another large section in the society and a commission should be set up to identify them and provide them all such facilities.

The first amendment into Indian constitution was made in 1951, which was presented by Shri Nehru himself about providing reservation to the socially and educationally backward classes but the Congress Party could not remember it for 45 years. (Interruption) When I was in Congress at that time also used to fight for the reservation to the backward classes. I was not weak and coward as you are. I was in Congress Party and I was not ashamed to be its member. (Interruptions) I want to tell you that on this issue I had some differences with Smt. Indira Gandhi and the whole world knows that this was the reason for having dissension with Shri Rajiv Gandhi also. Do not try to teach me. Injustice was being meted out to the backward classes for the last 45 years and now when Janata Dal took a historic step by implementing the same then they are being accused of (Interruption).

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Can I get one clarification?

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: I am not yielding, Later on, not right now.

[Translation]

Therefore I want to give more stress on this point just because to make the nation as well as the political parties understand that our country and the world as a whole have entered into a new era. Today, the white racist country like South Africa is being led by a man called Nelson Mandela, who served jail term for 28 years. A new World has emerged in which two countries in our neighbourhood, after having been ruled by military are being led by two women leaders. In this new world woman has challenged the army rule in Burma. She will surely get her

country freed from army rule in near future. Therefore, the hardworking people of this country who comprise 85 percent of the population had to suffer injustice. There are provisions in the constitution but even then they were not given social justice. They were not only victims of poverty but were also dishonoured. Therefore, change yourself with the changing times and give them justice.

I am happy that today they have been identified. One can see a major change in this country after the implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission and this change is not an ordinary one. A new power is emerging in this country. But no mention has been made in this respect in this address.

There are lot of challenges before the nation like poverty, unemployment etc. A new generation has come up. Merely by giving loans to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh to each persons will not remove poverty. Change is required in the whole system. The Mandal Commission had given another recommendation that besides reservation they should also be given their share in power and in Government machinery. The Commission also recommended for revolutionary land reforms but is there anything mentioned in this address in this regard? No it does not.

15.00 hrs.

(SHRI NITISH KUMAR in the chair)

It has been further recommended that steps should be taken to provide loan on easy terms to the ones who are poor, backward and under subjected to injustice and also protect their trade and provide facilities to set up their own industries. I ask you, have you taken any effective step in this direction. This is causing resentment among the peo-

[Sh. Chandra Jeet Yadav]

ple which will increase with the passing of time. Is it not true that 50 crores people in this country are living below the poverty line, how are you going to uplift them? Will you raise their living standard gradually. This way you cannot do it even in a hundred years time. If you go on adopting such policies you can not remove poverty from this country even in a hundred year's time.

In this connection, I would like to tell you that China where the population mark has gone beyond 100 crores, has chalked out a plan, according to which there will be no person below the poverty line within next seven years in that country. This scheme was made only after identifying such persons. I urge upon the Government to chalk out a plan that by 2005 that means in the next 12 years we will be able to uplift the people living below the poverty line and we will be able to provide employment to youths by making changes in our economics agricultural and industrial policies.

I know it very well that every person cannot be afforded job. Is it the need of the hour that training to the poor unemployed youth be provided at war-footing to provide them jobs? Because all are not so fortunate to have learned the traits from their ancestors and nor are born in industrial and business families. So it is our duty to provide education and other facilities to them. Therefore, I demand that economic policy should be changed in such a manner that priority is attached to the people living below the poverty line. Time bound programmes should be formulated and all steps should be taken to provide them jobs on largescale to solve the unemployment problem.

As regards price rise, is it not a fact that two and a half years ago, at the time of Lok

Sabha elections, pulses were selling at Rs. 10-12 per kg. Similarly is it not a fact wheat flour at that time used to cost Rs. 3.50 per kg. and now it is selling at Rs. 6 per kg.? Likewise is not a fact that sugar then used to cost Rs. 8-9 per kg. and now is selling at Rs. 13-14 per kg.? Though the hon. Minister of Finance can furnish data to justify that inflation is under check yet in real life situation is totally different.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Support price and wages have also gone up.

SHRICHANDRAJEET YADAV: I agree with you. But, the cannot be a double policy.

[Translation]

To my mind, it is a correct move that the prices of the agricultural products have been revised to do justice with the farmers. However, it will definitely fuel price spiral. But, the question is whether living standards and sources of earning are improving or not? We have come to such a pass that inflation is unavoidable. Increase in the prices of petroleum products abroad will be definitely affecting us and there cannot be two opinions about it. Though efforts are being made by other countries of the world to improve their per capita income, yet India is an exception to it. Even if some efforts are being made, these are negligible and get nullified. Therefore, I urge to pay attention in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today uncertainty is prevailing in the country. We have to pay attention to this and in this scenario, how can the situation improve if poverty accen-

tuates and problems increase? We have to think about these things very seriously and I am not indulging in party politics. However, even after 47 years of independence, lakhs of persons in the country are devoid of drinking water facilities. We are definitely pained by all this. Even at present there are some persons in the country who carry nightsoil on their heads for earning their livelihood. Why this is not being done away with? The Government can ban carrying of nightsoil by human beings and should make alternate arrangements. Unfortunately, it has not been done.

Sir, even now 70 per cent of the villages are not connected by roads and do not have electricity, schools and hospitals. Can these villages be not connected by roads? The Government should connect these villages by roads and should make arrangements for irrigation and electricity. Our country is known to be a predominantly agrarian country, but I am sorry to say that like the Western countries in the name of modern technologies, mixed economy framework is being done away with by the Government. Lands are now being put up on sale and even Public Sector is being asked to sell land for mobilising resources. Railway land is also being put upon sale and lands belonging to Public Sector are already being put upon sale. I think this is not prudent step and therefore I urge upon you to not put up these lands on sale. But, the Government is going ahead in this direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, communalism is posing a big threat to India. Just now Shri Charles tried to convince the BJP Members that it was their folly to have supported the Janata Dal instead of his party. I would like to submit that policy of compromise with communal forces is pushing India towards the road of ruination. The Government can pinpoint the mistakes of the opposition too

yet I am not shy of myself admitting that the opposition also did not lag behind in joining hands with the communal forces to come into power. We shared power with these communal forces and it was our mistake. But this mistake should not be repeated. This issue is not connected with party politics. I am submitting all this because communalism is threat to national unity. Swami Vivekananda in the World Conference of Religions at Chicago had stated that I hail from the country known for religious tolerance and for giving refuge to people of other religions who were being discriminated against in the world. India welcomed all these refugee and treated them quite respectfully. The basis of Indian society and culture is respect to all religions and communalism. Swami Vivekananda had said that various religions are like rivers which originate differently but merge into oceans. Though all religions are different yet they all lead to the same God. Therefore I think that it is our mistake that we could not muster enough courage to fight against communal forces in the country.

Sir, I will conclude after making one or two points more. I think as a citizen of this country, a mention should have been made in the Address with all humility that India does look forward to improve ties with USA but the comments of the President of USA and abetment of terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir is quite unfortunate. What was the hitch in saying all this? Why is the Government not associating itself with the national mainstream? Has the financial support of USA put a cloud on our independent thinking and terrorised us fully that even a friendly mention of it could not be made in the Address? *[Interruptions]*

[English]

I am speaking on President's Address.

[Sh. Chandra Jeet Yadav]

I am not discussing Home Minister's statement here, Mr. Charles. I also know what he said.

(Translation)

I was only submitting what the Hon. Speaker while seated in the Chair, which is at present being occupied by the hon. Chairman, announced in the morning that the President's Address outlines the main policies of the Government for the ensuing year. At a time when values are being attacked and there is a threat to our sovereignty, independence and national unity, not a word has been mentioned in this regard. Therefore, the Government should praise the prestige of the House and also the greatness of the people of India. It is not the question of singling out parties because whenever the issue of national unity raised and motions on Kashmir and Punjab issues were taken up, these were passed unanimously by the House. I think all these feelings should have been reflected in the Address. I charge what the House did and what did, was not even done by the Government it is not mentioned in the address what not the House did. It is the greatness of the House that it discharged such duties and accomplished such great works. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that the Address of the President outlines the policies of the Government and the latter will also accept this thing that due to wrong social practices and historical factors, zealous poor could not get what was their and till their esteem is restored and they are given their shares, the country is not going to be strong. I demand that for this, there is the need to change our attitudes and policies basically. I urge the Government to resolve that the policies for the benefit of 50-60 crore

poor will be given priority in planning and Budget and economic programmes.

As long as it is not done, the situation of dissatisfaction and conflict would continue and people would fight for their rights and if the Government call it an increase in casteism and communalism it is their mistake. They should realise the changing trend of present items and see that we are entering in the 21st century. The man of today is totally a different man, it is not only an era of new technology or computerisation or that when man could work with metals only. Rather the man of today has totally changed who needs new social, economic political and cultural order. The Government should work with a true spirit to provide social, economic and political justice to every citizen to the country as per the resolutions made in the constitution of India. The Government will have to modify their policies and keeping the views expressed in the august House they will have to accept the challenges that come in the way of the nation for the sake of national interests.

[English]

*SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryal Guda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Address of the President this year does not reflect the ground realities. The Address is silent on the disastrous policies pursued by this Government which have led the country into an economic crisis and the American threat to our existence as an independent and sovereign nation. What is more, it applauds the Govt's Ayodhya policy which in fact has led to the demolition of historical Babri Masjid. 47 years after our independence what is the present situation, the situation that poses a threat to our independence and sovereign status. Today, what is the position in Kashmir? Many Hon. Members of the ruling party say that the situation has been brought under control in that trouble-torn State. But the covert and overt support extended to the militants

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telgu.

to destabilise the situation in that State and the open support extended to Pakistan by Americans are not a secret anymore. The American policies which encourage Pakistan to promote terrorism in that States which have in fact emboldened the terrorists to pursue even more terrorists and confrontationist policies are known to everyone. A top official of the U.S. State Department, Mr. Rabin Raphel is now openly questioning the integration of Kashmir with India. After so many years, for the first time we are hearing from one of the top functionaries, that top an important functionary of the only Super Power, the Kashmir is not a part of India. Their advise to alter the Line of Actual Control between India and Pakistan have ranked up controversy. These irresponsible statements have emanated from none other than the only Super Power, America itself. These irresponsible statements of the Americans, who happened to be the only Super Power on the earth today have posed a serious threat to our existence as an independent and sovereign nation. But, strangely the President's Address is totally silent about this explosive recent development. Hon. Home Minister the other day, questioned the interference of Americans on Kashmir issue in the House. But the firm stand taken by the Hon. Home Minister has not found a place in the President's address. Why? After discussing the matter on the floor of Lok Sabha and after the opposition parties denounced vehemently the American interference and wanted to know why the Govt. is not taking cognisance of American statements, the Home Minister came out with his clear pronouncement. Hence at a time when the only Super Power's policies are threatening our sovereignty, it is most regrettable that it has not been mentioned in the Presidential Address.

Similarly, Mr. Chairman even after 47 years of independent existence, what we

are witnessing in the economic field is the gradual mortgaging of our independence and sovereignty. Today we are in a great debt trap. India owes 2,66,000 crores of rupees to other countries. Dr. Manmohan Singh, our Finance Minister has announced in his budget speech that part of the loan amount is now being prepaid. To feel elated at this statement is only self-deception. What happens when the country gets into debt trap? What are the solutions to the present economic crisis and what are the policies that this Govt. wants to pursue to get India out of the debt trap? No one is bothered about this depending economic crisis all that is being said is about the pre payment of a part of particular loan. It is against our self-respect. It is against our self-respect. It is nothing but self-deception and complacency. Needless is it to say that our economic policies are heavily dependent on I.M.F loans. For everything Shri Manmohan Singh rushes to the I.M.F to borrow money. His entire budget is nothing but the reflection of I.M.F policies. Our economic policies are now being dictated by I.M.F. Agriculture policy which we had been following all these years had now been derailed and the new policy has been reframed as per their dictates. Upon their advise only this Government has signed the Agreement on the Dunkel's Proposals. At their advise this Govt. is reducing the subsidies and making the lives of the poor miserable. I want to know whether these Dunkel Proposals are in accordance with our sovereignty and national goals? I want to know whether these proposals are such that which can be followed by an independent country like India. Even the elders in the Congress Party like Shri Vasant Sathe are of the opinion that these proposals strike at the very roots of our sovereignty, will lead the country into a dangerous debt trap and make the country hopelessly dependent on others help for survival. Sir, since the time at my disposal is

[Sh. B. N. Reddy]

very short, I would not go into the details of Denkel's Proposals. The Dunkel Draft is another attempt on the part of the multi-nationals and the imperialist countries particularly U.S. imperialists to impose the neo-colonialist regime under the spacious plea of industrialisation, liberalisation and free trade and allow foreign agricultural produces to flood Indian agricultural markets leading to disruption. These are the proposals. An Indian farmer has been self-dependent for ages. He was not at the mercy of others for seeds. But, now he has been made heavily dependent on the seeds produced in the other countries. He has been totally swept of his feet and now has to depend on the seeds produced in other countries. We are now made on to rely on foreign technology and industries to develop the seeds. It is a serious blow to our sovereignty. I want to know why such a major shift in our agriculture policy and the threat to sovereignty were not mentioned in the President's Address. What is more, an attempt has been made in this speech to camouflage them.

Speaking about the national unity the Presidential Address mentions that "The Ayodya issue is the most convincing demonstration in recent times of the danger inherent in mixing communalism and politics? But I would like to know whether it is not a fact that the very Ayodya issue is the most convincing demonstration of the disgraceful failure of the Govt. in the demolition of the Babri Masjid? The failure of the Govt. in protecting the Masjid is the worst kind of failure. The demolition of Masjid is the worst kind of failure on the part of the Govt. It is the greatest failure of the Govt., I would like to say. So, such a failure has been totally ignored in this Address and in its place

Govt's efforts have been culogised by saying that it is a convincing demonstration in recent times of the dangers inherent in mixing communalism and politics. It is one part of the picture alone. But, the other part, it is the failure of the Govt. which could not protect the Babri Masjid from demolition. Which eventually led to the communal riots in the country. So, Sir, it is really very regrettable that this has not been mentioned in the Address.

Speaking about the Agriculture, the President says that there is a steady progress on this front. It has been mentioned that the Govt. is following the correct policy. A great poet in Telugu, Gurajada Appa Rao, in his poem says that the country means men and women and not dust. So, it depends on the living standards of the men and women.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. You have taken more than 10 minutes.

*SHRI B.N. REDDY: Yes Sir. The very men and women have no land, no food. I am one of the participants in the Telangana Armed struggle from beginning to end. In that Telangana armed struggle which took place 48 years ago we have distributed 10 lakhs of acres of the landless. Now in my State of Andhra Pradesh, the present Govt. claims that it has distributed 5 lakh acres of land. Much of the so-called distributed land has been once again returned to the land lords. The real ownership of the land rests with the landlords only the pattas are in the names of the poor for name sake. What a pitiable example! In west Bengal 12 lakhs of acres of land has been distributed to the landless. It is a record. The rulers are washing their hands with the blood of the poor farmers who are agitating for their rights in other States. In Bengal, with the distribution of land to the landless, the pro-

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telgu.

duction has gone up. But in rest of the country, the production has not gone up. If the President has expressed his satisfaction for achieving 18 crore tonne production in agriculture, it is only a self-deception. Even 47 years after independence, we could not achieve our target in food production. It is not justifiable to feel satisfied with this modest foodgrains production in the country. Now even our agriculture policy has become export oriented. Now, the emphasis is on reducing the foodgrain production and growing more commercial crops which have export value. It is really a dangerous policy. A day may soon come when we have to beg for our food from other countries. This shows to what an extent we have gone to follow the American advises and dictates. Even to this day nearly 67 to 70% of arable land is dependent on rains for agriculture. We do not have irrigation facilities to cultivate this land. There are no permanent water resources. What a farmer needs is a piece of land and water to cultivate that land. There is neither land nor the water. There are nearly 500 incomplete projects in the country. In reality only 33% of the arable land has the assured water facility. In my State, Andhra Pradesh, there are 25 projects which are pending. Though we have perennial rivers like Krishna and Godavari, the lands continue to be thirsty and the crops continue to wither away for want of water as the projects remain incomplete even to this day. Drought conditions are prevailing in this State as there is scarcity of water. If surface water available, then the ground water will also be available. But if there is no surface water, how can one imagine that there will be ground water. The ground water level has gone down 200' to 300' deep. So, there is no water even for drinking purpose also. I want to know why the President has ignored this in his Address. Hon. Minister Shri Balam Jakhra also ignoring this fact. In my State, famine condition

are prevailing in 400 mandals. People in these areas have already started migrating to other areas in search of their livelihood. Animals are being butchered for want of fodder. The situation is acute in Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda and in some districts of Rayalaseema region. This is the actual position in my State. If we want that our agriculture should develop, then there should be radical land reforms. All the incomplete irrigation projects should be completed immediately. Then only there is the possibility of agricultural development. Then only the living standards of our people can improve. In the prevailing situation, poverty is on the increase. More and more farmers are coming under the poverty net. I want to ask the Hon. Minister Shri Balam Jakhra as to how many farmers have really prospered? The fact is that big farmers have become marginal farmers and marginal farmers have now become small farmers and finally small farmers are turning out to be agricultural labourers. The number of agricultural labourers is swelling day after day. Is it not a fact? Did you ever think about it? Mr. Chairman, the budget presents for this year is pro-rich and anti-poor. The corporate taxes have been brought down. The taxes on cosmetics have also been reduced. But, the tax burden on the common man has been increased many fold. With this budget, Dr. Manmohan Singh has done a great favour to the rich who lead a luxurious life. He is now being eulogised for this great achievement. The prices of essential commodities have gone up. The prices of luxurious items are coming down while the prices of essential commodities are shooting up. Many agitations took place in my State against price rise. The rice used to be sold at Rs. 2/- per kg when Shri N.T. Rama Rao was the Chief Minister. Now the same rice costs Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/- per kg. Edible oil is no more available at Rs. 29/- per kg. Essential commodities, cloth, edible oil etc are not

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within the reach of the poor. That is the reason why poverty is on the increase. Hence asking the Govt. to bring in the radical reforms in the Govt. policies in order to alleviate poverty, to safeguard our independence and sovereignty to integrate and prepare the countrymen to thwart the evil designs of imperialist forces, to give more autonomy to the Kashmiries, to implement more and more schemes for the benefit and development of the people, to implement the land reforms and distribute the land among the landless poor. I conclude my speech with thanks to the Chair for giving me this opportunity.

DR. R. MALLU (Nagar Kurnool): Respected Chariman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by hon. Shri Shiv Charan Mathur and seconded by Prof. Thomas for the Address given by our hon. President to the joint parliamentary session on 21st of February 1994.

Sir, I feel that the Address of the President is a true reflection of the brief review of the performance of the policies and programmes of this Government in the preceeding year and planning for the succeeding year. Some of the hon. Members, while speaking on this issue, have said that the President's Address is not necessary in this system of Government.

I totally disagree with that statement because for any democratic Government that is in power, it is very much necessary to review its performance in the previous year and to plan to proceed in the current year to achieve the goals set for the development of the weaker sections and achieving the socio-economic development of the country.

Our President very clearly told that there

has been a steady progress in all the fields of the country, particularly with reference to the law and order situation, production, procurement and stocks of foodgrains, about the foreign exchange reserves and about the rate of inflation that has come down from double digits to a single digit. All these things are evidence that this Government is able to create confidence among the people of India as well as in foreign countries.

For any democratic Government the trust of the people in the Government and its trust in the people are very much important for a smooth running of the Government and for better achievement of the goals set for it. This Government has achieved this very important goal, that is the creation of the trust among the people of India towards it.

The political stability of any Government is very important for a better delivery of the goods to the people. This has been achieved by the P.V. Narasimha Rao Government which has called a minority Government. Most of the Opposition Members, whenever they spoke, irrespective of the party to which they belonged, whether it was the BJP, Janata Dal, CPI, or CPI(M), have been ridiculously telling that this Government was a minority Government and that it would not last five years. Most unfortunately, because of their own disdain, most of the parties — I need not tell the names — have got negative results and reduced their number because their members had come over to this side and now made it a majority Government. It is not because of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao because of this Government that this Government has become a majority Government: it is only because of their continuous efforts. There were a number of No Confidence Motions moved by the Opposition Parties and it is very clear — it is evident — that after every No Confidence Motion there

were people breaking those parties and coming to the Congress Party. It started from Telugu Desam of Andhra Pradesh, it happened in the Janata Dal and after each No Confidence Motion it was an Opposition Party which had lost and it was the ruling party which had gained. This has happened only because of the greatest trust created by the Government under the dynamic leadership of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. It is only because of that, most of the MPs knowing that if they go back to the people they would not get elected from the particular party which they were representing, they took a decision even against their old party line and joined the Congress Party. That is the real fact of the proceedings which took place in this very House. So, I request the Opposition Parties not to go in again and again for No Confidence Motions and lose their members in favour of the Congress Party.

Sir, for any Government, not only creation of trust among the people towards the Government but also the creditability of the Government will give good results in the democratic system. Sir, you are aware that the credibility of our present Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narassimha Rao is so great. Some of the Opposition Member - while speaking the other day had referred to the suit-case issue of that great man, Mr. Harshad Mehta, about whom everyone in this country clearly knows that he was responsible for the greatest scam in the banking system. *[Interruptions]*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): You have made him a great man.

DR. R. MALLU: My friends from BJP thought that this was the greatest opportunity for them to win the elections of Uttar Pradesh and other States. But, most unfortunately, in the middle of the elections they realised that this was one subject which would give

them a negative result and that is why they could not make it as an election issue and left it in the middle. Most of the people realised that this suit-case issue had been fabricated through Harshad Mehta only to divert the attention of the people and there was no need for this Government to explain as to what had happened. It was clearly revealed through the Press and other media that this incident had not at all taken place. Even after that, most unfortunately, some of the Opposition Members are referring to this suit-case incident. It is an insult to the Office of the Prime Minister rather than an insult to an individual. This is clearly by the recent election results of five State Assemblies. Now, there is no scope for the Opposition to talk on any front. The results of elections in Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have shown their plight. Now lot of people are coming towards the Congress Party. I need not dilute on this issue any further. So, the credibility of the present Government is so great now that we are getting the so-called loan from IMF or World Bank or from any other country without following the minimum formalities that are expected to be followed by any country. The simple example is that the Government, which was there before we came, had pledged 27 tonnes of gold to get the loan from foreign countries. The credibility of the present Government is such that it not only got back the pledged gold from foreign countries but got the loan without giving any security. Now, lot of people are coming forward to give the loan, which is required for the development of the country. That is the kind of credibility that this Government is enjoying now. If you see the external affairs front, now India is seen in a better light than it was seen previously. And wherever we go, we are the people who are leading and giving suggestions to the betterment of countries, particularly the developing countries. So,

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international credibility has been given to this country by our Government, by our Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. The credibility of our Government is so great.

The law and order situation has improved very much, from macro level to micro level. Sir, as you are aware, the problem of Punjab had been solved dramatically not by using the force from the Central Government but by the Government elected by the people in Punjab. Now, Sir, as you are aware, Punjab State is just like any other State. The law and order situation in Punjab has totally come to normalcy and it has started doing well in agriculture and there is industrial development now in the State. Many of the Opposition Members had opposed the conduct of elections in Punjab. But our hon. Prime Minister had taken the decision to hold the elections in Punjab without knowing whether the Congress Government would come or not. Fortunately, the Congress Government had come in Punjab and the law and order problem has been solved. Now Khalistan problem has also been solved totally.

Earlier, when we had gone to Assam, we witnessed a lot of kidnappings by ULFA and other extremists. Now this problem has been solved totally by the same people's Government without using the force from the Central Government.

These are only two example which I wanted to give to tell the hon. Members on the other side to realise what is the perception of the Government which is sitting on this side. It is not interested in using the force undemocratically, without bothering about the feelings of the people. What the Government is doing is in accordance with

the necessity and feelings of the people. That is the reason why the law and order situation has come to normalcy.

Sir, as you know, the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir was very bad previously. It is definitely not that good but definitely there is a great improvement in the law and order situation there. When people talk about Kashmir, simply talk about the law and order situation, without bothering about the historical background of Jammu and Kashmir. When you talk about Jammu and Kashmir, you must think what is the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the foreign countries, what is the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the Pakistan, what is the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the Government of India. As you all know, there is a great historical background which is required to be kept in mind while speaking on this issue. Particularly our friends from BJP side are, time and again, exploiting the situation, without bothering about the historical background, without knowing what is the relationship between the State Jammu and Kashmir and the Government of India, what is the relationship between Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir, what is the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the foreign countries. As you know, Sir, Jammu and Kashmir is one of the very important places from the point of view of our defence, and a lot of other countries like U.S. and others wanted to come and do something in that area. That is the reason why they are trying to poke their nose in the affairs of Pakistan from where they want to create problems for us. Fortunately, it was made very clear by our hon. Home Minister when he was speaking on the Resolution on Jammu and Kashmir, that our Government is very firm and very clear on what type of action it wants to take. I am sure, our country's people were very happy on hear-

ing the speech of our Home Minister. I hope we have the courage and commitment to solve the problem of Jammu and Kashmir in future, even if it deteriorates still further. We are seeing internationally how Pakistan is trying to present this issue of Jammu and Kashmir as a human rights problem. But I am happy to inform that no other country is coming to the help of Pakistan and in the process, our Government is also trying to lobby and protect the interests of Jammu and Kashmir and the country's interests at the highest level.

Coming to the Hazrat Bal issue, when there were great elections in U.P., lot of people had brought pressure over the Government here, both from inside and outside, and a lot of Muslim countries also brought pressure over the Government. But it stood like a rock, maintained the secular character of this Government and solved the issue very amicably and very peacefully, without using the force in solving that Hazrat Bal problem. This is one of the great examples which we can show not only to the people of India but to the other countries also. This has been observed by the electronic media, particularly the T.V. and the radio.

So, when it is the Hazrat Bill issue, we see that it is peacefully solved. But what about Ayodhya issue? As you know, it was a very delicate and a very disturbing issue in the year 1993. Because of that, the Government was under heavy pressure in 1993. That is the reason why we started very badly in 1993 but we ended up with an optimistic note of feeling that we are doing better on this issue of Ayodhya. As you know, most of the people, particularly the BJP people, thought that they would come back to power in U.P. and the other five States by using the name of Ayodhya.

The people of India, though they are not

educated much and though they are not highly confined to the secular ideas, they have shown to this nation once again without any reservation that this country stands only for secularism, nothing but secularism, not only now, but in future also. Most of the people in this country have realised beyond doubt that this country cannot use the religion for deriving benefits in the field of politics.

After the recent Assembly elections, there is a new trend emerging out of caste based politics also. Some people could come to power on the basis of caste. They are thinking that they can do the same thing in other States also and they are spreading the same ideology. I am sure the people of India are not only great in protecting the secular sentiment of this country by not bringing the people who are using the religion to power, but they will also stop the people who are using the caste and try to come to power. So, in our country in the times to come neither the religion nor the caste will achieve anything in politics and it is only the philosophy which can achieve victory in politics. As you know, Sir, it is on the basis of philosophy, the Congress Party fought for the independence of the country, got the independence to this country. They became leaders only on the basis of this philosophy which is required for the overall development in the social and economic fields. That is how they are ruling this country for more than 40 years. Now and then some people have come to power by misguiding the people and exploiting the sentiments of the people, but they could not continue for more than two years in one case, 11 months in another case and four months in the third instance. So, I am happy to inform the House that this Government under the leadership of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao has demonstrated once again to the people of India that it is working for the

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welfare of the people without any motives behind it. I want to make it very clear particularly to those people who are trying to exploit the issues, not only in India, but outside the country also.

Sir, in the field of economics, when we came to power after the elections in 1991, the inflation rate was 17 per cent at that time and today, it has come to single digit level. When this Government came to power under the leadership of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1991, the foreign exchange reserve was very meagre and the economic system of this country was almost on the verge of collapse. As you are aware, it is very clearly mentioned by the hon. Finance Minister that the foreign exchange reserves have increased to a great extent according to the figures shown in the latest Budget.

Sir, at the time of introduction of the new economic and industrial policies in this country, most of the hon. Members from the Opposition side have started yielding good results. [Interruptions] I have already explained about the suitcase issue. It is a spent slogan where there is no substance and I think it will give negative results to them if they raise it once again. So, it is because of the new economic and industrial policies, a lot of investors from within the country and from other countries have come to India to invest directly and indirectly through various sectors. As you are aware, a lot of projects are being established in India in the power sector and also in the communications sector. I can say a number of projects which have come up in various sectors, but the time is limited. Our friends have now realised beyond doubt that this is the fact of life.

Some of the people, while speaking on the President's Address have said that this

Government under the leadership of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao is deviating from the Nehru-Indira Gandhi-Rajiviji philosophy of doing things. I totally disagree with the statement of the Opposition members. The Congress Party is only changing its policies and programmes in accordance with the feelings and necessities of the people of India. It is the Congress Party which has fought for the independence of the country and got it. Later, it was Pandit Nehru who planned for the Five Year Plans and got the developmental works. Later, Indiraji brought certain important measures. Though the slogan of the CPI and the CPI(M) is, land for the tillers and nationalisation of banks, which they had been telling since long time, after Indira Gandhiji came to power, she realised that the people had come to that level of asking for the land that they are tilling for years together as they had no right on it. So, she had brought land for the tillers legislation. Similarly, she had brought forward the Land Ceiling Act. She had brought the nationalisation of banks. She had stopped payment of Privy purse to the princes. It is not that she had deviated from the Nehru's philosophy at that time. It is only in accordance with the existing feelings and necessities of the people that she did it. The Congress Party will always do according to the feelings and necessities of the people. That is the reason why our Prime Minister has also introduced new economic and industrial policies, keeping in view the greatest changes taking place, particularly in the former Soviet Russia and other communist countries. This country has introduced the system of new economic policy and industrial policy for industrial growth and it has definitely given the good results. We have the efficient bureaucrats who goes with whatever system this country has adopted. They will definitely see that the particular system will be useful for the overall benefit and development of the country. There is a

good coordination between the political system and the Executive system of India. I hope, in future also, this will definitely yield good results for the country.

Though new economic system has been brought about, the Prime Minister and the Government have given subsidies through public distribution system. They have identified 1700 public distribution system outlets throughout the country where the purchasing capacity of the poor people is very low. This is in addition to the PDS outlets of the respective States. This would benefit the poor people, particularly, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This shows very clearly the commitment of the Government towards poor people. They have also kept the subsidy of nearly Rs. 400 crores to Rs. 500 crores for fertilizers, as this Government feels that it is very important for the benefits of the farmers.

We come to the vulnerable sections of the society. They are Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities and children. This Government is taking care of them in the real spirit to see that their lot is improved. Their development in the socio economic field is very important which was thought of by our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. As you know, for the first time, the Prime Minister has started the BC Finance Corporation with an amount of Rs. 200 crores and has also started Minorities Corporation with an amount of Rs. 500 crores.

Ours is a country of villages. 80 per cent of our people live in villages. That is the reason, why our Prime Minister has allotted Rs. 30,000 crore in the Eighth Plan as against Rs. 7,500 crore for the rural development in the Seventh Five Year Plan. This shows how much commitment this Government has for the welfare of the villagers.

Another important thing is, when I think of this Panchayati Raj Act, we go back to the idea of Shri Rajiv Gandhi who thought of bringing forward this Bill, when he was the Prime Minister. Unfortunately, some of the Opposition people could not support this Bill. That is why, the Bill could not be passed. But with the same spirit, our Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had brought forward this Bill to Parliament and got it passed in Parliament. I think, this is the second independence for the villagers, since the establishment of Panchayati Raj system will bring democracy at the grassroot level. I want to thank all the Opposition Parties also who have supported this Bill now. *[Interruptions]*

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I am taking about those Opposition people during that period who have not cooperated with Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Now I thank the Opposition people who have cooperated and I feel this is one of the Bills that is worth voting. I need not vote again any other Bill because it gives real democratic system to the people at village level. *[Interruptions]*

As regards panchayati raj Bill, there is a provision for conducting elections for every five years. There is a provision for 33 per cent reservation for women. This has given lot of importance to 50 per cent of the population who are neglected all this time.

Now I will come to my State. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, there is a steady progress in all fields under the leadership of Chief Minister, Shri Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy. He could successfully control Naxalites not only by using Police Force but also by implementing the socio-economic programmes there. It is Shri Bhaskara Reddy who has taken the historic decision of imposing

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prohibition in Andhra Pradesh. I feel it is very important for every State also to impose prohibition and I am happy to inform you that prohibition has started yielding good results in favour of weaker sections, backward classes and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This prohibition programme has to be taken care.

Shri Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy has announced 33 per cent reservation for backward classes in Panchayati Raj election in Andhra Pradesh. He also started a separate Department at Secretariat level for speedy implementation of the programmes and policies of the Government meant for BCs. *[Interruptions]*

While speaking from Telugu Desam the other day, Dr. Venkateswara Rao referred to the name of Prime Minister saying that he has not given any projects to Andhra Pradesh and that the Prime Minister has spent Rs. 6 crores for his six trips to Andhra Pradesh. I want to tell you that it is a wrong statement. After he has become Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao; has made six trips to Nandyal which is the parliamentary Constituency of the hon. Prime Minister. Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao is basically a Member of Parliament from Nandyal and then Prime Minister. That is the reason why he is making visits to Nandyal. Whenever he makes visits to Nandyal, it is compulsory for Government to provide security. Its cost is Rs. 6 crores. That is unnecessarily exposed in the House in a different way.

I just want to tell you about how many projects have been cleared at the instance and initiative of the Prime Minister. There are a number of projects costing thousands of crores which fall under irrigation sector,

power sector, communication sector and transport and education sectors.

Hyderabad megacity project has been cleared worth Rs. 913 crores and when we come to transport. Hyderabad Light Rail Transit Project is worth Rs. 717 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Shri Nitish Kumar): Kindly conclude your speech now.

DR. R. MALLU: When we come to external assistance, shrimp and fish Project for Andhra Pradesh worth Rs. 88 crores has been cleared. For Technical Department, Rs. 80 crores project has been cleared. For Kakinada port, Rs. 151 crores project has been cleared. Under irrigation, Rs. 669 crores worth of projects were cleared at different places. A number of other irrigation schemes are in the process of clearance. *[Interruptions]*

MR. CHAIRMAN (Shri Nitish Kumar): Kindly conclude now. You have taken enough time.

DR. R. MALLU: My Constituency is Nagar Kumool parliamentary constituency which is very backward and remote and which is infested by Naxalite activities and all those things. Lot of people are migrating from Nagar Kumool to various districts and States for want of livelihood. They are popularly known as Palamur labour and they are known as hard workers. I request the Central Government to sanction a pilot project for checking the migration of labour from my constituency.

I request the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister to sanction a new railway line from Raichur to Macherla. I had made this request earlier also. I expect at least the Railway Minister will include this point during his reply to Railway Budget.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is taking all possible steps for the development of this area from the State Government. I request the Prime Minister to take up pilot projects for the development of horticulture, water resources etc.

The people of my Constituency will be looking to me to speak about their problems in Parliament.

I request the Central Government to sanction one railway line from Raipur to Macherla.

Mollachintalapalli or Kalavakurti lift irrigation scheme costing about Rs. 300 crores may kindly be taken up by Central Government.

I once again support the Motion of Thanks for the President's Address and conclude my speech.

DR. RAMESHCHAND TOMAR (Hapur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the President's Address delivered on 21st February does not lead to any direction and also it is contradictory to the prevailing circumstances, therefore I rise to oppose it.

16.06 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

The Hon. President has expressed concern over Kashmir problem and stated that Kashmir is an integral part of our country. It is correct. But the people of the country want reply to some of the questions. They want to know under what circumstances the terrorists who infiltrated into the 'Hazrat Bal Dargah' were spotted and why action was not taken against them. People want to know that since Pakistan is encouraging terrorist activities in Kashmir and spoiling

the image of our country in the world, the Hon. President in his address should have assured to take severe action against them but why this has not been done? That's why people of the country are disappointed. Lakhs of People are migrating from Kashmir and leading life of displaced persons in their own country. How long will it take to make the circumstances favourable in Kashmir and those people could go back to their homes. It has not been mentioned anywhere in the President Address. By what time they will be provided security? Neither any of the Ministers of the Government nor any member of Parliament of the Congress Party has visited them to see their plight while they are compelled to lead a miserable life.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Kashmir problem can be solved. When article 370 was enforced, the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had stated that this article has been enforced for interim period and that it would be repealed very soon. Therefore, this section should be done away with at the earliest, it has also been a cause to encourage terrorist activities there. Similarly an army cantonment should be set up in Bhadravar in Doda district. Measures taken to this effect would help in solving the Kashmir problem.

Nothing has been stated about the Dunkel Proposals in the President's Address, this has also been the cause of concern and terror among the people. People consider the Dunkel Proposals as documents to enslave the country. All the sections, organisations, Parties and journalists in the country have opposed these proposals. Our party propose to hold a big rally in April to oppose Dunkel Proposals; in which lakhs of farmers and labourers would participate. The farmer of the country is worried about these Proposals. Agriculture is the

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major occupation and the back-bone of our economy. 70 percent of the total population depends on agriculture, however, agriculture has not been professionalised so far. The farmer caters to the needs of the countrymen by producing food grains and this fulfils his social and national responsibilities. However, restrictions are being imposed on agriculture by means of Dunkel Proposals and the path to bondage being shown to the country by bringing about changes in the agriculture by the developed countries in their own interests. The implementation of these Proposals would ruin the country.

We will have to depend on foreign countries for fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. Traditional seeds would be wiped out, farmers would be rendered labourers, we will have no right on our best breed of cattle and we will have to import food grains at higher cost from the other countries. We would also lose our right on trees and the support price of agricultural products would be fixed by the foreign countries.

My submission is that if Dunkel proposals are implemented, fertilizers, seeds and pesticides would become expensive and we would get less support price. This would have an adverse effect on small marginal farmers and crores of them will be rendered jobless. Therefore keeping in view the interests of the country, the Dunkel Proposals should be rejected. It has been stated in the President's address that the Government is fully aware of the atrocities being committed on Scheduled Castes in several parts of the country and ensures the effective implementation of socio-economic development programmes for the protection of Scheduled Castes under the law. Various schemes for the development of Scheduled Castes are formulated but they do not get

social justice. The incidents of atrocities on Scheduled Castes have increased instead of decreasing. The total number of incidents that took place with Harijan women and other Scheduled Castes during 1990 was 18575 and that during 1992 was 18925. Immediate action should be taken to check such incidents in future. Lakhs of cases of torturing Harijans have been lying pending in courts. Special courts should be set up for the immediate disposal of those cases. Since Mulayam Singh Government came into power in Uttar Pradesh, the incidents of rape with Harijan women have gone up and in some of the cases even the MLA's of the ruling party were involved. It is a matter of utter shame. Cruelty was committed on 18 years old Bhanumati of 'Astar village' of 'Charkhari' in Hamirpur. Similarly a woman named 'Shivpatia' in 'Donakand' was taken nude in the area. Such incidents are heart rending. Law does not exist at all in Uttar Pradesh and the cruelty on women of Scheduled Castes is increasing day by day. There is no district which has been free of such incidents. The central Government should take measures to check the occurrence of such incidents or dismiss the Mulayam Singh Government. The police in the State is harassing the innocent people, Harijans and people of other castes in Giridharpur village of my constituency were harassed and put behind the bars. Such incidents should be checked because all this is being done at the direction of the Government. The bureaucrats appointed by the Mulayam Singh Government are encouraging casteism. Efforts are being made to hush up such incidents. Industrial units have a great contribution in the development of the country and the way in which Shri Manmohan Singh are implementing economic policies. It would result in closure of industrial units in the country and increase unemployment. The Hon. Prime Minister has assured that educated unemployed people would

get employment, but lakhs of people will rather be rendered unemployed.

About 2 lakh 47 thousand industrial units have become sick by now. 456 of them are under BIFR. 34,000 units are lying sick only in Uttar Pradesh. If the implementation of present economic policy continues, the development of the country would come to a standstill. The Government should rather formulate a policy which helps in reviving the existing sick industries like Modi Steel etc. Thousands of labourers have been rendered jobless in Modi Nagar. The Government should take strict action against the owners to revive these industries.

Nothing has been said about the problems of weavers in the President's Address. Their problem is very serious. Lakhs of weavers are unemployed these days. Due to the indifferent attitude of the Government 90 per cent of the Handlooms are lying closed. Recently in the month of February, All India Weavers' Federation held a demonstration Payment of the goods worth crores of rupees purchased about six months ago has not been made so far. Goods prepared by them have been lying there for the last four months, but Government had yet not purchased them. I would submit to the Government that the prices of jute and yarn that have gone up, should be reduced and dues worth crores of rupees be paid to 'UPICA' and Handloom Corporation should be directed to be paid Provision should be made to raise a market where they can easily sell their goods.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam Chariman, the Address by the hon'ble President is a traditional and effective one. This Address mentions our internal challenges, unity and integrity of our country and our place in the World market. As usual, everything was touched upon in the Address

irrespective of the fact whether there is any outcome or not. Today every nation should have a clear mind considering the challenges being faced by the country, world and even a common man. Policies should be formulated for the present and long-term basis. I listened intently to the whole Address of the President on the day it was being read. I wanted to see whether the Address touches upon all the crisis and challenges faced by the people of India not only before Independence even after Independence, and also whether it strives to initiate a debate on these points or not? Whether the contents of the Address and the practical scenario constitute a concrete debate? A concrete debate takes place only in this House. What impact this Government is going to have on the masses? Mahatma Gandhi used to say that all the future Government formed after Independence be it in Delhi, Lucknow, Patna, etc. would claim to have done away with poverty and all the problems of farmers and labourers and initiating equality and socialism. But he fixed one yardstick to measure the intentions of the future Governments and that yardstick was Indian labourer. At the time of Independence their population was 37 per cent. If you do not find any improvement in his standard of living that would mean, the Government sitting in Delhi, Bhopal or Lucknow was lying. And if that be the case, then, one should vow to initiate an agitation against the Government. And this is what it looks now.

Madam Chairman, I would like to broadly raise certain issues. India alone constitutes 43 percent of the total world population of literates. And 41% of the unemployed of the world. India also tops the list so far as the number of blind children and the number of people living below poverty line or those people who get only one square meal or even those who do not even get one square

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meal, is concerned. India constitutes 27% of such people in the World. Similarly, the number of handicapped, leprosy-afflicted children in 53% of the total number in the world. The Address of the President reflects the policies of the Government but the conditions of our country is clear from what I have said. India seems to have acquired a right to beg. You can go to any part of the world to take alms. Though you do not want to take alms, yet, our conditions forces us to do so and this Government is responsible for this condition of our country. You have retrenched 2 lakh people working in various industries. The fertilizer factories are being locked out and paper mills are being closed down; agro-based Industries are on the verge of closure. After the forthcoming budget, you will find that all the factories have locked-out. You have charged NTC of Rs. one crore and there are one lakh thirty seven thousand labourers in it. You have introduced tax on agro-based Industries and on pesticides. You have imposed 10 percent Excise-duty on paper manufactures in indigenous agro-based industries. You have levied 10n percent duty on those goods, boxes etc. also which are made from these products. You have given cent percent relaxation to foreign companies. Such hunger, poverty and unemployment make us hang our heads in shame before the world.

I would also like to say something about the adhoc arrangements made by you in respect of poverty. How many villages do you propose to link with telephone? To improve the conditions in our country, you should make arrangements to provide water to those 70% farmers of our populations who depend on agriculture. They are neither in need of roads nor electricity. Their main requirement is water. Our poets have

made clouds and season the objects of most of their poems. What resolution has been made in your Addresses to augment the number of irrigated areas in our country? No mention has been made in the address about the unemployment, poverty and hunger prevailing in the country. There are around 45 judges in Supreme Court i.e. there are only three judges for the 43 percent of population of India. Whether he is aware about the number of judges in High Court, the number of people in service, and the total population of people belonging to backward classes before the implementation of Mandala Commission? What have you proposed for the other 52 percent of India's population? You have constituted a Development Board for backward classes. You are giving an amount of Rs. 80 crores to it and it has also been increased to some extent. You have not suggested anything or made any resolution for the removal of poverty, hunger etc.

The second big problem within India is removal of casteism.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The hon'ble Minister is sleeping.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: When the whole Government is sleeping. it is no wonder if he is also sleeping. Let him sleep.... [Interruptions]...Hon'ble Minister, people are saying that you are sleeping. I am saying that you should not be roused from your slumber. He is listening to everything even while asleep.

It is a great problem that casteism is on an increase. This casteism was not created by people who were selected to this House. Nobody can hazard a guess as to since when this problem is there. Somebody dates it back to two thousand years while somebody else dates it back to three thou-

sand years. I would like to tell the people present in the House that casteism is a reality, I am not against it. I only want to say that it is a hypocritical attitude on the part of the Government to not to accept casteism as a reality and that there should be a judicial system for it. Today poor people are getting enlightened. You claim to have constituted Mandal Commission. We welcome it but you do not. I do not want to go into this debate. We implemented 27 per cent reservation recommended by Mandal Commission. We are bound by the reservation provided in the Constitution. We cannot overlook it. Casteism is surviving in democracy and it can not be done away with in a democratic set up only. Casteism is a malady. The President's Address does not mention any policies for casteism. Casteism has been responsible for our present deplorable conditions, our years of slavery and defeat in battles with China etc. A discussion on Indian's hunger and poverty will only point towards casteism as the main factor.

Casteism means only one thing a person who only does lip-service is considered belonging to high class and a person who is dedicated to work all his life will be called a harijan. If we're to change this. This we will have to formulate a new casteism-policy. For how long can this reservation hold waters? When everybody in the country is in favour of eliminating it, then, a policy must be formulated to eliminate it. The 10 percent population of India is sitting on riches of 90 percent population.

Madam Chairman, you are sitting before a mike which was invented by somebody and their spectacles you are wearing, or this electricity or the camera which is taking our pictures and showing on T.V. were all invented by other talents. We have read in story books that a person had given a live running commentary to Dhritrashtra

on the Kurushetra war. We did not do any inventions in numericals.

Madam Chairman, I do not know whether this Parliament will ever hold debate or not, but I assure you, that if and when Janata Dal comes across a way to end casteism, we would follow if on our own. Then our country will overcome destruction and in human practices. Today we have to cut a sorry figure when poverty and hunger are discussed because we are a very poor country but the Government is satisfied that they can raise their standard of living by giving Rs. 80 crores. The reservation policy has not been made comprehensive. The Constitution has given you a right. You are only supposed to issue a notification identifying various castes. But no mention has been made at all in this regard in the President's Address. Nobody is in favour of 27 percent reservation. According to your policy 2 lakh workers, which constituted 22 percent and not 27 percent were dismissed. Lakhs of people rendered homeless and you have taken several other actions which brought them suffering. Nobody knows how many industries are going to become victim of this consumerism. Crores of poor people will lose the means of their livelihood. Nobody knows how many private industries will come into being and to what extent reservation policy will be implemented in them.

In India, somewhere the reservation was provided 70 per cent and some where 60 per cent. This achievement which could be gained after the struggle of 52 years has been undone by this Government. The decision of reservation is in Government's hand, The decision made by it will become the part of the constitution. The Supreme Court cannot interfere with it. The Government did not give their genuine rights to them for 27 years. This has not been mentioned in the Address also.

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The people who lost their life in the second World War sacrificed themselves for the cause of freedom. But its 6 fold people have died in internal clashes in our country.

The Ayodhya incident has been referred to in the Address. It is right that if the country is mentally sick people will be indulged in caste war. The people of India have passed through the era of thousands of years of slavery. Therefore, such a malady is natural. But I would like to know whether the Government of free India proposes to be determined for removing this evil or not. The elections recently held in five State have decided the fate of our party. Many of our candidates have lost the elections and some others have won it. Some people say that the Janata Dal also has lost elections. We accept it. But it is the country that has won.

The people of the country have given a golden opportunity to the Government. It is not the problem of casteism only. So many issues give the shape of problems. The government has referred it to the Supreme Court to seek its advice why does the Government not refer it resolutely to the Article 138? Irrespective of the fact whether we are in Government or not, we will implement the verdict of the court strictly. But seeking advice from Supreme Court will put the Government into trouble. When appears in newspapers, tension will be created in society. I would like to state that issue is above politics and the Government should not indulge in political interference with the issues which are above politics.

The issue of victory and dignity of two communities was at stake in the Babri Masjid issue. The Government let the people settle

this issue. Even after such a grave situation, the people of five state strengthened your hands. They give you an opportunity but the Government does not want to utilise it properly.

The major part of the Address contains the reference to the foreign policy. I would like to speak on Dunkel issue and new economic policies during the discussion on the Dunkel proposal.

Time is short and the Chairman has rung the bell twice. I, therefore, would not like to speak for a long time. If I am given some more time, I would point out the achievement of the Government. Never before was such a large scale distortion of policy on Delhi-Level. The Anti-Defection Law was introduced. Everybody knows as to how it was manipulated and floor-crossing was instigated. The Government is taking life easy. *[Interruptions]* There is shortage of time. Therefore, I conclude. By the details of the foreign tours made by the Government are covered in 6 or pages. The details relate to countries toured its proposed foreign policy and places where meals were taken cold drinks like coca-cola, pepsi cola taken.....*[Interruptions]* I do feel here that some persons visits here as guests and they drink. But it is said that stating so is prohibited *[Interruptions]* I did never go on a foreign tour. Even if I go, I cannot raise my head. We cannot raise our head to the policies of the Government. On account of poverty, unemployment and communalism. Our head is bowed down out of humiliation. Today the Kashmir issue is know to all. Just now Sh. Tomar was referring to the killing of the harijans. Harijans have been murdered in this country for thousands of years. One and a half lakh harijans are murdered and three and a half lakh harijan women are raped. Follow up action is not taken even if the FIR is registered in Police Station. It need not too

much discussion. We also have committed some mistakes on the Kashmir issue. It was a mistake to send Shri Jagmohan there. But we ruled for nearly two years only. But this Government went on committing mistakes one after another in its rule of so many years. Today, America is threatening the Government on Kashmir and Punjab issue. It finds that the Government has weakened the country. Therefore, it is threatening it. We are weak today because of this fact also that Russia had provided us protection umbrella earlier.

On the one hand we want to implement the Mandal Commission recommendations, on the other hand, you provoke the people to indulge in self immolation. The reservation will be enforced sooner or later. The poor and the backward class of people should be provided special reservation.

We had protected Kashmir when there was the erstwhile Soviet Union. Our colleague says that our policy of non-alignment was very great.

With the presence of erstwhile Soviets Union the country could provide defensive arrangements in Kashmir. But now this world has become global. Now America is the single Super power. America browbeat us three times but we hide our face with shame. Madam Chairperson, even a strong and robust wrestler cannot stop a dissent engine. Virtually, we do not have sufficient power to look daggers at other country. Therefore, the Government first make the country strong enough. Today we dare not speak on Kashmir.

Today America does not speak against China. It is well aware of the fact and we have once tested it. The army fled, the General ran away Our hon. Prime Minister expressed with anguish that it was a betray-

al. Lata Manageshkar was called and it was recited 'Ae mere Watan ke logon, tum ankhi main bhar lo pani,' we recieved a severe set back in battle we should weep. It should be noted that it is the weak nation that wails over defeat of after being harassed. But a valiant nation grows angry and fights against that nation. But we are not in the latter's position. Due to the poverty, unemployment, oppression on women of the country and mal- treatment meted out to the poor have made the country hollow from within. It must be noted, unless the country is internally strong, it can never throw down the gauntlet to America.

But today China is throwing down the gauntlet. We may have ideological difference with it. But America cannot browbeat China. If the Government of America interfere with the internal issues of China, the Government of China won't wait for three or four months for taking action. It will give befitting reply then and there. But our Government takes three months to do so. Our hon. Maratha Minister of Home Affairs is present here.....

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, you have spoken for 28 minutes please give opportunity to others also to speak.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I follow you. My submission is only this much that —

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Are you perturbed in hearing only? Does hearing truth see so harsh? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (*Mayilasuturai*): Mr. Nitish Kumar, we are not perturbed at all. It is really surprising as to how you chose a person like him your leader where as a temperate person like Shri George Fernandes is there.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please, take the dignity of the House into your notice.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Even if Shri George Fernandes rose on his leg. You would have interrupted the most of all. You are in the grip of your habits.

SH. SHARAD YADAV: Madam Chairman, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has rightly stated that Shri George Fernandes is very balanced person. He is more balanced than I am. I was born in very small village. Had I been born in an Urban area and had I been the sons of father as you had I could have thousand times more balanced and temperate. What you have stated is right.

I was submitting to the Government only this much that it is not retaliating with the required promptness and alacrity on Kashmir issue with the spirit of national integrity. The Government cannot do so only because it is weak from within. The Government is ruling the country by seeking foreign loans and it is bound to have open market in India. Only because it wants to rule the country on the economy of foreign loans.

Unless this country becomes internally strong, its foreign policy cannot become concrete.

I want to submit only this much that nowhere in the Address the Government has will power to meet the challenges of the problems of poverty, unemployment and national integrity of the country. The will power of the Government is so weak, inefficient that I have no way out other than opposing the motion and warning the government thereof.

With these words I express my thanks

and conclude. I hope that good sense will prevail in the Government.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Haradhan Roy.

I would like to request all the hon. members to be mindful of time because so many hon. members are to speak here.

[English]

*SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Madam Chairperson, I have stood up to oppose the President's Address. It is a well known fact that the Address read by the President reflects the various policies pursued by the Government and the President is made to read the Address. We also know that the Address does not, of course reflect the personal views of the President.

It is needless to say that the people of our country have realised that this Address is nothing but untruth, full of cliches and jargons. There is not a single truth about the big claims made by the Govt.

So, it is my request Madam that it is improper to associate our Hon. President with the Address which outlines the political policies of the ruling party. Why do not they make their own submission themselves directly in the House. So, instead of associating the President with all these untrue statements, they should themselves face the House and submit their policies. The policies outlined in the Address are liberal policies because overnight they have become liberal. The economic policy, Export-Import policy, Industrial policy and various other prominent policies found in the world are based on liberal policy or as they say liberalisation. But, what is the outcome of liberalisation? We must contemplate about

the result of liberalisation. We must introspect where we are landing by following the policy of liberalisation.

It is claimed in the Address that there is steady progress on all fronts as evident from the improved law and order situation, a record foodgrains production and so on and forth. Well if by steady progress it is meant the progress of the country. I have nothing to say.

If we look at industrial sector, we find that lakhs of industries whether public sector or private or joint sector, are being closed everyday. They are become either sick or are facing closure.

According to my estimate that more than four and a half lakh industries are either getting sick facing closure. This is also a fact that thousand crores invested capital have been wasted of course. If it is felt that the more the industries become sick or the more they face closure. It is all the more steady progress for country then this govt. deserves credit.

It is indeed their achievement that they have been able to destroy the expansion of any growth of the industries thereby damaging the progress of the country. Their policies are successful in this regard.

After going through the President's Address and Budgetary proposals presents a few days back, I feel that one day we will find that India has been turned into another Hongkong or Singapore. They do not have their own industries yet one can get anything one likes from there. In the same way, India will be turned into a dumping ground of the multi-nationals because they can dump the country with their surplus commodities. We will not have our indigenous industries. Our country will be an ideal place to plunder well

they are successful in this regard. They have destroyed our industrial sector in all front.

What do do find in the Budget? It is really amazing that not a single paisa has been allocated for constituency. There is no separate allocation for industries like MANC, Cycle Corporation, Burn Standard, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam and other various industries. So, measures have been taken very subtly so that these industries automatically face closure. I do not know whether demand for either cycle or steel has gone down in our country. I am happy that our hon. Minister for Steel Santosh Babu is present here. I would like to ask him a single question that you had the Agreement in the year 1989 of All functional Trade Union, the SAIL and IISCO. Did your officers or your Ministry shown about the fund allocation for the purpose in their dreams? Did they ever mentions the concerned department from where the money would be received? From which quarter are you being pressurized to hand over IISCO to private sector? Do not you realize that you are going to sacrifice your self-esteemd self-reliance by this move? You are also threatening to close steel industries. Is it justified or proper? Does it reflect the progress of the country?

What will be the fate of thousands of workers working in these concerns? The country is full of unemployed persons? 70% of the population in the country is below poverty line. Lakhs of people are homeless, shelterless unemployed food and lodging. A vast number of people cannot even afford to have meal even twice a day. If you go by number then, India can boast of the maximum number of illiterates, homeless poverty stricken blind people. And if the comparison is between number then those who have written your Address can definite-

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ly boast of the steady progress of the country.

You are boasting for progress of the country. Right, you are. Does this Govt. possess any morality. They do not have any concern for spiralling prices of essential commodities? In my left is the ruling party and in my right is the oppositions, the BJP. I feel these people do not have to buy anything from the market. They get everything right from clothes to essential commodities free of cost. Had they bought anything from the market, they would have realized the actual positions. Since they are getting everything free of cost, they are boasting of steady progress in all front. It is indeed a strange kind of affair. The industries are being closed. Our boys are demanding right to work, right to education. You cannot provide drinking water even. So, they are demanding right to drinking water. The workers are demanding — save public sector, save industry. We have to protect the industry.

We cannot sacrifice the self-reliance of our country. What are you doing? After sacrificing the self-reliance of the country, you are selling it away, mortgaging the country to USA. You are depending on the foreign countries. Listening to the dictates of I.M.F. and World Bank. You prepare everything by their directions.

What will be the future of our boys? Where will they go? What will be their fate? 36 collieries have been closed in my constituency. Mines have been closed. The safety Act passed by you is never followed. We have old mines in Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. Nowhere this Safety Act is followed. As a result, large number of workers are killed daily due to accidents.

You know what happened in Kenda. There another accident in Kuardin in my constituency. 7 people have been killed in Madhya Pradesh in Sedola area due to mine accident. There are subsidences daily. In a village Aldih in my constituency one Madrasa, school and houses of about 25 to 30 families have been badly affected. These families must shift somewhere. About 67 moujas not 67 villages but moujas comprising of more than 100 villages and all towns several lakhs inhabitants have been declared unsafe for habitation. They have been asked to shift to some other place. But where will they go? The miners have been extracting coal for the owners' sake. The owners are earning the profit by selling the coal. But, they cannot provide the affected people rehabilitation or even economic rehabilitation has been ignored. The Govt. has been failing in its moral responsibility by not providing alternative shelter or monetary assistance to the people. They have been asked to vacate the affected vacated place. There has been gas leak from the cracks of pit No.3 in the Kenda village. You are already aware of the accident in Kenda. Now about 30 to 35 families have been asked to vacate the place due to gas leakage.

We have attained freedom in 1947. The country was partitioned into two dominions Hindustan and Pakistan. The problem of refugees has not been settled even after so many years. The people even now are leading the life of animals without any shelter.

You are turning lakhs of people into refugees in the name of extracting coal. I must admit that this is also your grand achievement. I am sorry to say that you are devoid of any morality or ideal. Members have been elected to this august House by signing their name in the nomination paper and their pledging to work for the particular

party they belong to. They are supposed to work for the people who have elected them. But, you purchase these people like cattle and show your achievement. You have indeed progressed you purchase them with your money power and make them high-profile Ministers. No Minister is present here. My friend Shri Sharad Yadav said that the Minister are sleeping. Are they sleeping because of shame or are they really sleeping? The ruling party members have no time to listen to what is going on here. They do not have spare time to think of the problems of the country. Even for the sake of courtesy, they do not have time to listen. They have come here to sleep. This is an ideal place for sleep and they have come to sleep.

17.00 hrs.

Madam, the country has been faced with utmost crisis. Who is going to solve or curb the crisis? They are selling the country. Lakhs of people had gone to prison, had been hanged till death, had sacrificed their life to achieve freedom for motherland. They had faced the bullet of the British and become martyrs. I do not know how many of these people present here had faced that situation. Most of them are born with a silverspoon in their mouth. There is no job for the son of a labourer, farmer. But the job is ensured for the son of a Minister. They will become either MLA or MP. If they do not get anything, a good job is ensured for them in any private public sector. They get license and permit at their disposal.

But what will be the lot of the poor? I am opposing the President's Address morally. I am not opposing it just for the sake of opposing. If the people of our country have to survive, they must jettisoned their policies and form a new Govt., the Govt. of the masses the common people. The Ruling

party have policy without morality, their policy is immoral. They have team policy of Aya Ram and Gaya Ram. I request my friends to be on their guard because these people have money power. Behind the curtain intrigue is going on and already some member have been fallen prey to their schemes. They want to finish off the opposition parties. I am not opposing the President's Address just for the sake of opposition. Those who cannot save industry, workers provide land to the farmers have no right to rule. How the farmers will get fertilizers? They are closing the industries and are going to import fertilizers from abroad. As it is there is shortage of fertilizer in the country. The farmers have to buy fertilizers from the black market and it will make their life all the more miserable. We need power for irrigation. If we can produce everything in the country then young the unemployed will get job.

So, Madam, that is why I am pleading that the farmers should get fertilizers, irrigation facilities, land so that we can produce the foodgrains, etc for the country. If we develop agriculture we will more factories, young persons would have scope for job. The unemployment problem can be solved then. Our country can prosper in all front. I do not want to speak on foreign policy because many Hon. Members before me have already discuss that point.

But, what is worrying me is that they are going to ruin the country by their wrong policy. They are betraying the country. If we support them, it means we are supporting their wrong policy. The B.J.P. although the main opposition, supports their industrial and economic policy. They are indeed a marvellous opposition. There is secret understanding. If both the parties agree, what can others do? They are cheaters. Madam I will not take much time. The people of my country are not going to tolerate their cheat-

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ing anyone. They have become conscious. You are dividing the country in the name of caste of class, religion and language. You cannot divide the country in this way by instigating communal riots. The people will definitely be united to throw you out from the power. I have immense faith in our people. I know that they will find out a way to protect themselves and the country from your evil design so often opposing the President's Address whole heartedly. I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit a few points regarding the Motion of thanks to President's Address.[*Interruptions*]. I would like to repeat the points already mentioned by other members. India is an agriculture Oriented country and agriculture is the back-bone of our country. Agricultural workers are involved in cultivation work in a large number. Our food grain stock are enriched due to them and green revolution took place. But I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this fact why the Government could not pay a heed to their problems? At the time of natural calamities the life of agricultural workers turns miserable one. When they become old and unable to work. Life becomes a burden to them. The Government has not enacted any Central Legislation sustenance of those said workers who cannot make both ends meet in any way and how they could be saved from natural calamities and to provide medical facilities? This matter has been raised several times in the House that a central legislation should be enacted for their problems. Pension and old age benefits are provided to them at par with those engaged in industries and other places. So that they can be provided sustenance and protection. It is a big anomaly.

The Government has not given a thought to the great work being done by these people in the national interest. Today the Government tells with pride that can feed the countryman even in the time of famine. But the real credit goes to these farmers. Not even a single word has been mentioned in President's Address.

There is a democratic system in our country. Elections play an important role in a democratic system. Through elections we reach here after contesting and ventilate the problems of our country, state and constituency before the House. But now-a-days this system has become a mockery. Lakhs of people are deprived of casting their vote today. Many people have not seen even a ballot paper. In this House I would like to thank Shri Seshan for taking a step to strengthen the shaking foundation of democracy. It is a commendable step. There are many persons who claim to be messiah of the poor people. I understand that we discuss maximum about conditions of poors and the Dalits. But we oppose the matter of issuing Identity Cards to voters. It is a matter of great regret. What type of those people are who hail from dalits and poor class? They also cherish the same interest. Everybody knows that we could achieve voting right to District Council only after a greater struggle when the country was enslaved. Only those people had a right to vote who were paying house-tax of more than re.1. Only. These people, who were elite farmers and Land Lords were provided voting right. These people who belong to said class do wish even today that the voting right should remain only with them. Our constitution provided political right to every citizen. But crores of people have been unable to exercise their franchise even after 44 years of independence. Owing to it criminialisation of politics is taking place. The elections of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are to be

held. Only the future will tell whether it is in the right direction or wrong direction. We should have to safeguard the democracy through the electoral reforms immediately. You have ruled the country for a long time. But this country belongs to 82 crore people. If you want to rule the country you must rule it with bringing about reforms in the country. You must also appreciate Shri T.N. Seshan who is showing a path of safeguarding democracy. Terrorism is increasing speedily in the area from where I hail. They are establishing a parallel Government there.

Such a situation has arisen in village that villagers are surrendering before terrorists they are under the influence of terrorists. The number of Dalits and poor is increasing among the terrorists. Its main reason is this that they are not getting anything in the name of development and they are marching towards terrorism. These youths are unemployed and are cut off from national mainstream they are getting themselves armed and following the principle of terrorism. No development work is taking place in Bihar. We listen time and again that the Chief Minister of Bihar reiterates that supply of coal from Bihar should be stopped because central government is not paying the royalty to Bihar and the problems remain unsolved. I, therefore would like to caution the Government that if the situation reaches the climax nobody could save the fate of the country. The Government is not worried about giving their due share. The State Government needs funds to incur expenditure. You are worried neither about the country nor the Dalits and poor. Situation in Bihar has reached such a point that murders are being committed in broad day lights.

There is no school for children available at a distance of 2-3 KMs. from the

villages in Bihar who have a population between 5000-1000. Human Rights Commission Bill had been passed in this House. Whether it is not a matter of violations of Human Rights? You say that it is a state subject and the State Government has no funds. You should introduce Central School in all the villages so that the youth of today may not deviate from the national mainstream. I have made a demand in this regard that the State Government is not paying any heed to it and asked you to help it but nothing has been done. Prior to it and written to almost all the Prime Minister but no action has been taken so far. Whether the Government provide educational facility to them? Will they continue to indulge in terrorist activities by holding arms in their hands? Madam Chairman, no arrangement to provide potable water to the Dalits and the poor in the villages has been made so far. What type of development work the M.Ps and M.L.As are carrying out? Had these politicians been concerned about the all-round situation of the area the problems would not have assumed such an alarming proportion. Generally it has been seen in the villages that drainages are constructed and hand-pumps are set up, to serve the purpose of the rich people. But No development work is carried out in the interest of the poor and the Dalits. It is not justified that on the one hand development work is carried out and the other hand nothing is done. In this way, the poor people are deprived of the benefits of development work. This trend should have to be checked. You should also explain in your reply as to whether any Central Legislation in the interest of agricultural workers would be enacted or not. Would you make arrangement to provide educational facility to bring the Youth into the national mainstream? I conclude with these words.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Madan Chairman, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President of India for having addressed the Joint Session of Parliament on its opening day on 22nd of last month.

I was carefully listening to the speeches of the hon. Leader of the Janata Dal, Shri Yadav and the CPI Member Hon. Haradhan Royji. I wish Shri Sharad Yadavji had been here!

When he was speaking, I was wondering whether he was looking at the mirror to see his appearance not as Shri Sharad Yadavji of Janata Dal in Parliament and whether he was highlighting his Party policy whether he was exposing the hollowness of his Party, the inner contradictions.

They have two States where they have their Government, Bihar and Orissa. It is common knowledge what type of governance we had in both the State. He was lamenting here because there was no mention of caste factor in the President's Address. What sin is committed by the President of India?

You know this is a document by the Government, by Narasimha Rao Government, read by President of India. So, what sin has been committed? What great sin is committed by Government in not mentioned caste? We are fast heading towards 21st century. We are out to fight out all sorts of inequalities. Our concentration is on fighting poverty, hunger and disease. I admit the society is full of inequalities. Is it a product of today's situation. When we have such tasks before us, to talk of casteism, to talk of religion and communalism and to encourage all those is only a disgrace to nation.

Anyway, even the privileged classes are talking of caste and talking advantage thereby. Are we not thereby depriving the underprivileged and the really deserving people of various opportunities? Those who have already occupied very high positions, respectable positions, those who are very rich, wealthy people, will also be getting the advantages because of caste consideration. Very respectable people and wealthy people, rich people, educated people, will be entitled to reap the benefits of the caste system. What an opportunistic viewpoint it is! He was talking of this caste thing. Whatever it is, they have their Government in Orissa. But that Government is yet to prepare and release the list of people belonging to Other Backward classes (OBCs). Then with what face was he talking and condemning this Government, this Report? It is a double talk, double standard and hypocrisy.

Shri Haradhan Roy also criticised our policies left and right, little realising what his own Chief Minister is doing, how both the Chief Minister are moving round the world and spreading red carpets for profit motives, for inviting multinationals to come over here and set up industries. But here on the floor of the House, they want to abuse this Government very conveniently. Again it is a double talk. I do not know what would have happened to many of us had Shri Narasimha Raoji not taken over the reigns of administration of 'Hindustan', India in June 1991 when everything was in shambles. In three years, three elections would have taken place. What a frivolous yardstick of stability it is that in three years we had three elections! — one after eleven months, the other one after eleven months and preparations were on for the third elections! We are grateful and we profusely thank Shri Narasimha Raoji for his matured leadership to bring about stability, prosperity and progress. Can anybody say today about

this?

We have our status books, we have our laws, we have the anti-defection law. According to prescribed norms I—I some people are unworthy people, they are able to keep their house in order I—I if some people, with due deference to the provisions of law, leave them, desert them and strengthen the hands of stability, I do not know how it is called anti-defection. When some people joined them some time before, that was not defection. They had welcome that. But now if some people leave them and join other group, that is defection! Is that the judgment? Can anyone tell me about it? When they went to your side before elections, they were welcomed. Everything was nice, everything was democratic, everything was fine. Now when they desert you, leave you, this defection! What a hypocrisy it is! *[Interruptions]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

[Interruptions]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): We want you to talk something about the President's Address.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: On first page, first and second paragraphs refer to Ayodhya issue. *[Interruptions]*

My good friends, please have some patience. I am coming to the subject of problems also. *[Interruptions]* Madam, I know that truth pricks; truth hurts.

Madam, in the first paragraph of the Address, there is a reference to Ayodhya. Now, there is a sea change in the situation.

As you know, Presidential Address is

very significant event. This is just not a ritual. But it is also being ridiculed by the conduct of some people, some groups. This time, the Budget was boycotted by some people and that was repeated in the State Legislatures also. In spite of a unanimous decision adopted in different conference, like in the Speaker's conference, leaders' conference and in other meetings, that with utmost respect, all Members, irrespective of party affiliation should attend and listen to the Address, but friends chose to keep away. They chose to keep away but wherever their parties were in Government, there also, the same thing is happening.

As I told you, last year, the Ayodhya situation was threatening the peace and solidarity of this country. It cast a long shadow on the national scene and because of that this year's growth in terms of GDP had also been affected. It was the order of 4.5 per cent or some thing. *[Interruptions]* That is your contribution; the BJP's contribution to the developmental activities of our country was this.

In the last page, in para 62, it was stated that:

"1993 was a year of consolidating the gains of the economic reforms and the political initiatives of the Government. We entered 1994 with the optimism of accelerating our pace of economic growth, strengthened by a reassuring verdict of the people in favour of reforms and against the forces of communalism."

MR. CHAIRMAN (Prof. Rita Verma) : Please conclude now.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Madam, there should not be inequality in the House. Equality is everywhere. I am begin-

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ning just now. From our party, I am only the third speaker today and I am told that we have a lot of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken for 15 minutes.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: There is lot of time: Congress Party is having a lot of time. I would need another ten minutes time. I am just beginning to speak.

So, in 1993, in all fronts, there has been an overall improvement in the situation, be it in the law and order, agricultural production, industrial production and our relationship with different foreign countries except with our neighbour, Pakistan. Two days before, somebody was talking about our policy towards America. On the economic side on the industrial side, it has improved. Our Home Minister has minced no words that day when he clearly spelt out our policy towards America by disapproving their conduct, their interference by inciting Pakistan or by indirectly approving Pakistan's role in abetting and aiding terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The other day, the Home Minister made that very clear on this floor of the House.

This very serious thing. Today is 7th and at Geneva the United Nations Human Rights Commission probably in holding its very meaningful session about J&K on the Resolution tabled by Pakistan. It is significant that this year there is transparency insofar as this matter is concerned. We have gone for the establishment of a Commission on Human Rights. Not only that, even the Government of India has made arrangements, everything that is possible, for the visit of a six member strong foreign diplomats team to J&K. Is it not an improvement?

Political process also is starting for holding elections. But a disinformation campaign is going on outside India about J&K. I take this opportunity to thank all our opposition friends because we jointly adopted a Resolution unanimously here about the foreign interference in J&K. Therefore there is a lot of scope for consensus which our Prime Minister believes in and has been insisting on right from beginning. It is time for them to realise this and come forward to extend their supporting hand to the Government in this atmosphere. After all, we are the largest democracy. But our pity is that our opposition does not look at the time and does not look at the people's needs. They are prepared for constructive criticism, for constructive opposition. Only for the sake of opposition they want to oppose everything.

What about Dunkel Draft? Mr. Arthur Dunkel is no more the head of the organisation. About GATT, 118 countries have put their signature, including China.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): China is not a part of GATT.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRATHI: But they welcome Dunkel proposals... [Interruptions]. They have a peculiar concept. They have different kinds of Political Science to study. They have different concepts of sovereignty. So many countries have signed this. Are they losing their sovereignty? Is India in the same state of affairs as it was three centuries ago when the East India Company came here? Is this situation comparable? I simply wonder what sort of political gimmick they are trying to play by misleading the people and by indulging in a disinformation campaign. It is very clear that in some area there will be some disadvantages here and there as in the case of drugs and in some limited area there will be rise in prices admittedly because of the provisions

of patents, etc. Which are there. But about seeds to farmers I do not understand how East India Company stepped into their minds. They are just misleading people.

17.39 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

I was talking about J&K. Some of the hon. Members were critical about the delay in handling the Hazratbal issue. Some of them were also opposed to freedom movement. If the Hazratbal issue had been solved earlier and if something else had happened, they would have said that without maturity, without tact the situation was handled and such a mess was created. Even though there was a little delay, such a sensitive issue was tackled in a commendable manner to the satisfaction of all concerned without any bloodshed. Now they say that it was delayed. But, when it was done, hurriedly they said that we were doing it hurriedly, we were doing it not at a proper time and that we had indecision, etc.

If we see the agricultural side, we find topmost priority is given to it. We are an agricultural country; agriculture is the mainstay of our economy; and India lives in villages. That is why, we give the highest priority and the highest allocation. 40 per cent increase is the agricultural budget.

There is a good point on the part of Government. They just do not take pride for everything. Wherever there are some mistakes committed inadvertently or wherever the policy could not be implemented properly or wherever they could not achieve what they want to achieve for some reasons or the other, there is no hesitation or there is no hanky-panky on the part of the Government to admit that and they come before the House with desire to make necessary

amends.

Regarding the fertiliser policy, due to unbalance use of Nitrogen, Potash and Phosphate, the ratio has gone up 5:2:1 instead of the ideal 4:2:1. It now came upto 5:2:1. During the question Hour, on a day last week, the Prime Minister himself on the floor of Parliament has said clearly that they were thinking about it and certainly they were taking steps to correct the situation to see that right proportion is maintained. *[Interruptions]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my time will start from the time you occupied the Chair. Whenever you occupy the Chair, I know, you have always been liberal. When I am talking about the liberal economic policy, I naturally expect some liberal attitude from the Chair. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Panigrahi, we totally agree with your statement about the liberal attitude and liberal days. At the same time, we should do justice to the subsequent speaker also.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: The economic reforms which were introduced in 1991 gained momentum last year and they were being pursued persistently. They are irreversible and also they will be implemented continuously.

I will now come to the public sector and Private sector. Public sector is the brain child of Pandit Nehru. Thrust was given to it and at one point of time, it occupied the center-stage of our economy. It has several things like inefficiency, etc. Labour-industry relations is another factor. Whatever it was, the golden days of the public sector. But, we have to do everything possible to strengthen the public sector. Whether there is any

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scope, it is time now that either public sector or private sector—it has got to be a national sector and efficient sector. In that background, we have to strengthen it wherever there is any scope; I repeat that wherever there is any scope, we have to strengthen it. BIFR should be strengthened.

There was also another criticism that we were drifting from our policy and we were giving emphasise for the manufacture of consumer goods, that too by inviting MNCs. That is not true; that is not correct because only seven per cent of the total proposed investment that is, Rs. 165 crores out of the total amount of Rs. 16,000 crores will be for consumer goods. Therefore, the criticism leveled by the opposition friends is not correct.

Sir, since you are ringing the bell repeatedly, I will now confine my speech to the problems that we are facing like unemployment problem, problem of poverty and how poverty and unemployment can go together, etc. Agricultural production has got to be speeded up. All these things have to be attended to.

Since independence, this country has done miracles. In the field of agriculture, in 1951, we were producing only 55 MT of foodgrains. Now, it is about 1,980 MT. It has increased by more than 300 percent. At that, less than 2,000 MW of power was being generated. Now, it is about 72,000 MW. Still, of course, we are short of our requirement in the power sector.

In the field of agriculture, unless we contain our population growth, I am afraid, there also, there will be a different type of situation. It will not be a pleasant situation.

So, our main problem is unbridled population growth. There has also been an emphatic reference about it in the President's speech. It is time that all political parties sit together. Not only political parties but also the leaders of all religions should be associated with it. We have to give top priority to this project. In the Islamic countries, like Middle-East, the population control programme and health education programme are being pursued. There is no point for any quarter to oppose any of such things.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Panigrahi, please conclude now.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Ours is the largest democracy having so many languages, religions and castes. Our real problem is about integrity which could be brought about when we are able to fight out inequality. Where there is exploitation between one society and another society, between one individual and another individual, between one State and another State and inside a State between one area and another area, we have to fight that out. In that way, regional imbalance has to be fought out. As far as possible, our aim should be to develop all religions. Our aim and objective has to be growth with social justice. *[Interruptions]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. *(Interruptions)*

It will not go to record. *[Interruptions]*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I support the Government for all its good programmes.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the

President's Address and the debate thereon have reduced to a ritual and a formality because while reading through it, I do not find any intimation of the footsteps of the marching masses approaching the corridors of power. I do not see any sensitivity to the social churning that is taking place before our eyes, to the economic convulsions and to the political upheavals that are in store for us. I am afraid that the President's Address limits itself to a bureaucratic note on what was done and what the Government hopes to do. But there is no consciousness about the larger concerns of the nation, about the direction in which country is moving, about the manner in which the society is transferring itself, about the many changes that are talking place and which will come whether we like them or not. Sir, we are living through a time of momentous tension. These tensions can be fruitful and constructive because there lies in the womb of time a new India yet to born, a new India which shall be just, equal and fraternal. In the constitution, we promised our people not only justice and equality but also fraternity and we are yet to see that even a shadow of fraternity passes over the lives of our people. Sir, from formal equality, people want to move towards social fraternity. From legal justice, people want to move towards economic and no social justice and here in the President's Address, we find no sign of that ferment and indication of that expectation and that resolve. The President is happy that the law and order a situation is under control but I am sorry to say that it does not mention the anxiety under which the urban population live under the threat of urban terrorism. I am sorry to say that it does not mention the bomb blasts and other blasts that had taken place throughout the country throughout 1993, that it does not mention the atrocities committed against Harijans, women of tribal people all over the

country. It does not mention the atrocities against the minorities that took place in Bombay, Manipur and Assam. It does not mention the insurgency has plagued parts of our nation and he is very optimistic. He finds it very satisfactory.

There is a wave of chauvinism in our country. Communalism was there but it is now assuming a chavinst dimension and we had initiated a debate in the wake of the demolition of the Babri Masjid, a debate on what is meant by our concept of secularism. I am sorry that the debate has died down and we were led into a totally wrong direction. The debate turned into misconceived debate between religion and secularism. There is no debate and conflict between religion ofthodoxy and secularism. We are trying the great experiment in the history of man; we are trying to create a secular state in a religious society. We are not banishing religious. What we are against is communalism and not religious and yet, the debate was given a turn and that played into the hunt of chavinism. They started saying that if you just take the name of Ram, you will be out of politics. They get chance to incite the people and therefore that debate remains where it is. People talk about pseudosecularism; people talk about cultural nationalism. These are just euphemisms for what they also call Hin dūva and the Government does not indicate or the President does not indicate in his Address that he has formulated a concrete plan of action for fighting against chauvinism and communalism. There is not a word in it about this and I am surprised at it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we talk about Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to place on record my view that the problem of Jammu and Kashmir will not be resolved in Geneva or Washington or Islamabad.

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It can only be resolved in Delhi and Srinagar and nowhere else! And as I said the other day, it cannot be resolved by offering an administrative package or an economic package. It can be resolved only by means of a political package and that political package, if I may recapitulate, must affirm 'Kashmiriyat', must accept the special status of the State with the Union, must re-emphasise Article 370 and must put forward the offer of autonomy within and under Indian sovereignty and then create an environment in which meaningful talks can take place, in which an unconditional dialogue can take place to determine the quantum of that autonomy. Sir, I would say that there is not a word here to show that the government has any political policy or political approach towards Kashmir; there is not a word here about unilateral ceasefire; there is not a word here about withdrawal of forces from urban areas; there is not a word here about release of political prisoners; there is not a word here about repeal of the black laws; and there is not a word here of an invitation for a dialogue to our brothers, to our citizens to come and sit with us together to define what they want and what we want, so that a solution can be found. And yet, there is not a word in this Address about any approach towards Kashmir.

Sir, a reference has been made to Ayodhya. The Government told us in 1992 and 1993 that they were making a reference under Article 143 because the alternative of transfer of cases under Article 138 would take a long time. Here we are, fifteen months later, and the Supreme Court is yet to decide whether to accept the reference or not to accept it. And where are we? We have lost precious time! We have not moved even one inch forward! The situation remains as it is, full of tensions, full of frustration, full of lost

hopes and lost opportunities! Sir, I would plead that the Government must repeal the Ayodhya Act for one simple reason and not merely for the sake of Babri Masjid. I say this because if you don't repeal this law and if you take over the site of a place of worship, tomorrow you can take over the Golden Temple, tomorrow you can take over the Puri Mandir and tomorrow you can take over the Jama Masjid. And that will be setting a very bad precedent for a secular state in a religious society. Therefore, I would beg of the Government. Repeal this Act. Revive the cases and transfer the cases to the Supreme Court for a final adjudication. And as my colleague Mr. Yadav has said, the government must declare it emphatically that whatever be decision of the court, it shall be imposed with the full authority of the State, does not matter who is affected, who likes it or who dislikes it.

Sir, Parliament's Standing committees have been mentioned. We welcome the Standing Committees. But was it a device to cut down the Zero Hour? Was it a device to cut down the Question Hour? I plead with the Government that they must join hands with us and revive the tradition of Zero Hour and the Question Hour, even while the Standing Committees are sitting. Maybe, you can extend the time. But certainly, there should not be any cut in the duration of Budget Debate. Parliament is the throbbing heart of democracy. Please don't emasculate it. Don't reduce it. Don't reduce its time importance and the power it has, to reflect the will of the people before the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am sorry to say that not a word has been said about electoral reforms. So many committees were set up. A Bill is lying in the Rajya Sabha. The election Commission is circulating a set of proposals. But the Government is silent. The Government has not taken any initiative

and does not indicate whether it wants to take any initiative in this matter. I don't think anything else could be more criminal or more suicidal for democracy in which we believe!

There is not a word here about Panchayat Raj. Do you remember the glow of hope that came over the country when the Panchayat Raj Bill was passed? And yet, What has happened? Two years afterward, we are yet to see the institution of the Panchayat Raj installed there is not a word here about the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations, something on which the very future of the Union depends. There is not a word here! Are all these reports meant as food for the waste paper basket? Had they been forgotten? Does the President not propose to take any action on the question of Centre-State Relations Sir, I have been a believer in small state. I think the future of India lies in small States. But there is no sense of urgency is shown about it, although there are so many Movements in the country asking for small States.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, today, the minorities in our country area state of insecurity. They are in a state of fear and frustration. On the one hand, you are saying that you are bringing the Wakf Bill to protect the Wakf and on the other hand you have acquired a Masjid Wakf, a property. What sort of a joke are you playing?

Sir, there were riots that had taken place. You know that is Bombay Commission of Inquiry is still going on. You know the fate of the Ayodhya case. The organisation, which was banned, is holding the Press conference and is issuing statement every day. The people who were produced before the court were bailed out. There is no sign of progress in the prosecution. The Commis-

sion of Inquiry has not gone beyond issuing the first Notice. That is what had been achieved in a year and three months time. Bravo for good work and efficiency of this great Government. I am surprised to see this. What do you think this constitutes for the minorities? A signal if you are pulverised, it does not matter. If you are battered. It does not matter Dump it, if you have no other alternative. Nothing will be done.

Sir, let us see what is happening to the political rights of the minorities. Disenfranchisement is taking place on a massive scale. It took place in Delhi. It had taken place in Assam. Twenty-five lakh voters had been disenfranchised in Assam. We have same reports from all over the country. You look at the representation in various Legislatures. It is coming down to zero. What does that mean? Do you think that the people will take it lying down? I will tell you that tomorrow, unless we behave, unless we establish the norms of democracy, there will again be a demand for a separate franchise and separate electorate. Please take this not as a threat but as a signal, as a note of caution. I am against separate electorate. I am against separate franchises. But, when you disenfranchise people, this is bound to happen. Such crisis is bound to arise in any polity.

Sir, we have the Minorities Commission. For the last 15 years, not a single Report of this Commission had been discussed on the floor of the Parliament. The President has not even referred to its Annual Reports. We have a 15-point programme. The Minister goes on telling us that is going to be revised. Where does it exist? Which Government sends the Reports? How many times has the Cabinet Committee met? What importance does the Government give to them? Nothing. These are only slogans.

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Then, you have the rights of the linguistic minorities. The post of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities was vacant for years, then somebody was appointed. Later on, he was sent to Kashmir. Again that post is vacant for almost a year. Not a word has been said about it. Here, I am not speaking only about Urdu. Eighteen per cent of the people of India belong to linguistic minorities in various States. The only protector of their rights is the Constitutional authority called Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities and that post is kept deliberately vacant and 20 Annual Reports are laying on the Table of the House. They have not been discussed at all. This is the importance that they give even to the problem of the linguistic minorities.

On Urdu, there was Gujral Committee Report. Again, a Committee was appointed, namely the Al-e-Suroor Committee, to look into the Gujral Committee Report. Another Committee was appointed namely the Jafri Committee to look into the Al-e-Suroor Committee's Report and finally nothing came out of it. No decisions were taken. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is that the way to deal with such matters?

Then, I will come to the three-language formula. It has been distorted to the point where the children of linguistic minorities cannot learn their mother-tongue; they cannot express themselves in their mother-tongue; and they cannot write to their parents. I have begged and begged the Government, to please review the working of the three-language formula and not a word has been said by President in his address.

Sir, on the 15th August from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister

promised to create a Minorities Finance and Development Corporation. It was again promised and again assured on the floor of the House but no action had yet been taken on that. Several States including Bihar have got minorities Development Corporation. Here, the Government is still involved in solving the Constitutional intricacies of the problem. The fact is that the minorities feel that they are being politically exploited; they are not getting the due share in the fruits of development; they are being culturally depressed, they are being socially degraded and their religious rights are being threatened.

Do you mean to say that the country can survive in this manner can there be a proper emotional integration in this country in that way?

The President talks about raising the allocation for education to 6 per cent of GDP. Further he says that by the end of century it will be raised. Are we going to wait for seven more years? Alreday, we have the largest number of illiterates in the country. We have more illiterate persons today in our country than entire population of the country in 1947; and this number will go on increasing every year; the number this year was more than last year and yet the President says, "GDP allocation will be increased only by the end of the century. not now." Now you are banished to the realm of illiteracy. Not surprisingly we have the largest number of unemployable people.

And today we are told that tourism is registering great uprise. Do you know the trick? He only compares the figures on a month to month basis. I challenge the Government to give us the figure of tourists arrival in 1991, 1992 and 1993 and tell us whether it has kept pace with the rise of tourism in the world as a whole.

We are over-using an Armed Forces in civil disorders. Many a people, many a jourists, many a former generals have sound-ed a warning signal that it is not proper, it is not right. The Army will lose its ethos, will lose its morale by working in the civil situations for a long time. Therefore, we should not over-burden the Army; we should keep it for the purpose for which it exists. I have a grievance from my States and from many other State. Let there be an equal access of the people of all the State to the Armed Forces; let all of us have a chance serve in the defence of our country; nobody should be considered as belonging to the non-marshal race or a non-marshal State.

Not a word has been mentioned here about reservation. The public sector and the Government employment is receding; it is contracting. The private sector is increasing. Tomorrow, reservation will become maningless. If reservation is to have any meaning, it must be extened to the entire private sector; and above all, immediately, it must be extened to higher education, beacuse without higher education, no amount of reservation can ever upgrade the backward people.

I will not go into any economic question, because I do not have the time. But I would like just to mention that the rural development is suffering; the per capita investment for rural development is going down and it is not being uniformly spread; there is a fall in rural credit; there is a fall in the total number of man hours available under JRY, IJRY. The Prime Minister has promised an urban programme, the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna; it is still on paper. Unemployment in 1993-94 was higher than in 1992-93 and this fact has been concealed in the President's Address. But it has not mentioned as to what the Government is going to do about it.

I will not live go into foregin affairs in, relations with Pakistan or with the USA; they have been talked about here. But I am very anguished about the demise of the NAM. We were its creators. We claimed its pater-nity, Nehru was its builder. And today at an International Conference, when I suggested that instead of OIC, let the NAM play a role, the delegates of other Asian countries came to me and said, "Where is your NAM? You have forgotten it. What role has NAM now played in Palestine? What role has NAM played in the tragedy of Bosina? Where a Member State of NAM has been subject-ed to external aggression, its territory has been occupied; it has been subjected to foreign inspired terrorism; it has been subjected to foreign supported secession-ism. Do you see some similarity between Kashmir and Bosnia? And yet we are silent. We do not say a word about it. Bosnia is a Member State, a sister State, a Member of the UN system, and it is being raped before our very eyes and our entire diplomatic effort is nil. Have we consigned NAM to the dustbin of history? Are we so much under pressure from America that we cannot con-demn even the Hebron massacre?

Can't we say that peace shall not come to palestine unless every inchh of the occu-pied Arab territory is vacated, and all the settlements are out. Why cannot we say that? These are the principles of our foreign policy we are losing our prestige in the world, Mr. Deputy- Speaker. We are losing our place in the world community. That is why Clinton can abuse and get away with it. That is why many nations can show us the thumb and get away with it. We have no position at all because we have forgotten our princi-ples.

We never had a big army. We have a bigger army today at any time under Pt. Nehru and yet today we have less foreign

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prestige than we at the height of NAM. Therefore, I beg the Government to revive the NAM, to please bring us back to the centre stage of the world. Otherwise these people, in the name of liberalisation, in the name of globalisation, in the name of access, in the name of GATT, in the name of what you have, will take us down into subservices.

I am also concerned about the unrestricted entry of foreign investment in the core sectors like power and airlines. But be that as it may, today we are in a helpless position because we have forgotten the basic principles of our foreign policy, because we have no resistance to foreign encroachment either at the political level or at the economic level.

Therefore, Sir, my last plea is that we have a role to play, not only to safeguard the destiny of our people, not only to promote the vision of Gandhi and Nehru but to bring about the great objective and realise the great goal of Asian unity. We have a role to play in South Asia to transform it into an area of freedom, peace and cooperation. We have a role to play in the world to bring about the restructuring of the world system so that one day humanity can be together and can be free from bondage free from war and free from want. We must take up that responsibility. The President's Address does not give any indication, any hope, any optimism that the Government is alive to this great historic responsibility.

Finally, Sir, we are living in a surcharged social environment, as I said to begin with. This environment demands social justice. This social justice will dawn whether anybody likes it or does not like it. It will mean equality, not only equality before law in a formal sense but economic equality

of individuals and groups an equitable share in the wealth, resources and services of our nation and it is what will give all our people a sense of participation. Then true democracy will dawn.

I will end with a line from Faiz:

[*Translation*]

*Yah dag dag ujala, yah shav
gujinda sahar*

*Wo intzar tha jiska, wo yah sahar
to nahi Kahan se aai, Kidhar ko gai
bahare saba*

*Abhi chirag:e sarerah ko to khabar
hi naahi Bade chalo ke woh manjil
abhi nahi aayi*

*Nishone husn O game ishk Ke
garhi nahi aayi*

[*English*]

We wait for that moment, but unfortunately, the President's Address does not show us the path and does not give us any optimism that we shall reach that destination soon. For this reason, I have no option but to say this is a formality and I oppose the motion of Thanks.

MR. DEPUTY-SEPAKER: My earnest request to all the hon. Members is if all were to confine to 10-12 minutes that will be good. Tomorrow Shri Subrata Mukherjee will also definitely violate the ringing of the bell and others also. He would feel that he was being humiliated if interrupted by the Chair. So in this background, please be brief so that other hon. Members can also participate.

SHRI BOHGENDRA JHA (Madhubani):
Can you read out the names of the Members

who are going to participate in this debate, please?

MR. DEPUTY-SEPAKER: We have to sit upto Eight o'clock and if I read out the names, the Members who do not find their names may go away.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Members of the BJP were not given opportunity to speak. There are a number of Members who are yet to speak. The Members of the Janta Dal have spoken a lot therefore we must be given time. If we use to sit like this then how will it go? Mr. D.N. Das is present.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am fully aware of it. You will be getting time.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the policies of the Government are mentioned in the President's Address. Just now Shri Shahabuddin Sahib made a mention of small States. Speaking on Jharkhand issue the hon. Prime Minister on 30th July, stated in this very House that we would solve this problem. Again on 15th August, the hon. Prime Minister reiterated from the rampart of the Red Fort, from where the policies of the country are declared, to solve the Jharkhand problem very soon. Not only this, he made a public announcement in a large public gathering in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh to solve the Jharkhand problem. I heard the President's address with apt attention from the beginning to the end to know as to whether there is any mention of it in the

Address but there was no mention of it in the Address but there was no mention of Jharkhand problem in the President's Address. I was disappointed to hear it that even an assurance given by hon. Prime Minister has lost its importance. Of course, the people of the country do not take Chief Minister assurance so seriously but it is surprising that the assurance given by the Prime Minister in this House as well as from the rampart of the Red Fort has not been put into action as a result of which the people of the country and Jharkhand area have not only lost faith in the policies of the Government but I feel that the people of the country will no longer give so importance to the words of the hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why disparity, social injustice and terrorism are taking their ugly heads in our country? Nothing has been said in this regard in the Address. Most of the jungles, mountains, rivers, coal mines and the steel factories are situated on the land belonging to the tribal and dalit people. The raw materials for the steel plants come from there. No favourable laws and policies are formed to provide employment opportunities to those poor and the tribal people whose lands are acquired. No national policy has been formed for the rehabilitation of the poor even after 40-47 years and on the contrary they are being deceived. In the Rajmahal project of coal India, those people whose one acre of land has been acquired are given employment. Whereas in BCLL criteria is of two acres. It is surprising that for CCF Peeparwar Project an amount of five and half crore rupees has been received from Australia and 15 thousand people are displaced due to it but nothing has been done for their rehabilitation. How the provision of equality enshrined in the constitution is being violated. For educated persons criteria of giving employment is acquisition of two acres of land whereas for uneducated

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persons it is three acres of land.

Is it social justice? Is it not injustice with the tribal people of the country? There are separate laws for the educated and the uneducated people. Who were these educated people, it is those who were educated at that time and now they are in power and in administration. Sharad Yadavji has rightly stated that Jagannath Prasad was known as the Lenin of Bihar. He used to say that 90 per cent of the population belongs to backward and down trodden people, therefore, minority 10 per cent will not be allowed to rule over majority people. But till today the Government has been run by those 10 per cent people for the last 47 years. The laws are changed with the growing education.

There are 3 crore Santhalis people in our country but till date their language has not been included in the 8th schedule of the Constitution. It is said that they talk about the tribal people. If a Brahmin goes from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, he remains a Brahmin while if a Adivasi belonging to Jharkhand area goes to Assam, to earn his livelihood in tea garden, he is not accorded to status of scheduled tribe. Hon. Minister Shri Santosh Mohan Dev is present here, he knows that the Santhalis working in tea gardens are given the status of Schedule Tribe. There are 47 lakh Santhalis in Assam. They have gone there to earn their bread and butter. As much as 41 per cent minerals of the country are found in Jharkhand area but neither the Government of Bihar nor the Centre Government is doing anything for the people there. They are compelled to leave their homes for bread and butter and take shelter in Assam, Punjab, Nagaland, Mizoram and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Does the Government have any national policy for the tribal people? The

tribal people are treated as the birds of kept in museum. It is evident from the fact that no Adivasi could be given the status of Cabinet Minister in the Cabinet. Shri Thungan Sahib was present here. Shri P.A. Sangma is absent. Both of them have never been given the status above the State Minister. Even after 47 years of Independence not even a single Adivasi has been given the status of a Cabinet Minister. Sangma Sahib can be the Chief Minister, Thungan Sahib can be the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh but they can not be the Cabinet Minister here. Those who were Minister of State or Deputy Minister in the Government headed by Shri P.A. Sangma are now Cabinet Minister but Sangma Sahib is only a Minister of State today. So this is the way Adivasis are being honoured. The Adivasis are treated here like birds in the zoo.

Shri Ramashray Prasadji was just speaking about the naxalites from where these naxalites come, they are created here only. They are not heading towards Jahanabad but towards the Parliament also and all of us will have to face them. The Government claims that there should not be deforestation but there should be a national policy for it. Coal mining is being done to earn money which leads to large scale deforestation. The thick forest of Sal, Sagwan, Mahua etc. Spread over in an area of 600 acres of land was cleared by the CCL to extract coal. A population of 15 thousand the major part of which is the tribal and the poor people have been trapped in the environmental problem due to the Peeparwar project. CCL had given 29 crore rupees to the Government of Bihar to plant these but even an amount of Rs.29 lakhs have not been spent on plantation of trees. There should be some policy for it.

Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal is present here. He represents a reserved constituency.

I would like to submit that there should be a uniform norm for the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes throughout the country only then can be uniformity Congress Party would do anything but at the time of elections only. This is the achievement of the Government that today it is in majority in the House. The prices of sugar, wheat gas etc. have shoot up. The House is loosing its dignity day by day. Why not there would be resentment among the people?

An interest free loan was given by Australia for five years to set up two projects including the Peeparwar Project. There is no strategy to spend this money. Peeparwar Project was launched to set up South Karampura Thermal Power Station. The people of that area could get employment and electricity by that project. Today, 7268 industrial units are lying closed to the lack of power supply. Our country can do what the Government is trying to do by the help of Australia. There is already a giddi washery in India. Coal is supplied to the Bokaro Steel Plant after being washed there. Foreign Companies are now entering into that sector in the name of doing business. They may also try to usurp power in future. This was the reason why our ancestors insisted on using clothes made in India. The Government are now inviting foreign Companies to enter small trade activities.

Shri Sharad Pawar said in Calcutta while delivering a lecture that Rs. 1400 crores have already been invested in India by foreign investors. Investment is all right but the Government should be as to what is their policy.

I would like to submit that the Government should evolve a national policy regarding displaced persons of the country. There are maximum number of industrial units in our areas and maximum number of persons

have been displaced from those areas only. H.E.C. purchased land from farmers for 10-20 rupees per acre. The mangement of H.E.C. sold the vey same land to temple monks for 400 rupees per acre. Even now farmers are not allowed to do farming in 1200 acres of land luying abandoned. 500 persons who were displaced have not so far been provied employment. Most of the 23 persons who have recently been provided employment are relatives of the officers working in H.E.C. Is the Government going to formulate any policy in this regard. The Government is making a policy to follow the path of England and America. Policies are made in arbitrary manner. The Government imposed the policy of nationalisation before allowing the people to be mentally prepared for it. The policy of the Government is going to badly affect labourers and the poor.

The Government is inviting foreign investors and also doing retrechment of labourers from factories. B.I.F.R. Scheme is also being run. It will be a difficult task for Govenment to fulfil the requirement of the population when the population increases from 90 crore to hundred and hundred twenty-five crore. Among the population of England, the number of worker is less that is why they use machines.

The population of our country is vast the number of worker is also large. The Government should therefore consider this point and should also remember that the problem of un-employment is increasing. Coming of foreign investors in our country may sound plasant at the moment. The hon. Prime Minister as well as the other hon. Ministers are taking pleasure in stating that there has been a good investment by foreign investors.

More than half of our cultivable land is,

[Sh. Suraj Mandal]

laying unused. The Government has not been able to provide good irrigation facilities of farmers. Even after 47 years of independence the Government have not been able to provide facilities of electricity and water to the people living in villages. The Government have levied 10 percent tax on pesticides.

We had made a demand to shift the headquarter of the D.V.C. as per the agreement it had to be shifted from Calcutta to Maithon. The Government have to pay city allowance and travelling allowance since its location in Calcutta. The Government may get good amount of money if the land of the headquarters of the D.V.C. is sold. This may help in improving the financial condition of the D.V.C.

It is the duty of Central Government to provide funds the Government of Bihar. The World Bank had provided 394 crore rupees for the project regarding development of Jharkhand hilly area. Rs.308 crore were provided in the Budget for Tribal sub-plan.

When Rs.396 crore was released for the Jharkhand scheme, the fund was misappropriated by the Government of Bihar. There should be an audit as to where that money had gone. The Government releases funds for Bihar, yet the people of the State are starving there is no adequate supply of water and electricity and 2 industrial units are closed. I would therefore like to submit that the Central Government should make a clear cut policy.

People often raise the issues of Kashmir, Bodoland etc. Shri Sharad Yadav was just speaking on the problems of Kashmir, and Punjab and was also referring to the situation of North East. But if he refrains

from speaking on Jharkhand issue due to political considerations. Everyone is having same political drawbacks, that is way they prefer not to speak on the Jharkhand issue. Shri Sharad Yadav touched every issue including Kashmir, Punjab and North-East but dropped the Jharkhand issue. I would like to submit that the hon. Prime Minister should make his stand clear on Jharkhand issue in his reply to be given tomorrow otherwise we will also become terrorists. You might have watched "Inside of the Kashmir" on G. T.V. If you watch it you will see how are they preparing themselves.

The Jharkhand area is an interior area and is not a border area; has it been a border area, the same situation would have emerged there. Everyone, every youth feels that the problem of Jharkhand is not being solved since it is an interior area.

It was claimed in the President's address that the problem of Bodland had been solved. The fact, however, remains that the problem has not been resolved. Our men had gone to Assam and they held talks with the man involved in Bodland agitation. There has been no decision in that regard. They are going to launch agitation once again. Those who take up the issue should also find solution to the problem and should care to provide relief to the people. There is resentment among the people and they are much agitated. An effort should be made to solve this problem by formulating a national policy. I hope, the hon. Prime Minister will make the situation clear on Jharkhand issue in his reply tomorrow.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER: I earnestly request you to confine to the time given to

you so that more people could participate. Some people inspite of ringing of the bell speak for half-an-hour or 45 minutes.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I raise to discuss some aspects of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which are not included in the hon. President's Address which was delivered on the 21st February, 1994. It simply refers to something without the in-depth study. It spoke of the achievements of the Government of India, and the hon. Prime Minister's visit to several foreign countries and the results of his tour were superb and excellent.

I shall confine my submissions mainly on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes affairs. The reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes remain at 22.5 per cent, with the break up of 15 per cent for Scheduled Castes and 7.5 per cent for Scheduled Tribes. The reservation for Other Backward Classes is 27 per cent. But if we take the All-India figure, at present the All-India figure will touch 25 per cent of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes of the total population of India. So, in my opinion, this reservation should be 16 1/2 per cent for Scheduled Caste and 8 1/2 per cent for Scheduled Tribes total being 25 per cent.

I wrote several letters in this regard to the Welfare Ministry but I quote below the reply I received: "I am having the matter looked into."

This phrase has now become so dear or famous that the hon. Central Ministers of the Government of India that up to this date I have received at least 150 such letters saying that "I am having the matter looked into."

The scheme for infrastructure development in areas where 50 per cent or more Scheduled Caste population is living to be augmented under Special Component Plan, but I wonder in my reserved Constituency, Karimganj, Assam, consisting of more than 40 per cent of Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe people is not included in the Scheme. I feel there is some political motivation to exclude my Constituency from the benefit of the Scheme.

Further, it is seen that Employment Assurance Scheme has been introduced in 1,752 of the most backward and remote blocks and, in that also, my Constituency has totally been ignored.

It is claimed that during 1992-93, nearly 21 lakh Scheduled Caste families and 8 lakhs of Scheduled Tribe families were assisted to cross poverty - line under 20-point Programme and, that is why, this sounds something like paradoxical to say that there are starvation deaths in Orissa and Bihar and so, it is simply a propaganda of so-called 20-point Programme.

I have yet to get reply my Unstarred Question 6963 dated 28-4-1993 regarding percentage of landless Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population of Assam. I was assured by the Rural Development Ministry that a statement would be placed on the Table of the House. But till date, nothing is known. Now I think everywhere in the Congress Administration, dilatory process is going on so that issues should die down in the end.

My suggestion is that there should be a special survey cum census of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people of the country so that Government should be in a position to assess the actual situation of such people and to take suitable steps to

[Sh. Dwaraka Nath Das]

redress their grievances. The norms of reservation in the field of service and promotion and also in other matters should strictly be followed in the Centre as well as in the States.

We do not want that reservation should continue for decades to come but there should be sincerity of purpose on the part of the Government to upgrade the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people at par with other classes of society in no time.

I can say with all the strength at my command that unless and until the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people thrive, India can never prosper.

I draw your attention towards the marginal farmers. The Government have been indulging in high sounding words that there are support price for agricultural produce, adequate subsidies on fertilizers etc. But these do not reach the marginal farmers, that is the land poor farmers because of their meagre income.

18.46 hrs.

(SHRI TARA SINGH *in the Chair*)

SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS: On the other hand, there are innumerable landless agricultural labourers. But you cannot divert them to industry because of incoming of multi-nationals in our industry resulting damage to our indigenous industries. I think, industry and agriculture are complementary each other, that is, each dependent on other. But that is not possible in the present Indian context because of our artificial policy of liberalisation being pursued by the Government of India.

As regards unemployment, at present, over three crores of unemployed youths have been registered with the employment exchanges and if this situation continues, I fear, by 2000 A.D., the figure will touch about ten crores. This is mainly due to our present education system manufacturing thousands and thousands of youths fit for only white-collared jobs. Dignity of labour is unknown to them. I suggest that education should be vocationalised right from the secondary level without loading the students with heavy curricula, that is, craft scheme should be introduced so that they should become self-reliant and self-sufficient and come up as real help to the society at large.

So, I oppose such a utopian exaggeration in *Mahamahim* President's address. Thank you.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am very much grateful to you to call me as the last speaker from our Congress Party today. I rise to support the Motion put before the House.

I do not want to react to the criticisms made by the opposition but I will put forth some genuine arguments in this House. It is difficult to do something but it is very easy to criticise anything. One block of practice is better than thousand times of theory in this country. Now the country requires practicality. It is told by our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi regarding whom Mr. Einstein, the greatest philosopher and the scientist said:

"Generations to come would scarcely believe that a man like Mahatma Gandhi would tread on this globe in flesh and blood."

The great Mahatma like Einstein once said that the world has given us so many mahatmas. A Mahatma like Gandhiji was also born in this world.

** The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhiji said "Achieving freedom is not an end in itself, it is the means to enable the people to better their conditions."

Sir, it is very easy to criticise. But, just before independence, what were the conditions that were prevailing in our country? I will quote the version of a Oriya Poet, I would like to quote a stanza from a famous poem of Vyas Kabi Fakir Mohan the father of the Oriya literature. I quote,

"Though sixties of maunds of salt is available in the ocean near our villages, we are not getting them. Though plenty of salt is available here, we are restored to bring salt from Liverpool even though it is available at high price. We have to buy for our consumption. See the plight of our weavers They can weave best kind of clothes for us but we are getting man made clothes from Liverpool. We do not care for our weavers plight. They may face crisis and their family members may die in want of food and clothes, but we have to buy mill made clothes."

The meaning of this poem is that as a result of the monopoly declared by the Britishers, a pinch of salt could not be produced in this country. And from Liverpool, we are bringing our clothes. You just imagine what was our situation then and what is our situation now.

*One of our communist friends Shri Haradhan Roy, an hon. Member was criticising the Govt. at the top of his voice. I must say he was criticising very eloquently. I was listening to him. I would like to know what is going on in West Bengal? What is the situation there? What are you upto there? Can you claim that all the sufferings of the working class, the peasants, the proletariat have come to an end? There is more than a decade, more than ten years, no it is 16 or 17 years. But, what is your achievement? What do we find? We find that opporession, atrocities have been continuing. Those who speak of communism so eloquently here are in fact, very affluent - Lakhpaties and croeparties. Have their income been assessed? No it has not been assessed.

There are nine-storeyed buildings, there are very pompour ceremonies and everything, but by the same side, there are jhopris, there are thatched cottages and there is no food to eat, no clothes to wear. This is how the situation is very critical in that State.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Throughout India, except in West Bengal.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): He is making this pace for West Bengal Assembly.

** (DR.) KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): In this country we have both the mixture of luxury and poverty. Here there are wealthy people who are living in the midst of all kinds of luxury. They sleep on their softest beds in their nine storeyed buildings whereas there are places where you will only find people living in abject poverty without food clothes and even no

* Translation of the original quotation in Bengali.

** Translation of the original quotation in Oriya.

* Translation of the original delivered in Bengali.

** Translation of the original delivered in Oriya.

[Sh. Kartikeswar Patra]

slumps or hut to get shelter.

[*Translation*]

Saint Tulsidas said:

*"Hathichale Bazar, Kutte Bhonke hazar,
Sadhun ko durbhav nahi, Jo Ninde
Sansar";*

Therefore no attention should be paid to critics. Mahatma Gandhi has said about those who are honest and sincere that:

[*English*]

It is not too late to mend matters provided we forsake selfishness, adopt selflessness, abandon fear, cease to be hypocrite, become honest, upright, moral and truthful.

To achieve our goal, our aim should be to run honestly, to act sincerely, and you know that our Prime Minister, Shri P.V.Narasimha Rao is an out and out Gandhian and I can quote here.

Shri L. K. Advani, the then Leader of Opposition said on 12th July, 1991 speaking on the Motion of Confidence brought by our PM in this House, about our Prime Minister that:

"I have great respect for the Prime Minister. He is a scholar and a thorough gentleman. In fact I am tempted to say that he is a post-independence Congressman with pre-independence values."

Our Prime Minister considers pros and cons of the matter as to how to run the country before taking decisions. One should have knowledge and experience. In spite of

the criticisms that are being made here by some hon. Members of opposition about the policies and programmes taken up by this Government, sometimes some of the very same Members also do admit that there has been improvement.

When our Prime Minister took charge of this Government what was the atmosphere in the country and how the country was facing serious economic crisis? You know very well what was the internal and external situation at that time. But what did the opposition do? They just tried to topple this Government. After twenty months of elections efforts were made for this. You know this was the fifth minority government in India. Though it came as a minority Government to this House, our hon. Prime Minister sought the Confidence Motion. But on the first day, on 12th July 1991, the Opposition united and opposed the Motion. Luckily with the blessings of the countrymen the Government won the Confidence Motion. After that thrice No Confidence Motion was brought to this house after one year the first no confidence motion was brought on 15th July 1992 by Shri Jaswant Singh, an hon. Member of this House. Again, after five months another No Confidence Motion brought by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 18th December 1992. The last

No Confidence Motion brought by our CPM friend Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay on 26th July 1993. But all these Motions were defeated. Why? Because the people of this country have profound faith in Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. Shri R.V. Narasimha Rao is as clear as crystal. The country can rely upon him, the country is safe in his hands. Once the Father of the Nation told about Nehru that Nehru is as clear as a crystal, the country can rely upon him and the country is safe in his hands. Similarly now the country is safe in the hands of Shri P.V.

Narasimha Rao. You know that gold was mortgaged outside and it was brought back. You also know that Punjab was burning and democracy as brought back in Punjab.

19.00 hrs.

We have to see how Assam was burning and how Tamilnadu was burning. In Jammu & Kashmir throughout, there was terrorism. The situation was like that. *[Interruptions]*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR BARRACKPORE: Who was responsible for this? *[Interruptions]*

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Two previous Governments were responsible for this *[Interruptions]*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Who were in the previous Governments? *[Interruptions]*

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: You may please hear me. You know very well as to who were in the previous Governments. Two Prime Ministers have changed during that time and you also know very well as to how the situation was serious. That situation was controlled. *[Interruptions]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There shall be no disturbance please.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am the last speaker from the Congress Party and I want to reply to the criticisms of the opposition. Two Ministers — the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Finance were not the elected Members of his House. But still, the Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao took the courage to take steps to run this Government. Later, they were elected to this House also.

The situation was discussed by Shri L. K. Advani. Even he had the apprehension. What was his apprehension? I will quote that:

“They are banding entirely upon the two factors which no doubt are valid today. Factor one this country has been put to two general elections in the last 20 months; no person in this country want a third general election.”

That was his apprehension that people had witnessed two elections in the last 20 months and so everybody would suffer. Nobody in this country wanted another general election and that was exactly the case.

Shri L. K. Advani told that it is only in the case of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao Government that till today no one knows what is the majority on the basis of which this Government is going to face this House. That Government faced this. It is very clearly and there was no doubt about it.

Hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes who is not here in the House at the moment has told categorically:

“We are not realising to whom we are handing over this country.”

I want to know from him as to whether this country has been handed over to IMF. After two-and-a-half years, I want to put this question to him as to whether this country has been handed over to IMF. No, this country is not handed over to IMF; this country is running independently and the country is running according to the Government's policies and programmes. Economic reforms are made by our hon. Finance Minister as per the advice of the hon. Prime Minister. The country has not been handed over to any foreigner or to any IMF. This is the

[Sh. Kartikeswar Patra]

clear position and the hon. Members should know that they are unnecessarily criticising the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Shri Tara Singh): Please wind up now.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: What did this Government witness when it took over the charge? [Interruptions] The opposition was not cooperating. That is why the country is running in a critical juncture.

When the point of secularism was raised in this House, some Members played a dubious role. In the House, they are telling that secularism is a salient feature of our Constitution. But outside, they are breaking secularism. When Babri Masjid was demolished, in this House, who was responsible? I want to know about it categorically. Everybody knows it. But at the time of vote of No Confidence, all the Members were united in their support. If one is to catch the culprit, they should cooperate. According to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, it is the greatest curse for a man to be a slave. It is the greatest crime for a man to cooperate with the wrongs and injustice.

They are extending their hands to those who are wrong and doing injustice. This is very bad. If this practice goes on, they cannot do anything. This Government has certain responsibilities. The Government is very much aware of the problems of crores of people who are below the poverty line. How will they be lifted up? When the Government is taking up various economic reforms, when Government is having a liberal industrial policy, when Government is thinking to invest more funds in the rural areas to lift up the economic status of millions of poor people, at that time, so many

issues, like Bofors, have been raised. Bofors issue will come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 20 minutes. [Interruptions] Please conclude now.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: There has been a criticism here about the policy that our Prime Minister is pursuing. Mr. Jaswant Singh told:

"I am unable to lend my support. Thirdly, the hon. Leader of this House said something. I think, he used to say, we will follow the Nehruvian socio-economic continuity."

Regarding this, Prime Minister categorically mentioned in his reply to the motion of no Confidence on 15th July, 1991:

"Where the Congress manifesto and the history of the Congress the party that runs the Government - comes into the picture, it is not Shri Manmohan Singh plus Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, but we the small people, on whom the mantle has fallen. This is a combination."

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all [Interruptions] Please sit down.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: I would like to say one more thing. [Interruptions] All right, Sir.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman Sir, the present Government, when it came to power, was a minority Government and our Finance Minister, in his Budget speech said that his Government has come to majority and it is an achievement. Is it an achievement, Sir? This Government has come to majority in a dubi-

ous manner, without elections and engineering defections from different political parties destroying the root of parliamentary democracy in our country.

The President's Address has expressed concern about Jammu and Kashmir situation marked by intensive campaign by terrorists and low intensity proxy war by Pakistan and campaigning against India in International fora, ostensible pro-Pakistan tilt by USA cause grave concern for us. The present Government has miserably failed to evolve an appropriate policy framework regarding Kashmir.

There is a reference regarding economic reforms. The economic situation is deteriorating fast despite the tall claims by the Government that due to its economic reforms, the country is improving or that the economic situation is improving. Some of the important indicators indicate the myth of the Government that in the last three years, in secession, the industrial growth rate had about 2 per cent in contrary to 8-9 per cent in 1980s. The capital sector is also showing negative growth rate. The fact that economic reform programme did not face trouble does not mean that this programme is accepted by larger sections of our people. Government should bear in mind that there have been good monsoons for three consecutive years which contributed a good harvest. If there is any failure in monsoon, then the country may plunge into a catastrophe as in the past. In 1967, when monsoon had failed. Government was forced to accept devaluation of rupee and pay for the consequences in political terms. The new economic policy launched in 1991 did not reduce poverty in India but it did push a large section of our people below the poverty line. According to a recent evaluation of the World Bank, India is one of the 57 poor countries of the world. India had a per

capital income of 320 dollar in 1990 and in 1992 it was reduced to 310 dollars and it was also apprehended that it might have further gone down in 1993. Our Finance Minister is reported to have observed that the structural adjustment programme adopted under the pressure of the IMF and the World Bank yielded good results and unemployment has been reduced. But the Institute of Public Finance and Policy is on record to say that structural adjustment programme reduced employment by 80 lakhs.

The annual rate of employment will be eight to nine per cent per year. According to the RBI, the number of unemployed will rise to 5.9 crores within ten years. The RBI further pointed out that the liberalised economic policy has resulted in the decline of employment in the private sector. The real meaning and features of the NEP appear to be (1) privatisation; (2) disinvestment; (3) reduction in employment opportunities; and (4) withdrawal of subsidies. This is the real meaning of the New Economic Policy.

Sir, it is to be noted that the National Renewal Fund which in reality is another name of National Retrenchment Fund and the Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction have been vested with the responsibility of either recommending outright closure of the units or asking the employees to accept sacrifices.

Sir, there is not a single line regarding the Dunkel Proposals in the Presidential Address. With the acceptance of the Dunkel Proposals, India will lose economic sovereignty. It will further aggravate its balance of payments problems. It will violate the spirit of our Constitution. It will result in steep rise of prices. Finally, it will make India agriculture dependent upon foreigners.

Sir, there is not a single word about the

[Sh. Bir Singh Mahato]

JPC Report in the Presidential Address although it was the result of the labour of 30 honourable Members of Parliament and although it was a unanimous report with many recommendations.

There is a mention about the Ayodhya issue in the President's Address. Ayodhya issue is referred to the Supreme Court under Article 143 and the Government is awaiting their advice. But the direction of the Supreme Court under Article 143 is not binding on everybody. It should, therefore, have been referred to the Supreme Court under Article 138. But that was not done. For these reasons, I oppose the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. Thank you.

*SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion of thanks to the President's Address. After showing full respect to the President, I want to oppose the policy of the Government expressed in the Address of the President.

Sir, today the country is passing through a critical stage due to industrial crisis, inflation, staggering problem of unemployment, lay off in the factories, re-trenchment, atrocities on women, communal riots, caste-conflict, alarming rise in crime. The President's Address fails to mention either these problems or any solution. Mr. Chairman, we know that we had corruption before also and there are corruptions now too. But, it is a matter of regret that corruption has taken its deep root in the top in our administration. In fact, corruption is infecting the whole system like the deadly disease Cancer. We know that Joint Parliamentary committee was formed to probe into the biggest scam of our country and JPC have submitted their report also. But the Govern-

ment is still silent. No action has been taken against the persons indicted in the report. The Government or the Congress Party talks of democracy. But, they have shown utter disrespect to Parliament by hiking the prices of essential commodities like Sugar, rice wheat, cooking gas, petrol, diesel etc. Just before the presentation of the General Budget. The way the ruling party is violating the Parliamentary form, the fate of democracy in this country can easily be guessed. Although it is claimed in the Address that the agricultural strategy aims at increasing agricultural production so as to reduce poverty is widespread poverty in the country. Most of the people live below the poverty line. But instead of given priority to Public Distribution System by the revamping it, the Government is dealing very casually. Today, there is no difference between the price of essential commodities in Fair Price shop and open market. But the President's Address displays total ignorance of reality.

They claim that there is unprecedented production in the country. But in reality, there is widespread poverty, scarcity of essential commodities. We have got report of death due to starvation from Thane, Kalahandi, Tripura and Amaravati. But, they claim that there is steady progress on all fronts, a record foodgrain production and unprecedented levels of procurement. The situation is different in reality.

Our handloom industry was the superb industry. We used to export our handloom products to different parts of the world. Same is true of engineering industry. We used to export our engineering products too. But now the industrial crisis has led to closure of so many industries or made them sick resulting in the decline of export. We know that allocation has been increase for

Defence. But we feel sorry when we look at the condition in our educational field. Compared to other countries, we are still lagging behind with regard to education. It is really a matter of shame that even after 47 years of independence, the rate of illiteracy is so high in our country. Although, the Government claims to give very high priority to literacy and primary education, there is no provision for education for the poor or for the people belonging to rural sector. Whatever programmes are envisaged are not implemented properly. Majority of our population stay in rural areas. But the plight of the rural people is displorable. They did not have facility for drinking water, education good transport system. Even today, there is no provision for drinking water in more than 2 lakh villages.

Our Agriculture Minister has introduced the new Agricultural policy. But for whose benefit the new Agricultural policy is being implemented? We have found that small farmers, the marginal farmers the agricultural labourers are not benefitted by the new Agricultural policy. The multi-national agricultural sector has been benefitted by the policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, ours is a multi-lingual, multi-religions country. Babri Masjid has been demolished. The Masjid was demolished by the leadership of BJP. But, I am sorry to say that the Government remained silent spectator to the whole episode. There was categorical assurance by the Prime Minister that a Masjid would be constructed on that very side. But nothing has been done so far. This inaction has hurt the feelings of the minority. But the Centre has been indifferent to this burning problem. No appropriate steps have been taken by the Government so far resulting in making the issue a perpetual problem. The Centre has sent the issue to the Supreme Court

under Article 143 and awaiting the judgement. But, it would have been better to treat the issue under Article 138 because the judgement would have been binding for parties concerned. This only shows that the Government wants to keep the issue alive for their selfish interest.

We know that the problem of Kashmir has been a matter of concern for all of us. There is an outbreak of violence in the valley by the terrorists. Young persons there have been agitating since long. We must remember that the problem in Kashmir does not relate to law and order situation only. It has serious implications. We know Kashmir is an integral part of India. But yet the situation there is very serious. The problem is political and it should be solved politically. But we feel apprehensive that the Government is not showing appropriate attention to this serious problem.

We have also noted that land reforms have been implemented in our country. But, I am sorry to say that the implementation of Land Reforms has been beneficial for rich Zamindars and big farmers have not been benefitted by Land Reform Act. So, there is discontent among the weaker section, the agricultural labour and marginal farmers.

Ours is a vast country and we have many complex problems. But I want to draw the attention of the Government to the problems of Sundarban.

Sundarban is the biggest delta of Asia. Sundarban has a unique and superb scenic beauty. It is indeed spectacular. It is an island of rivers, beautiful sea and trees. But it has many serious problems. Agriculture is the main occupation there. Once Sundarban was claimed to be the storehouse of food for West Bengal. But today, the island is passing through critical period.

[Sh. Sanat Kumar Mandal]

The rivers are dried up resulting in accumulation of silt making the dried riverbed high. When there is excessive rain, the farmers cannot drain away the water. It has created problem for agriculture.

Our demand is that though the area of Sundarban had a unique beauty why the Government has not taken any steps to convert the island into an international tourist spot? The foreign tourists could have been easily attracted to visit the beautiful island. Calcutta is a metro politan city visited by many foreign tourists. They could visit the island also if there is a good transport system both through water and land. The Government must start both Railway and waterway connections for Sunderban. If the beautiful delta is converted into a tourist spot, the Government can earn more foreign exchange. I urge upon the Government to declare National Waterways for Sundarban. This will enhance the social economic, cultural development of the inhabitants of the island. Since it is an island, fishery is one of the main occupation. There should be steps to protect the fisherman from the pirates.

The problem of Sundarban is very acute. The rivers are over-flooded due to natural calamities resulting in damage to crops. The farmers lose everything due to this calamity. So, the west Bengal Government has sent a Master plan to build barrage along the river. So far the Centre has not taken any initiative to provide monetary assistance so as to construct the barrage.

While talking about Sunderban, I remember an Expert Committee was sent by the Centre to Sundarban about 7 years back to find out the feasibility of power generation from the water current in the sea. The report

of the Committee was sanguine about the project. But so far the Government has not taken any measure to create power generation plant in the island.

The Centre has declared Sundarban as The National Park. So, I draw the attention of the Centre to take appropriate steps for the overall development of sundarban. I urge upon the Government to initiate some measures for the economic, social and cultural development of the people of Sundarban.

Since the President's Address fails to mention these points, after thanking you, I oppose the motion.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK (Shahabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, President's Address is a reflection of the Government policies but this time the President's Address seems to be relying more on imagination and less on facts.

In his Address hon. President has said that law and order situation has improved comprehensively. In this context I would like to state that law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh is grave. Incidents of murders, looting and atrocities against women are being committed there every day. Women are being paraded of naked throughout the village. Recently on the 3rd of this month in a village of Hardoi district 12 persons were murdered together.

The situation in Kashmir is also grave. Law and order situation is deteriorating there. I would like to ask whether there is any improvement in law and order situation. What is happening in the country, is it the indication of improvement in law and order front.

In his address the hon. President has said that Government will give top priority to the development of Agriculture. In this context I would like to say that agriculture sector has been ignored totally, no attention has been paid towards it. The farmers in the country are not in a position to buy tractor due to its high cost. Now in the current budget the Government has withdrawn rebate on tractors below the capacity of 1800 cc. resulting in hike in the cost of tractors and thus the farmers will not be in a position to buy tractors. In the Address no mention has been made regarding educating the farmers about the proper utilisation of agricultural machinery. Farmers of U.P. have learnt the usage of agricultural machinery from the Sikhs resettling in U.P. after migration from Punjab but no such arrangement has been made by the Government so that farmers could learn about the usage of agricultural equipments.

In this Address, the hon. President has suggested the State Governments to lift the ban on transportation of foodgrains throughout the States. I think he has said the right thing and it will be better if it could be done so. At present there is ban on inter-state transportation of food grains and due to this farmers could not get remunerative price of their produce. I wish that Government should lift the ban on transportation of foodgrains all over the country, so that farmers could get remunerative prices. It will help in keeping uniform prices of foodgrains in the country.

In this Address, President has nowhere mentions about promoting girls' education in rural areas. I have seen myself that there is no proper arrangement for primary schools in villages. Junior high schools are situated at the distance of 7-8 kilometres. We can imagine that how these little girls have to go 6 to 8 kilometres far from their homes for

getting education upto Primary or high school level. Today Boys are getting education but due to lack of proper arrangement for education, girls have been denied from getting education. Educated boys avoid to marry illiterate girls and it is also creating problem. It would have been better if the Government mention about the proper arrangement of education in rural areas had been made in the President's Address but no mention has been made in this regard.

In our country education is not employment oriented and number of degree colleges are increasing day, by, day. I would like to say that by opening degree colleges we are opening factories of unemployment. It will be better to open vocational degree colleges. Hon. President had not mention anything in this regard. The Minister of Rural Development is present in the House and hon. President has said in his Address that budget allocation for rural development will be increased I would like to tell that villages of Uttar Pradesh are still backward. A large number of villages are not connected with roads. I wish that every village should be linked by roads for their development. At present villages have neither culvert, roads and nor bridges have been constructed on rivers. The villagers have to travel hundreds of kilometres on foot from one place to another. It is essential to emphasize construction of culverts, roads etc. if you really wish to develop villages. There is a practice that whenever a bridge is constructed, its cost is recovered in the form of toll tax. If this is happening there why the Government are not constructing bridges and roads. Villages will be developed by the creation of this infrastructure. Instead of making absurd schemes for rural development, concrete schemes should be formulated and implemented so that rural areas can be developed. I request the hon. Minister to pay attention towards it. In his

[Sh. Surendra Pal Pathak]

Address. President has also mentioned about the Extention of communication facilities in rural area. We are aware that telephones installed in rural areas are always out of order. and I think that if this is the position there is no need to waste more money in such schemes. If you really wish to provide telephone facilities in villages, then provide them the facility of radio-telephone there. They can only get the telephone facility they can only get the telephone facility there after. It will not provide any additional communication facilities to the villagers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY (Visakhapattanam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House because there are other Members who want to speak on this Address. But at the same time, I would like to point out some of the anomalies that have been crept into this Address of the President.

The President's Address could have been a little more meaningful had it contained some of the deficiencies that we are presently facing in this country. The President's Address is full of contradictions and contrary to the prevailing conditions, in the sense, several acts of the Government have been overstated or exaggerated to give a very rosy picture in the Address.

Sir, 72 per cent of the population of our country depend on agricultural sector. Neither the amount of inputs that is required nor the plight of the agriculturists has been

taken into consideration. Sir, you are aware that foodgrains production has been steadily decreasing in the last three years. The procurement price of foodgrains is also not remunerative whereas the cost of inputs has been steadily increasing. Take for example, fertilisers. What is happening now is that consumption of nitrogenous fertiliser is shooting up whereas the the consumption of potash and phosphate is declining. This is mainly because there is imbalance in the Fertiliser Policy. Subsidy is being given only for urea. There is no subsidy for the other fertilisers. Instead of going to the balanced fertiliser at the ratio of 4:2, they are only using the fertiliser which is available at the cheapest price. This is one of the reasons for the decline in foodgrains output in the last three years.

Recently the country, instead of protecting its farmers, is thinking of importing cotton into the country, which would be detrimental to the cotton producers in this country because there is already fall in the cotton prices. In this country, we are not able to protect the tobacco farmers. We require to export tobacco but we are not able to do that. Where protection is needed, that is not done and cotton is being imported into this country. This is a big anomaly hitting the farmers.

There are so many problems that the rural sector is facing nowadays. There are no drinking water facilities, there are no proper communication facilities and there are even no link roads. Seventy-two per cent of our population lives in villages and because of that, we are not able to bring literacy to them, nor are we able to eradicate poverty of these classes of people because there are no communication links. We are isolating the rural sector from the mainstream of the society. This is leading to an imbalanced growth of our economy.

In the President's Address, no word has been uttered about the drought conditions also that are prevalent in some of the States. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, there are certain districts where there are drought conditions. But nothing has been said about the drought conditions.

Not much has been stated about poverty also. Majority of the population of our country is living in poverty. They are suffering from illiteracy and disease. But not much has been said about how, during the course of the year, their problems are going to be solved.

Coming to the population control, many of the speakers have been saying that at the time of Independence, we were only 33 crores and now we are about 90 crores. But we are only increasing the population, we are not improving their standard of living. This is a major hinderance for the development of the country. Unless corrective steps are taken to curb the growth of population, we cannot improve the growth of the economy.

Coming to the law and order situation, there are very disturbing conditions that are prevailing in the country. It has not been stated how the state of affairs that is prevalent in Kashmir, is going to be tackled.

There is 'Save the Earth' proposal. Several things that we say about saving the earth, remain only as a slogan. Pollution is surrounding the cities but nothing is being done to put a halt to the problem of population.

The prices of essential commodities are skyrocketing but no concrete measures to curtail the prices are being thought of.

Industrial policy is also in doldrums

today. The Indian industry is facing so many problems and still we are inviting the multi-nationals to come and occupy the entire industrial sector in the country.

The Presidential Address should have been touching the weak points more so that corrective steps could have been taken during the year. Instead of doing that, it has indulged in praising the performance of the Government which can be judged only by the people, rather than by this House.

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE (Bombay South Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the President in his address has stated that the Government will make all efforts to improve the situation in Ayodhya, keeping in view the opinion of Supreme Court. I want to ask only one question from the Government—regarding the Shah Bano's case. The court had given its verdict. But under duress you changed it. Will the Government do the same in the case of Babri Masjid. The Government should move its policy clear on this. Government's policy ought to be clear out.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government's policy is anti-labour. On the one hand the Government says a special scheme would be started to provide employment to the educated unemployed in small scale industries and on the other hand, a dangerous situation has arisen in Bombay. Today, due to power cuts, eleven mills have been closed.

They gave the notice and not Tata Power. Therefore, the electricity connection was served and the NTC did not pay them the due payment of rupees four crores. Jaam Mill, Sitaram, Kohinoor, Jupitar, Bharat, Digvijay, Poddar, Modhusudhan, Appolo, New Hind and Bombay Mill were incurring losses since the NTC officials indulged in corruption. I want to give an example.

[Sh. Mohan Rawle]

There is a finlay Mill in my Lalbagh constituency, which had a accumulated loss of Rs. 1.32 crore as on August, 1992. In that Mill, Shri Ray was appointed as the General Manager. In ten months he wiped out the losses. Thereafter he was transferred. I know that the Mills remain closed due to non-availability of cotton. Components of inferior quality are being used in the powerlooms. Since the NTC officials are corrupt, there is no production. The Government's policy is that of sucking the blood of the workers. Instead of buying from NTC the items needed for Railways, Hospitals, etc. are, there are being bought from private mills as the private mills pay commission. If bought from NTC mills, they would make profits. The Government had to retrench the workers, in order to run these mills, as the Government does not supply cotton. This is how the Government functions. From the JPC report it was learnt that the scam was to the extent of Rs. 5,000 crores. Adverse remarks were made in the JPC against several persons. But the Government has not taken any action against them. Its only response was that as they were enemies of the nation, the amount can not be recovered from them. The Government can not provide four crore rupees to the workers, due to which 15,000 people are likely to starve. Due to the Governments policy, 70,000 workers are unemployed since 1982. What happened to the Government's committed of providing food, clothing and shelter? Dogs bark when an elephant passes. But the dog is atleast honest. When the elephant tramples the people, the dog has to bark. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had announced that price rise will be contained in 90 days. But prices rose even after this announcement. Today the poor can not survive. In Bombay, people dwell in slums....[Interruptions].. The Central Government earn Rs. 17,944

crore from Bombay. But its centre does not want to assist in any way. For instance, the slums should be supplied with drinking water, care should be taken regarding sanitation and health. The urban Development Minister is present here. I want to tell her that Balasaheb Thackeray had submitted a scheme. The scheme proposed to give 70 per cent of the plots to the slum dwellers and the remaining 30 per cent to the developers. The slum dwellers should be given houses free of cost. But the Government does not agree. More than one crore people of Bombay have demanded to change the name of Bombay to Mumbai. But that too is not being done. When Banaras can be given back its old name Varanasi, Tanjore Thanjavur; Tricharpalli Tiruchirapalli; Baroda Vadodra; Cochin Kochin; and Trivandrum Thiruvananthapuram, why Bombay can not be given back its old name Mumbai. 'Mumbai' Samachar Pacra is being published since the last 150 years. When Peiking can become Beijing and Ceylon can be Sri Lanka one fails to understand why our Government can not rename Bombay as Mumbai.

The Maharashtra-Karnataka bountry dispute persists even after 35 years. There is no mention of in the President's address.

Jawahar Rojgar Yojana now exists only in files. In our city, hardly 1000 people out of a population of one crore, are associated with it. Large number of applications are pending in banks in my constituency. But the Government does not sanction loans to these poor people. Whereas those who fail to repay loans worth lakhs and crores, get the loan. Annual tax exemption limit should be raised for there. The State Government should give directives to the concerned authorities to allow those engaged in petty bussiness to put up stalls on Corporation and Municipal lands, where they do not create obstruction in the movement of traffic.

Today, we are talking about giving equal rights to all the citizens. All the citizens are not treated equally. The dependents of those killed in the '84 riots have not yet received any compensation. The Government gave Rs. two lakh in compensation to the kin of those killed in previous riots. No action has been taken against those responsible for 1984 riots. The main accused in the last years March 12 bomb blasts in Bombay have not yet been nabbed. I am saying this time and again:-

[English]

"Politics is the dirty game played by the dirty people. It is the last resort of the scoundrels."

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Since time is very short, I will try to be very brief.

I rise to oppose the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Our Party abstained from attending this Address. This was not out of any disrespect for the President but because we felt that we had to make a protest against certain anti-people measures which have been taken by the Government on the eve of the Budget Session.

When I look at the President's Address, I find that our decision to abstain was not in fact, a wrong decision because in the President's Address, in certain ways, these anti-people measures of the Government have been glossed over, have been hidden away from the eyes of the people.

I will just mention one or two points because these points seem to be somewhat symbolic if the drift of the entire President's Address. These are two serious omissions in the President's Address. In the Address, there is no mention about adequate measures to be taken by the Government on the

eradication of child labour. The question of child labour is one of the most basic questions in our country today.

20.00 hrs.

We feel that the structural adjustment programme which has been taken up by the Government under the pressure of the IMF and the World Bank is going to increase the crisis, as a result of which child labour has been endemic to our economic situation.

As a result of this structural adjustment programme, we find that regular employment both in the public sector and private sector is being curtailed. That does not mean that work is not being done but the burden of work is being placed on the shoulders of those who have less of bargaining power. They have been pushed into unorganised sector. The burden of labour, the burden of work, is being shifted on the shoulders of women and children in the unorganised sector because they are unable to come together.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time should be extended?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Up to Eight 'O' clock the House will be there. I think she will continue and after that for the day we shall finish.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, The Hon. Speaker announced in the house today that those members who send their names will be given a chance to speak.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Shri Chandra Shekhar said that there were not enough speakers. If one Member wants to speak, we can adjust. Let us know how many more want to speak.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Those who want to speak, let them finish today. Tomorrow, the Prime Minister will reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 8 Members to speak. They are all present.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Five minutes means 40 minutes. Make it up to 8.30 PM.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. The House is extended up to 8.30 PM.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARIA: Even by Government estimate, there are 2 crore child labours in our country and this does not take into account children who are labouring in the agricultural sector. In the Presidential Address, two paragraphs have been devoted to the cause of primary education. But unless primary education is made available to the children who are now working as labourers, who are being exploited in a terrible fashion in many of the private sector industries both in the organised and unorganised sectors, this programme of primary education would be just an eye-wash and we find that because this speech does not mention making primary education compulsory, we doubt whether it has any intention to bring child labour from their condition of bondage and releasing them

The other point that I want to make is regarding the Bhopal gas victims. Again we find in the Presidential Address, no mention of the present situation in which the Bhopal gas victims are. It is not just a single case.

it is symbolic of the entire drift of the policy of the Government. Today we find that the import policy of the Government is such, import liberalisation is taking place in such a manner and because we have incurred so much foreign debt, we are being pressurised to import things which are not necessary for us.

There is Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev sitting here. In the steel sector, they are going to be in grave problems; in coal sector, they are going to be in grave problems. Wagons are going to be imported while the indigenous industry is suffering. As a result of the trap of foreign debt into which we have entered the foreign companies, the multinational companies are being allowed unrestricted entry. They are being allowed level playing field in this country of ours. And the Bhopal gas case, in fact, is a case in point. Because here we find what a multinational company can do when it acts irresponsibly. We find that so far although nine years have passed since that incident took place, the tragic incident took place, we find that not even two per cent of the Bhopal gas victims have yet received their final compensation although the money is lying with the Government for a long time and accruing interest. If this kind of unrestricted entry to multinationals is going to be given and if on the other hand these multinationals find that in this case of the Bhopal gas victims are not getting their proper compensation even after nine years have elapsed, then what kind of message will that send to the multinational companies? They will think that they can do anything with the people of India. That is a very grave omission in the Presidential Address. And I think that this is symbolic of the deficiencies and the contradictions of the entire Address. Therefore, I thoroughly oppose this Presidential Address. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SH. BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani):
 Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to oppose the motion of thanks on the President's address. Just now as Smt. Malini ji has said that since the President is the head of the nation, we did not want to oppose his address. But I would refer to a news item that appeared in today's newspapers that India, Iran and China have similar views on the Shimla Agreement on Kashmir. It is a welcome development and I think this should be given a thrust, so that we can solve a common border dispute with China also, considering that we share a common border with China. For this, we need to take a firm decision so that the pressure tactics often thwarted may it being Pakistan or America.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the Government, in my view have proved to be useless. First it was incident of 6th December and Secondly in the Shah Bano episode. Why does the Government take upon itself the responsibilities it can not bear. The Government should refer all the matters relating to Ayodhya to the Supreme Court under the Article 138. Both the House should announce unanimously that the Supreme Court's decision would be binding on all sundry and that no changes would be made.

Mr. Chairman Sir, Land reforms have been totally neglected. Economic exploitation and social oppression prevalent in our country in the name of caste. We have over six thousand castes. We know those who commit social atrocities on lower castes. Beginning from Belchi in Bihar to the incidents of atrocities in Uttar Pradesh, there is a need for stand against economic exploitation and social atrocities so as to create a conducive environment of equality. And later so as we should strive peacefully for real equality, with-

out any bloodshed or dispute. I believe this can be achieved if the Government take necessary steps. We can all extend our help.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was also a Panchayati Raj Bill. Its implementation is being delayed excessively. We worked hard in drafting it in the select committee. It was passed by both the House, it should be implemented, because it has been 15 years. Since Panchayat elections were held in Bihar, and it is the 16th Year. Similar is the situation in other states. Hence my appeal that what we enshrined in the Constitution, should be implemented. One-third seats should be reserved for women and the Panchayati Raj system be implemented all over the country in which Harijans and Adivasis should also find a place.

Give full autonomy to Kashmir. Let the people give themselves. If they work dishonestly, the people will expose them and if they work honestly, the region will develop. There is no loss in giving autonomy after holding Panchayati Raj Elections. Otherwise some people will be attracted towards Pakistan and some will belong to violence. This will also not work. Mr. Chairman, sir, the reverse direction towards which the industry is heading is also not satisfactory. One fact to understand how temerity the leaders of our ruling party have in saying that they would not let any industry to shut down. The Industries running in profit were given to the capitalists, by the Government. And those sick were left to fend for themselves. There was a time when it was said that the workers should be allowed participation in management. But the workers themselves now demanding that sick units be handed over to them and they would run those profitably. But the Government is paying no attention to their demand. We do not want that the factories may continue to suffer

[Sh. Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

losses and Government may go on printing currency notes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that under the successful leadership of Shri Man Mahon Singh our Industrial Production has come down to 2-2.5 per cent. Whereas prices have risen by 7-8 per cent. The Finance Minister is saying that prices are not rising whereas the reality is that prices are continuously going up. In such a situation the new economic policy would certainly take us backwards. Today we take decision under the pressure of the foreigners. We desire that in our country public sector industries should also exist. Such industries should be set up in the public sector which the private sector does not want to setup. Such industries should exist in the public sector and also small scale industries. Our country can develop like Switzerland. But for that a far sighted industrial policy is needed. Mr. Chairman, sir, it is the complaint of most of the states producing minerals that their royalty on the basis of weight we desire that their royalty be fixed according to their price. This matter concerns not one or two states, but several states. Similarly, in our country there is the problem of Uttarkhand and Jharkhand. We too want that no more states should be created. But we are aware that without a separate Jharkhand state the development of that region is not possible.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am going to say a very important thing. Many persons have commented on the news item published in the Statesman, dated 29th January. Are you all not going to raise this issue. This has been repeated many a times and the 42 important politicians have been named. More than half of which belong to the ruling party. Some are Ministers some belong to the

opposition, Rupees one crore or two crore have been given. It was given by the Jain Brothers. It was the how wealth was accumulated by the ISI of Pakistan. This is referred in the CBI's diary. This is a matter of corruption, a matter endangering the democracy and it reflects on the national unity and integrity. I think the Government should reveal those entities whose names are mentioned.

With this, I conclude and beg your leave to lay these papers on the table, which authorize my charges. Based on the CBI's diary it was published in the Statesman dated the 29th January.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

20.16 hrs.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the president's Address is being discussed and the address reflects the Government's policy. It is an account of achievements and failures of the Governments and failures of the Government. As has been discussed in the morning it is also self-analysis. But along with it, introspection is also essential, which seems to be lacking in this address. Reference has been made in the address of law and order situation. But is there any law and order in the country, today? Are we being able to ensure the security of the nation today? If we examine the situation of last year or before that, it would be seen that the danger to the nation's security has been increasing.

There is a mention of change of scenario in president's address. I would like to ask what scenario has changed. Has the situation changed in Jammu & Kashmir? Have even five families out of the 2.5 lakh Hindu refugees returned to their homes or villages? Has any change taken place in Pakistan's

attitude. Have we resolutely given a befitting reply to American or Pakistani statements?

Not only this, the President's address also mentioned that concrete steps are being taken against terrorism in Jammu - Kashmir and some have already been taken. It is ludicrous to say that the Hazratbal crisis was solved in a commendable manner. I want to know, does release of terrorists amounts to taking "concrete steps" ? A woman of common file was asking me, what is happening, Shrimati Sumitrajji? It is like thieves entering in my own house, and asking my four young sons to go and sit outside and expeding me request the politeness to eat biryani, but please leave my house.. [Interruptions]... The may we tackled the Hazratbal crisis, it is being discussed internationally. The foreign Ministry has been rendered ineffective. You will not understand the situation. Alongwith national security the personal security has also been endangered. Present the real picture today. Things were adrift for 1 - 2 years and we failed to realise it. What was the fault of those killed in a bomb explosion at Kalyan on the occasion of bhai-duj?

What was the fault of those little children who were killed in bomb explosion in Bombay on 12th March. What was fault of those new born babies who were killed in the bus and what was the fault of those people who were killed and drenched in their own blood while they were taking their breakfast. Why all this is happening in the country. As a result of the shaky policies of the Government and economic scams, neither the country is getting any respect outside nor the common man is able to save his self respect in the country. Even the God cannot save a country where woman is not safe and motherhood is being robbed on the street.

Today atrocities against woman one on

the rise and we say that country is moving towards 21st century. I am not talking about some any particular persons or groups but I feel ashamed of such of atrocities. During 12th and 13th century, small king used to fight with each other and atrocities were committed against common man, their crops were destroyed, their woman were sobbed. The same thing is happening today. Communal disturbances are taking place in which atrocities are being committed against women. In a country where the dignity of women is not safe, how education to the girls can be mentioned in President's Address. Conferences on 'Education for All' are being organised. In Madhya Pradesh where Congress party is in power girl students of class ninth and tenth were trapped under debris of School building and leg of one girl was broken. When these girls went to the Chief Minister to demand for a new school building they were beaten and lath charged because the Chief Minister was going to attend some function.

It is written in the 'President's Address that.

"The Government knows that reform is a continuous process and if can not be reversed."

It is correct Economic reforms are going on and we are not looking back that common man in the country is heavily burdened by price rise due to wrong economic policies of the Government. Due to wrong policies of the Government several mills are being closed down and people are becoming unemployed and these are starving. In Indore more than six thousand labourers have become unemployed, they are groaning but you are not going to look back.

I feel sorry to hear what has been said by the representatives of the Government in

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

this House. Introspection is required today. Some hon. member has said that they were in minority and now they have achieved majority. But I would like to say that this majority has been achieved through horse trading. Government and its representatives have resorted to horse trading in this regard. While presenting this motion of thanks it has been said that it should be passed and praised by the members.

But I would like to say the people of the country saying that "how we can praise those who have ruined us."

[*Translation*]

[*English*]

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. The address does not reflect the situation in the country nor what the people abroad think about us and our country, it seems the government does effect of their policy. Before the Parliament session, the administered prices were raised. The people are groaning under price rise. But that is simply glossed over. In the address, it is claimed that increase in production is so much and the procurement is so much.

The public distribution system is practically in a shambles. It is simply non-existent. I do not want to go in to things like price rise, taxation, and administered prices. Then after this, in the railway budget, there is something like Rs.170 crore. The charges have again been increased. But promises have been made that they would bring back the prices to the 1989 level.

By signing the GATT agreement - by ignoring the Parliament, by ignoring the

unanimous recommendations of the standing committee of the Parliament and defying the public opinion- the government has acted beyond its size.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): What is the other option?

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: They have already been said about that. do not want to go in to all this because there is no time.

I want to say one thing that there was no mandate for it. The people have not given a mandate to mortgage the country. The government is acting beyond the mandate of the people. I will cite some instances how it has harmed by signing the Dunkel Agreement no these about your N.E.P. I will not take much of your time. In Orissa, the ibb river thermal project, for which the Orissa power generation corporation has prepared the infrastructure for 500 MW, is now being proposed to be given to a multinational corporation, AES. This could have been done by BHEL. By this the nation will lose at least to the tune of Rs. 2,000 crore. I do not know what is the kickback behind this deal. The multinational corporation has demanded payment in dollars. This is yarn economic policy which has brought our country to this level.

Four lakh industrial units are sick. Most of them are in the private sector. Claims have been made that the law and order situation has improved in the country. Even after demolition of the Babri Masjid. There has been an apprehension among the people. It has been said that apprehension has proved to wrong etc. and all those things. But there is no basis for it, once we take in to account the past December 6 riots then, I will cite another example on the law and order situation. On 6th February, of Bhubaneswer in Orissa, the 2 CRPF jawans

[Shrimati Sivaji Patnaik]

misbehaved with women and people protested against it and landed them over to the police. After that on 10th February the CRPF, in hundreds, came with arms, attacked and ransacked the Priyadarshini market area, looted property, molested women and had beaten the people there. This was the fourth incident of that kind. But CRPF camp is not yet removed from that area. What is the training given to our armed forces and to our CRPF? I think there are no human values in them and no respect for human beings. Moreover, TADA is used against CPI (M) activists in Kerala and against democratic movements in the country. Now, the government proposes- it has come in the newspapers- to bring a black bill to legalise closures and illegalise all resistance like strikes against such closures. If such a bill is brought about, I am giving a word of caution to the government, people of India will not take such things lying low. They will come out in resistance, people are planning. They will be in lakhs in Delhi on the 5th of April, people are not going to take it lightly. If Dr. Manmohan Singh thinks that he can carry on anything here as dictated by the World Bank, it will simply turn out to be a day dream, of course they will be days of great difficulty for India. With these words of caution, I once again oppose the motion of thanks.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: Please allow only those who could complete within the prescribed time. I will also sit then [Interruptions]

[English]

PEOD. PREM DHUMAL: Sir, the hon.

Minister is directing the chair while sitting in his seat. He should know how to behave in the house.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to get the consent of the house. Prof. Prem Dhurnal: Yes, you must get the consent of the house. But he should know as to how he should behave in the house.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: I am saying that the time will be extended only when the hon. members conclude the discussion within the time [Interruptions]. Have little human attitude.

[English]

PEOD. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister is using objectionable language. You should take note of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall take note of it if I feel that it is derogatory.

20.34 hrs.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is quite unfortunate that the Address of the President to the Parliament has become a mere formality and just a ritual. The immediate former President, Mr. R. Venkataraman has also expressed the same opinion. So, it is time for all of us sitting in the Parliament, after 45 years of experience in Parliamentary democracy, to think as to what would be the relevance of the President's address.

Anyway, I would not like to go through each and every para of this hollow document. With due respect to Rashtrapati and without intending to offend any individual, I am constrained to observe that this is nothing but a hollow document and I may kindly

[Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

be permitted to say so. This address has failed to inspire confidence among people and to give a new direction to our country. Except expressing stereotyped sentiments in respect of the worsening situation in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and in the north eastern states and shedding crocodile tears, nothing else is stated which is worth consideration in this document. No doubt, the government has tried to make a mountain out of a molehill by quoting certain figures to show that they have achieved great development and have put in major efforts to alleviate poverty. In fact, we are virtually driven to the wall in the matter of handling of our economy. Contrary to the tall claims made by the government through Dr. Manmohan Singh that the country has achieved remarkable progress, there is no improvement in our situation whatsoever. Figures themselves speak for the so called achievement of the government.

During the financial year 1993-94, fiscal deficit had almost reached an alarming figure of about Rs. 60,000 crore. This has contributed to mass retrenchment, falling industrial as well as agricultural production and so on.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Fall in agricultural production what is he saying? Sir, he should not be allowed to make such incorrect statements.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: You may please compare the figures with the figures of earlier years. Then, you can see the reality.

The country is virtually falling in to a debt trap laid by the multinationals and the world financial institutions. Budget for 1994-

95 is yet another glaring example of zero growth rate. It is also causing high inflation thereby making the life of the common man highly miserable.

Sir, I come from Karnataka. I would like to say just one word about my state Karnataka. I am sure, my friend, Shri Oscar Fernandes from the Treasury Benches will agree with me. For the last so many years, we have been receiving a step-motherly treatment from the Union Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Shri Tara Singh): You have already taken eight minutes. Please conclude.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: In the matter of power generation, construction of national highways, or even in respect of augmenting agricultural production, Karnataka is totally neglected. Anyway, the one contribution that the Government of India and the Prime Minister as the President of the AICC have made to Karnataka is to create political instability in the state. I will not like to say anything more on it. My friend Shri Ramesh Chennithala has been waiting patiently since long that this government would achieve great many thing. But I do not have any false hopes about this government. I can very well understand the plight of this government.

Sir, look at this government. Today, the government appears to be very old and sickly. Very able, young and dynamic Ministers are replaced with old and sick people.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Shri Tara Singh): Nothing will go on record.

[Interruptions].....*

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Old is gold. What are you talking?

*Not recorded.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Last point, I would like to appeal to them that at least now, they must act:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

[Interruptions].

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the points which should be discussed in President's address, especially the present position of the country and the direction in which we have to take this country. These all had been mentioned in it and I did not want to discuss it. Mr. Chairman, Sir I would like to draw the attention of the house towards a specific point. I am not talking about any specific political party or state government but all the incidents which are taking place in the country reveal law and order position in the country. I did not understand that how it has been said that law and order position is improving when Babri Masjid can be demolished in the presence of state government. What is the moral standard of all the political institutions and political parties. Today political parties are being set-up by such persons against whom criminal cases are pending in courts in the country or in foreign countries. The government knows that politicians and ministers are organising gangs today. Political parties or political leaders are involved in all criminal activities which are taking place in the country and people take it merely as a matter of law and order position.

Mr. speaker Sir, from my point of view the President's Address should have mentioned the moral character of the government and political parties. Today changes in the political parties is not due to new eco-

nomic policies only. The expected reforms in public sector also have not been taken up and thus crime is increasing in our country and it has been said that crime is under control. For example I would like to draw attention of the house towards incident of violence in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly between the members of political parties.

Is it not crime? Whether assembly is not the part of the government. What ideals are being presented before the public by bringing impeachment motion against Ramaswami the Chief Justice of Supreme Court and by making efforts to save it. Does it not reveal the criminal character of the government. All such incidents which are taking place from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from east to north should have been mentioned in the President's address. Government and political parties are using administrative machinery to remain in power. Violation of law and order reveals change in moral character of the government and it can create civil war in the country. It should have been mentioned in President's Address that 47-48 years have been passed since independence and even now laws are being violated and country is being taken towards civil war, which is dangerous and it should be stopped. It should have been mentioned in President's Address. With these words I conclude.

20.50 hrs.

[English]

*SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give only one or two suggestions for the kind consideration of the government. Agriculture is the main profession of our country. Therefore,

* Not recorded.

** Translation of the speech reginally delivered is Kannada

[Sh. Oscar Fernandes]

irrigation must be given top priority by our government. Handicrafts and small scale industries should also be encouraged. Secondly, it appears that the centre is not allocating sufficient funds for research programmes in the field of agriculture and industry. My appeal to the Hon. Minister is to allocate more funds for the purpose of research in the field of agriculture and its allied activities. Both private and public sectors should spend sufficient amount on R&D.

The number of educated unemployed youths is on the increase. They are finding it very difficult to get jobs. Therefore, I request the centre to provide vocational training in various fields at the primary level itself. Sufficient funds should be earmarked for the training of school students. In addition to this, sports and other curricular activities must be given importance.

Once again I reiterate that training of youths must be taken up with all seriousness and financial assistance must be provided for the same. Sir, I am grateful to you for giving this opportunity to speak on the motion of thanks to the President and with these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the President's address seems to be mere formality. It is evident from his address that the ruling party is lowering the dignity of the President's post to such an extent. I feel that had the president himself written his speech then he would not have agreed with any line of this speech. It requires to be considered that the dignity of this post has been lowered to such an extent. We should organise such programmes in which the political parties

should oppose such programmes in which the political parties should oppose such an attitude. Had the President himself written the speech he would have mentioned that the year of 1993 was full of failures. Whenever the ruling party wanted to their skin they immediately put its responsibility on Ayodhya episode so that they may conceal their misdeeds.

I want to tell you what happened during 1993. We defended justice Ramaswamy in this Lok Sabha. 1993 was the year when the names involved in Bofors started being made public, authoritatively. This year also saw a scam and the names of the persons involved therein were made public. It even exposed faces of many members of the cabinet. Their foreign accounts were talked about and this is the misfortune of the country that nobody even raised a finger on the Prime Minister, had it been any other country, the Prime Minister would have been lodged in the jail. To which direction we are taking our country, he must consider it. We should have decided it in the President's Address but he did not do so. When this government came to power it had claimed to reduce the prices within 100 days but if you analyse the period of 100 days you will come to know about the realities. There was a bye election in Delhi. Our colleague from Congress, who won that election had promised to people to increase the income tax range to certain limit and in the even he to do so he would tender his resignation. Then came the budget and this range was increased by Rs.50,00 only. When we went there to know his reaction, we found that he was feeling happy and totally forgot to tender his resignation. In 1993 we gave a suitcase culture to the nation. We briefed the people that now we are going to act. If today a person is caught taking a bribe of Rs. 5 then he simply says that when a change of fortune to the tune of crores of rupees is being done at

higher level than how he can be held responsible for it. People are raising fingers on the persons sitting on the highest post in the country.

The reservation for the backward classes has been under discussion since long but their intention is not clear. We do not want to uplift this section of the society. We want to put hindrances so that this issue becomes disputed. You can better see services. The 52 percent population belongs to the backward classes but what is their position, what is required to consider. Only those persons can qualify for these services which represent the Doon School culture.

It should have been mentioned in the President's Address that we will arrange for potable water, schools and dispensaries in the villages on priority basis as till date our villages lack drinking water and other facilities. And on the other hand you go on praising them as a dynamic leadership. One of our colleagues has tried to describe the aim of the Congress I quote:

Mr. Chairman, Sir you will be surprised to know that this time the increase made in the dearness allowance for the armed forces to the tune of 7 percent whereas for retired personnel it is only 3-5 percent. I recently visited my constituency in Himachal Pradesh, some ex-servicemen met me there and registered their anguish that for the first time in the history of India they are being given half Dearness Allowance. What message do you intend to give to the armed forces by doing this? I want that while giving his reply the Prime Minister should make clarifications in this regard?

Secondly, we say that we will make more financial provision for the defence of the country. Last time we provided Rs. 18500 crores for armed forces while Rs. 38000

crores were provided for the payment of the interest on foreign loan. This time we have provided only Rs. 23000 crores for the Defence budget while Rs. 46000 crores have been provided for the payment of interest on foreign loan. I think hon. President must have felt sorry for that he had to deliver such an irrelevant speech.

[English]

"Breaking political parties, effecting mass defection of elected representatives and a working majority in the Lok Sabha are the only achievements of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. On the whole the government has gone sick and old by including old and infirm people as ministers in the place of some young and dynamic members. I can understand the suffocation of my young friends in the ruling party. I would like to make an appeal to their conscience to make soul searching. Friends, if you want to build a strong, youthful and progressive India, please have an alternative young and dynamic leader. Do not worry, better late than never. Act now. Otherwise you will miss the bus.

[Translation]

This is not the question as to what are we doing but the question is why it is being discussed in the whole country that we should act in a sensible manner. When this government came in to power, it claimed that it would do away with the scavenging. We should also analyse the actual situation in this regard. We claim that we will put a check on prostitution but we are making check ups for AIDS and distributing them certificates. What is this policy? I would ask the government to give due consideration to provide communication facility, schools, hospitals, link road and potable water in villages.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: (Hamirpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the motion of thanks on President's Address moved by Shri Shiv Charan Mathur. I would like to mention some points in this regard.

First of all, the President has mentioned about Defence forces in para 45-46 of his address and as my many colleagues have said that had he himself written this speech or had he read it earlier he would have felt sorry. The Army Besides doing its outline job, also helps the administration in maintaining law and order position and curbing rebellion activities. I totally disagree with the hon. President, when he said that the Government is committed to provide better facilities to inservice or retired army personnel. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be surprised to know that this time the increase made in the dearness allowance for the armed forces to the tune of 7 percent where as for retired personnel it is only 3.5 percent. I recently visited my constituency in Himachal Pradesh, some ex-servicemen met me there and registered their anguish that for the first time to the history of india they are being given half Dearness Allowance. What message do you intend to give to the armed forces by doing this? I want that while giving his reply the prime minister should make clarifications in this regard?

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Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that much importance is given to agriculture in the area to which you belong. The hon. President has said about agriculture policy in para 17 to 20 in his address. Hon. President is a very religious person and he must have been deeply hurt to read that slaughter houses are opening in the country. Thousands of animals will be slaughtered daily in Patiala near your area and thereafter meat will be exported; and on the contrary the progress of India can be analysed by the fact that we have to import animal dug from Holland. I am surprised whether it is agriculture policy? Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would therefore like to say that the present government of the country do not have any attachment with its country and they are interested only in imports.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in para 16 of his Address, the hon. President has said that this has been a year of strengthening the initiative of economic reforms being carried out by the government and the same matter was referred to by the other speakers speaking before me. I would like to congratulate the members of the JPC for unanimously presenting a very good report last year in the Parliamentary history of India. Though the Chairman of the Committee was a member of the ruling party. They worked hard and tried to reach to the depth of the matter.

21.00 hrs

The Government did not feel the requirement of making any mention of it in the President's Address, since the report contained some reference about the hon. Prime Minister and also about his son and the Gold Star company. I would like to know whether it was not necessary to mention about it in the Address that as to what action is proposed to be taken on such a unanimous report?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say about telecommunication department. Today when I was coming here and when my name was called in the House, at that time I was with the representative of the Ranchi Express who was here to meet me. You will be of astonished to know what he told me. There a District Officer of telecommunication is building his house. The representatives of that newspaper went these to take photographs of that. He was beaten. When he lodged on F.I.R., the connection of his teleprinter and telephone was cut. A district officer of telecommunication can be so boastful that he gets the connection of teleprinter and telephone belonging to a newspaper cut because the newspaper had published some news against him. If lower-level officer are indulging in such activities, how can the Government run the telecommunication department efficiently....[Interruptions].. I can raise this issue during zero hour, but would the hon. Prime Minister make reply to it tomorrow during zero hour.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I conclude I would like to submit that the decision of signing the Dunkel proposals taken by the Government under the new economic policy is a step towards economic slavery. We need not revert to a distant past to be reminded that the economic slavery leads the country to political slavery. We are aware how India became a political slave after we came under economic slavery of the East India company some centuries back. I would like to remind our colleagues of the ruling party that we may have policy differences and we may contest elections against one another, but that is possible only when our country enjoys political freedom. If the country is enslaved no one can contest election. I would therefore like to appeal that they should go above partyline and should pressurise the Government not to accept the Dunkel Proposals. Encouraging domes-

tic trade can only make India self-reliant. There is no match of Shri Manmohan Ji, I would simply remind him that the small scale industries are closed down through out the country. The government have imposed excise—duty on soap, hair-fixer etc. Ayurvedic medicines, steel and items produced by small industries are also being brought under the same perview. By reducing custom duty on imported items and by raising excise duty the Government of India is trying to close down small industries of the country. I would like the members of the ruling party to support us and Manmohan Singh Ji should withdraw his proposals.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Vikramganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the motion of thanks on President's Address. President Address is a statement of the achievements of the preceeding year of the Government as also a statement of what has to be done during the following year. The hon. President as also the members of the ruling party said that the country is heading towards reformation, economic liberalisation and that efforts are being made to create employment opportunities. These are, however, false claims only. There has been no economic reform. There are two lakhs old industrial units but of which nearly fifty thousand units are sick. How can then new employment opportunities be created? Nothing regarding revival of old units has been mentioned in the President's Address. I would like to submit that the Government should not invite multinational companies. Rather, the Government should promote small scale industries. The dream of Gandhiji remain unrealised that after independence there will be a Ram Rajya in the country after independence and villages will prosper villages have turned into prison and pastures. Neither electricity nor water is available in Villages. Villages are not worth living in.

[Sh. Ram Prasad Singh]

Sir, our industry is facing closure. Our endeavour could succeed if we had fixed time-limit and production limit and would have made the payment-system dependent thereon. In that case, the Government could provide less wages to workers in case of all of production, but this was not done. There has been a regular debate on this issue, but it has never been implemented. Now our factories are closed. It would be a great service to the country if those industrial units are revived.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we discuss in this very House that the tension is increasing in the country and that frenzy is increasing. The Government do not make efforts to end them, one of our leaders said that unless the caste-system is abolished the country cannot make economic progress, everyone realises that the caste-system is against the tenet of democracy and does lead the country to a civil-war. Yet the Government is not doing anything to abolish this system, nor any mention in this regard has been made in the President's Address. Will the Government enact a concrete law to do away with the caste-system. This can be done away with if a person who breaks this system is promised. With a Government job.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, increasing population is the main hurdle in progress of the country. Every year one Australia in terms of population is adding to our country and in 15-16 years the population of America is adding to the population of our country. The Government have not taken any step to check this trend of growing population.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, ours is an agricultural country and after 47 years of independence, we have yet been able to provide

irrigation facility to only 30 percent of total cultivable land. There was a Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee report which recommended to provide status of industries to the agriculture. Everybody was in favour of this, but this Government has not so far done anything in that regard. I would therefore like to submit that agriculture should be provided the status of industry.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at a present there is a double standard of education in the country. On the one hand there are public schools for the rich while on the other hand there are government schools for the poor. We say that education is the backbone of democracy, but we have not so far been able to devise uniform education policy, for the whole country. Due to dual policy for education, rural students are lagging behind in education and the benefit of education is confined to the rich alone. With these words I conclude and extend my thanks for providing me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

SHRI SATYENDRA NATH BROHMO CHAUDHURY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my interest to participate in this discussion on the motion of thanks on the President's address is borne out of the fact that many informations and misinformations have been given on the floor of the Parliament regarding the Bodoland and North-East. The President has mentioned a few words about the Bodoland and I must express a few words of praise for those few words of the President. The President has rightly observed that:

"In the North-East the setting up of the interim Bodoland Autonomous council in pursuance of the Bodo

Accord marks a positive step forward towards meeting the aspirations of the tribal population. Prompt action was taken by the Government of Assam in the districts of Kooerajhar and Bongaigaon when there was an outbreak of violence against the non-tribals."

It is true observation and it is also correct that after the setting up of the interim Bodoland Autonomous Council things are moving in the proper direction. Now, the people of that Bodoland area are busy with their own affairs and with their development works. Certain problems are there, but these will be solved. So, it is a positive step towards that direction.

For the last 25 years, Bodos have been agitating for a separate state of Bodoland. But on the 20th of February, 1993, the Bodo Accord was signed and in pursuance of that Accord the boundaries and the areas were declared. Now the people are very satisfied and they are busy with their own works. Initially, a strong sense of deprivation was there not only in the case of Bodos, but also among the people of the North-East. The geographical distance, sometimes, creates mental distance also. There is resentment. It is correct of the people of the North-East, because their voices are not heard here at Delhi due to the distance factor. So, it is a common psychology, a common thinking and a common phenomenon that the people of that area think that the Central Government is so powerful, so strong and so busy with its own works that it has got no time to lend its ears towards the problems of the North-East. Roars of gun is the only solution and roars of gun can be heard by the Central Government. Therefore, I appeal to the Central government that it must pay attention to solve the problems of the

North-East region.

Sir, the North-Eastern region is economically backward also. The new policy of economic liberalisation has got certain merits and demerits also. It is good that the private organisations are showing better performances. Supposing the road transport corporation is replaced by omnibus and other bus services, they are giving better services. The postal services are now being replaced by the private courier services and they are giving better services. Even the private schools are run better and are giving goods education to the people. The railway wagons carrying the goods are now being replaced by the trucks on the highway. In this way, in the field of terrorism also private army is coming up. So, proper attention is required. There is so much of unemployment that people go door to door seeking employment. We find that unemployed people are there in every family. Where will they go? They will raise private army. Private army is raised in the field of tea also. The efficiency shown by private organisation, by private entrepreneurs now is being seen in the field of private army also. It is in ULFA, NSCN and BSF. All these terrorist organisations are nothing but private armies. Now proper attention is required to solve this problem. The Central Government must devote certain time for our problems. Where will these unemployed youth go? Because they are in the North-eastern region, which is a backward area, they are not getting employment opportunities.

My appeal is, the Central Government must pay proper attention to the fact. I have got no alternative, at present, because of the present situation. The Central Government is sympathetic to the cause of Bodos and is trying to solve this problem. It is also running in positive direction. In that way,

[Sh. S. N. Brohmo Chaudhury]

there are different organisations which are trying to agitate for their cause. perhaps, if the Central Government should pay more attention, this problem will also solved. I hope no problem can be there without solution. Through negotiations and through dicussions, this problem can be solved.

With these few words, I support the motion of thanks on the President's address

21.16 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then Adjourned till
Elevenb of the clock on Tuesday, March 8
1994/Phalguna 17, 1915 (Saka)*

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