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Thursday, May 8, 1997
Vaisakha 18, 1919 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Fourth Session
(Part-IV)
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XIV contains No. 1 to 12)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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(English Version)

...

Thursday, May 8, 1997/Vaisakha 18, 1919 (Saka)

...

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(i)/19	Dr. Vallabha Bhai Kathiria	Dr. Vallabh Bhai Kathiria
(ii)/7	Shri N.S.V. Chittar	Shri N.S.V. Chitthan
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 8, 1997/Vaisakha 18, 1919 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at two minutes
past Eleven of the Clock*

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Telephone to Sub Divisional Hqrs.

*461. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government to provide telephone facility to sub-divisional headquarters;

(b) the date from which the above policy has been implemented;

(c) the number of Sub-Divisional Headquarters in Bihar where telephone facility has not been provided so far Districtwise; and

(d) the time by which telephone facility is likely to be provided to these Headquarters?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) The objectives of Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) included provisions of STD connectivity to Sub Divisional Headquarters by 1st April, 1995. As on date, 1146 out of 1206 Sub Divisional Headquarters have been provided with STD connectivity.

(c) All the Sub Divisional Headquarters in Bihar have been provided with Telephone facility and STD connectivity.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the shape of my question has been completely changed. The question which I had asked was very clear. That could be seen from my original question given to the Secretariat. My question was regarding the policy of the Government to provide telephone facility at block headquarters. But the answer given is about the sub-divisional headquarters. Thus the shape of my question has been changed. Sir, I want an answer from hon. Minister through you that there should be a telephone exchange at block level. My question in Hindi is very clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have asked about sub-divisional headquarters and not about the block-level.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not true. You can go through my original question.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it seems to be a case of mistranslation.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: It is mistranslated. My question is about the policy of the Government to provide telephone facility at block headquarters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yadav ji, I will get it checked. But the question which is now before the House is related to sub-divisional headquarters.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, that is not my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If hon. Minister could tell something about block level, kindly tell that.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): Sir, hon. Member has asked information about block level. If it is mistranslated, you will have to ascertain about that. But I do not have information about block-level at present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly sent the information to the hon. Member.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will send it to the hon. Member.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what about my question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have asked question about block level, I will get it checked from the question branch of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. At present hon. Minister does not have information about block level. He will send it to you through a letter.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Could my question be postponed? I want justice from you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You would do get justice. Hon. Minister will send block level position to you in writing. If you want to ask second supplementary now, you can do so.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: it is my request that my question be postponed because in this way I will be deprived of a chance of asking supplementary questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you will not be deprived of your chance. The information which you have asked for will be supplied to you in writing.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: I cannot ask any

supplementary after getting written reply. My right to ask supplementary is getting eliminated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will get it checked from the Lok Sabha Secretariat whether the question asked by you was related to block level or sub-divisional level.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: If it is related to block-level, I may be given chance again.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: It is a case of mistranslation and whether it was mistranslation or not, you have to take a decision on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will see as to where this mistake has occurred. If you have to ask supplementary, you can do so.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: When I do not have answer to my original question, what should I ask in second supplementary. If mistake has occurred, would I be given a chance next time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If mistake has occurred, I will bring it to the knowledge of hon. Speaker.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: What about the Panchayat level? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has raised a serious issue. However, you have said that you would see what could be done after having checked from the Lok Sabha Secretariat. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the policy of the Government in regard to setting up telephone exchange and providing STD facility at the block level. Whether the Government propose to set up exchange at block level alongwith STD facility? If there is any such scheme, the time by which the STD facility would be provided in all block headquarters in Bihar.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us have some order in the House. Please give the hon. Minister a chance to answer the question.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: There are 1206 sub-divisional headquarters all over the country ...*(Interruptions)* out of which 1146 have got the STD facility and all telephonic facilities are available there. In all the sub-divisional headquarters in Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please. Please give the hon. Minister a chance to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Let me first start with the introduction. In all the sub-divisional headquarters of Bihar, the STD facility is available and the policy for block level has not been formulated as yet. We are going to formulate it later on.

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS: Sir, the Government has taken so many steps to establish a number of exchanges in various places. I would like to know whether it is a fact that fifteen telephone stations out of hundred per month are remaining non-operating and if so whether the Government has any programme to rectify it.

Secondly, I want to know whether the Government has any programme to enhance the consumer facilities by improving the telephone services and if so what is the programme.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: The original question is related to Bihar whereas the hon. Member has asked the question outside Bihar.

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS: Sir, there are so many exchanges in Bihar State also. Let the hon. Minister reply about them.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I am giving reply to your question. The point raised by the hon. Member about 15 per cent telephone exchanges remaining non-operative, I would like to say that there are many defects in our telephone exchanges at some places but we have taken a decision and we have given top priority to the telephone service in the coming five year plan which includes improving quality. All over the country where telephone facilities are available, there is a scheme to provide such facilities within a radius of one kilometre which is being completed.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (BUXAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question is related to original question about which the Minister has said that it was a case of mistranslation. So long as I remember, Shri Dinesh Chandra ji would have asked the question in Hindi. If this is the mistake of the translation branch of the Lok Sabha secretariat which has changed the meaning of the question, what action would be taken against such translators who cannot translate from Hindi into English, into Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam etc?

The basic question is that it is mistranslated due to the mistake of the Secretariat. The hon. Minister has said this and you have also said so then, it has become a question of propriety of the House. How will we get the answer to that question, how will we know about that and the questions which we asked what would happen to them?

Therefore, I want to know as to how many such mistakes of mistranslation would occur and how long will it continue?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many mistakes will occur further and how long will they occur, you can seek the answer to these questions from an astrologer, I cannot reply to these questions.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has said ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Listen, Lalmuni ji, I have said that if any mistake has occurred, however, it has not been established as yet, the same will be got checked from the question branch of the Lok Sabha. The hon. Member will get the information about block level in writing.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSHMARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a mistake after all ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in view of the fact that the basic minimum facilities to the poorest of the poor of the country and the people in general are given to them by poverty alleviation programmes and rural development programmes through the network of the Panchayati Raj system all over the country and also since the Panchayati Raj system is now well established under the Constitution of India, will the Government consider, as a policy matter, connecting all the panchayats in the country with telephones within the Ninth Five Year Plan period for directly communicating about the entire management of the rural development programmes in a proper manner so that the grassroot masses get the benefits? Will this suggestion about the policy be considered under the Ninth Plan document?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Yes, Sir. The Government has already finalised a policy on Village Public Telephones and, according to it the entire villages will be connected by telephones during the Ninth Five Year Plan along with STD facility.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that all sub-divisional headquarters of Bihar have been linked with telephone facility but mere linking will not do. The Government will have to ensure that these telephones work and telephone exchanges function properly. So far as my question is concerned, Sir, there is a telephone exchange at Sekhpura in my area, earlier we used to have direct talk on telephone from Delhi but now that facility does not exist. Therefore, I would like to know whether telephones in sub-division, are working properly and effectively or not? What steps are being taken by the Government to ensure that these telephones work properly and effectively? What action Government are taking to expeditiously rectify those telephone exchanges which are out of order or have developed defects?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ramendra Kumar ji, we have got its reply. The hon. Minister has said that all efforts would be made to rectify all the telephone exchanges.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not a question of efforts. We want to know that the time by when these would be rectified the Government should tell about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question, Shri Nitish Kumar.

Increase in Freight Rates

*462. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Railways Hike Freight Rates for Essential Items" appearing in the *Business Standard* dated April 8, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the freights of essential consumer items like foodgrains, pulses, edible oil, salt etc. have been increased since April 1, 1997; and

(c) if so, the percentage of hike in the freight of each essential consumer item made and the total additional annual income likely to be earned on account of it?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we had asked this question that a news item was appeared in the *Business Standard* dated April 8, 1997 under caption, Railways hike freight rates for essential item; and it was further mentioned therein;

[English]

"Railways have increased freight rates by 12 per cent for essential commodities from April 1, despite Railways Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan's categorical assurance in his Railway Budget speech that essential commodities were exempted from the increase in freight rates. This hike is applicable to all essential commodities, grains, pulses, oils, salt, onions, potatoes, sugar, vanaspati, jaggery and fodder.

[Translation]

It was published in the above paper and as per the answer given by the hon. Minister, he has said 'No Sir' in reply to part 'B' of the question. This means that as per his answer this news item is wrongly published, I particularly want to know that after this news item appeared in the *Economic Newspaper*, whether the Government have published any rebuttal or not. If not, the rebuttal should have been published because this news went down all over

the country that something was said in the speech but in reality that is not being done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give the hon. Minister a chance to reply the question.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): This news was published on April 7-8 and a rebuttal was published on behalf of the Railway Board through a Press Note on 9th April.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that in the Budget speech of the hon. Minister it has been mentioned that so and so items would be affected by the freight hike and so and so items would be exempted from the hike. There is a mention in regard to the hike in railway fare, freight rate etc. in the Budget speech and that comes into force with effect from first of April. It is a convention that new rates comes in force from 1st April.

I want to know through you that since these things find a mention in the Budget speech, why the freight rates are increased before the Budget is passed fully and the Demands for Grant are fully passed by this House? We want to know this from the hon. Minister as to why a convention to increase the freight rates after passing the Budget cannot be introduced in place of this convention.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue has been raised many a time in this House. Earlier when the Standing Committee was not there, the General Budget was presented on February 28 generally and 3-4 days prior to that the Railway budget was presented. As a result of which the Budget used to be passed in the month of March. Therefore, no such problem was there that it could not be implemented from April. But since the Standing Committees were constituted and the entire issue is referred to the Standing Committees, then naturally some problems have begun to crop up. So far as the matter to increase the fare from 1st April is concerned, this issue was raised many times in this House and it was first raised in 1974. When this issue was raised in 1974, a ruling was given that it was not a tax. If we want to increase the telephone rates, we can do so. If coal rates are to be increased, we can also do that. In case of Steel also, we increase its rates whenever required. Similarly air fares are also increased from time to time. I do not know about any such instance of railway fare. But when we increase railway fare, we do inform the House. We are doing the same thing.

When this issue was raised in 1974, the Deputy Speaker, said categorically in this very House:

[English]

"I would rather put it the other way. It is the courtesy of the Railway Minister that he comes forward and asks for the opinion of the House even in the matters of increase of fares and freights. I am afraid the Railways fares and freights are fit to be demanded by certain services which the Railways are going to tender to the communities. Therefore, we do not have anything to say about it. They

are only fit that you are demanding for certain services. Therefore, let me say again that it is your courtesy that you come here."

[Translation]

We try to continue that courtesy and give its information to this House.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The hon. Minister has said about the Standing Committee just now and he himself admitted that when Standing Committee was not there, there was no such problem. Generally the Budget was passed in March but if it is passed after that, in that case, would you consider that any further date is fixed for enforcement after having passed the Budget, so that the new rates come into effect from that day.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: 1st April is a fixed date and fares and freights are increased from 1st April itself.

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Sir, it is good that there is no hike in the freights of foodgrains. But the Railways has resorted to a very diabolical trend. In Punjab, the farmers are not selling their wheat at the price offered by the Government because they find it inadequate. Therefore, they are selling their wheat to the private traders. Now, with a view to compel the farmers to sell their wheat at a distress price, the Railways has completely stopped allocation of wagons to the private traders to transport their wheat from Punjab to other parts of the country. This is very unfair on the part of the Railways. So, would the Railway Minister like to clarify the position? I do not know why other people of the country are deprived of availing wheat from Punjab through Railway transport. It is because when they take their wheat through road, it becomes very costly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, your question is clear.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILLAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not related to the main question, but I would send this information to the hon'ble member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question is whether you have issued an such directions at the moment availability of wagons would be reduced for exporting wheat from Punjab.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: No such specific directions have been given to any state. We prefer it because it is convenient for Railways to send whole rack from one place to another and it is also profitable. It is difficult to do it partwise.

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: You have stopped allotting them rakes even.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: As far as I know no such directions have been issued to any particular state.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a fact that our freight rates are the highest in the world and because of that our freight traffic is gradually switching over from rail transport to road transport?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have a problem that we don't have dedicated line. We have one line and when Railway Station comes, we add 4-5 lines for the convenience of the passengers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question was that the Traders are sending their goods by road transport instead of Railways because the freight rates of Railways are very high.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: There is no such thing.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not given the reply. I want to know whether it is a fact that our freight rates are the highest in the world. It is a specific question.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said that there is no such thing. Freight rates are not high.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If the hon'ble member would demand for the comparison of the whole of the country, I would provide figures and if he demands that it should be laid on the table of the house, I would lay it. But there is no such thing that demand has decreased due to the freight rates or we don't have racks for that.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA-SOUTH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Railways has not answered that question, he must have that information that the freight rates are highest in our Railways. But he has not told that.

[English]

Shri Basu Deb Acharia is the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways. He knows the things. The hon. Minister has evaded the reply. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Railways is going to increase the freight rates again. For, the hon. Minister has already said that even after passing the Railway Budget, they can increase the freight rates. He has quoted the ruling given in 1974 by the then Deputy-Speaker on the subject. They go on increasing the prices of petroleum products and the Railway freight. I want the hon. Minister to assure the House that he is not going to increase the freight of essential commodities in the next year.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: For how long you want this assurance from him, for next six month or two years.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I want an assurance for the period from the year 1997-98.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Basu Dev Acharya is the chairman, of the Standing Committee. Therefore, I cannot challenge, but I can certainly say that the freight rates are not highest in the world. I can say it with certainty, but I would tell its position later on.

Secondly, Mamata Banerjee had asked the reasons for increasing the rates from April 1st. I have replied to that. I never said it would be hiked repeatedly and so far as the Ministry of Railways is concerned, there is no proposal to increase the fare rates before next Budget.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Sir, there are lakhs of small traders and small industries in this country. Till now if so happened that one industrialist would produce goods to suffice for one wagon, he would indent for one wagon from Railways, he would receive the wagon and that way be pulled on his business. Now Railways have changed the policy. Now it prefers to give wagons to those who want a rack of atleast fifty wagons. If a trader wants to bring wheat from Punjab to Delhi he can hire a wagon after depositing Rs. 3 lakh and runs his business. But now for hiring one rack, he would require Rs. two crore or two and a half crores. Which means this Government is indirectly helping the big businessman and destroying the small businessman and small industries. It is having a cascading affect on the economy of the country. Hon'ble Minister of Railways, whether it is the policy of your Government to assist the big capitalists and to ignore the poor totally? The policy of assisting the small traders. Change your policy. Would you seriously ponder over this issue.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a proverb that 'cut your coat according to the cloth'. We give top priority to F.C.I. After meeting their demand for full rack. We fulfil the demands of those people who require full rack and then if still wagons are available we give wagons to others also. We are still engaged in fulfilling the demand of F.C.I. I had stated the other difficulties in my budget speech.

SHRI DATTA MAGHE: I would like to ask the Minister that in Vidarbha, Maharashtra or Nanded where subsidy was provided for orange and bananas, you used to provide full rack there. What Banwari Lal ji has just said is true that full rack is not provided. The cultivators keep their produce in the Mandi and subsidy has been discontinued on orange and bananas in that area. The big traders sent the produce of the cultivators to Delhi.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not pertaining to the question.

The question is regarding increase of freight on essential commodities.

[Translation]

MR. DATTA MEGHE (RAMTEK): I would like to ask that the subsidy which was provided by the Railways for orange and Bananas in Maharashtra earlier would be continued or it has been discontinued? You have discontinued it, therefore I want to ask.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have answer, please reply.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Exemption has been continued on the essential commodities and I have read out the list of essential commodities in the Budget speech.

Losses by IA and AI

464. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the loss suffered by Indian Airlines and Air India during each of the last three years and the current years, so far;

(b) the reasons therefor and the routes on which loss is being incurred;

(c) whether these airlines are indulging in wasteful expenditure and aircraft operations are not taking place properly; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to check such tendency?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Year	Net Profit/(Loss)	
	Air India	Indian Airlines
		(Rs. in crores)
1993-94	201.90	(258.46)
1994-95	40.80	(188.73)
1995-96	(271.84)	(109.98)
1996-97	(280.00)	(24.00)
	(estimated)	(estimated)

(b) Air India incurred losses due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new

aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition and cost of operations, increased landing, handling and navigational charges, agitation by engineers, depreciation of rupee value, etc. Air India has been incurring loss on its operations to the European Continent, Canada, UK, USA, Israel, East Africa, Hong Kong, Japan and freighter operations to USA and Singapore.

Indian Airlines has been incurring losses due to grounding of A320 fleet, entry of private airlines on trunk routes, exodus of pilots, unfavourable exchange fluctuations, increase in operational costs etc. Indian Airlines has been incurring losses on routes connecting stations in North Eastern India, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and some stations in the South.

(c) No, Sir; and

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the written reply, it has been stated that Air India had incurred a loss of about Rs. 201.9 crore in the year 1993-94 and Rs. 40.8 crore in the year 1994-95. Then again in the year 1995-96 it rose to more than 271 crores and it was Rs. 280 crores in the year 1986-87, so this jump from Rs. 201 crores to 40 crores and then again it rose to Rs. 270 crores ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fatami, ask pointed question.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: I am asking pointed question. I want to ask whether the reasons given in the reply are the very reasons for loss, whether it is not a fact that the staff capacity is more in Air India and Indian Airlines? Similarly, we do not have that type of aircrafts which we should have, such as we should have medium capacity long range aircraft. Similarly Indian Airlines should now 50 seater small plane, which Indian Airlines should have, they are also not there, similarly there is lack of facilities in long route flights of Air India. Besides our planes have been operating on such routes which are loss incurring routes. Whether the Minister would like to reply to it?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Hon'ble Member has raised a question, although it is a long question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the question shortcoming has been pointed out in your equipment.

[English]

Are you making any provision for getting the right type of aircraft?

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: So far Air India is concerned, you see, the estimate of Rs. 280 crore is last. Indian Airlines had incurred a loss of Rs. 258 crores, in the year 1994-95 it incurred a loss of Rs. 188 crores and in the year 1995-96 it incurred a loss of Rs. 109 crores and in

the year 1996-97 it reduced to only 24 crores. I am happy to say that in the coming years, these would not incurring loss. Whether it is Air India or Indian Airlines. I am giving assurance that we would make it profit making body.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: We have been listening that.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: You would see it also. In this quarter the loss was Rs. 134 crore, then it came down to Rs. 84 crore and then it came down to Rs. 69 crore. This has been possible with the co-operation of the employees of Air India and Indian Airlines and with the path shown by the Government and the Ministry. We would further reduce this loss so far as M.C.L.R. is concerned, the Board of Air India and Indian Airlines have been informed that it may be procured at the earliest. If I show more eagerness, that would convey a wrong message outside. I have already stood in the times and I want to repeat that we have fully empowered the Board whether it a matter of 15 seaters or M.C.L.R. So far as rates are concerned, we would have to decide that those flights of Air India which are being operated on loss making routes are to be operated or not or whether we are to operate them only on such routes which are profitable. I am taking this matter to the cabinet. It would be decided there whether we should operate the flights in the loss making sector or only on profit making sector. I would like to give assurance to the House that the said loss has been reduced since I have assumed the change of the department and we are heading towards making profits.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: The main reason has been in India and outside that there are old men in G.S.A. and they are not working properly. Will the Minister change them and would give G.S.A. in foreign companies where it is required? The other reason for this is that there is rampant corruption in Air India and Indian Airlines. Air India has taken Kairib Jet Aircraft on rent about which inquiry is being conducted by C.B.I. The Minister may please state as to what further action is being in this regard?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: So far as GSA is concerned, we had held a meeting of G.S.A. of all the world for the first time in Delhi and it was clearly told in that meeting that we would review the performance of whole of the G.S.A. in February, March and the G.S.A. which were not showing improvement would be removed immediately. Therefore, I have ordered in the department of my ministry that it should be immediately reviewed at the Secretary level and those GSA whose performance not found upto the mark, would be changed. Not only this, at the time of appointing G.S.A. a limitation of 500 k.m. or 1000 k.m. should be fixed for that. Only G.S.A. cannot cop up with all big countries. Therefore, it is also being pondered over so far as the inquiry relating to the carrier Jet is concerned, it is being conducted for the last two years. I hope that the inquiry report would come at the earliest and action would be taken thereon.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, I have a very positive suggestion to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is Question Hour. This is not the time to make suggestions.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Allow me to finish, please. My question is: Would he be able to agree to my suggestion? My suggestion relates to the losses incurred in their flights to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. My proposal is either you cut down the losses or achieve a profit. Our flights to Andaman and Nicobar Islands have to carry a fewer number of passengers than their actual capacity. If the aircraft's capacity is hundred plus or say, 137, actually, they will not carry more than 90 passengers because it flies over the sea and refuelling is not possible. They take more fuel than they normally take in our overland flights. My proposal is that when you are taking a fewer number of passengers, why should you not introduce the Executive Class there which will mean a fewer number of passengers? Many foreigners are going to Andaman and Nicobar Islands now. Therefore, introduce the Executive Class in the flights to Andaman and Nicobar Islands and you can cut down your losses ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: The hon. Member has given a suggestion. I will pass it on to the Indian Airlines.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Chairman, one of the reasons stated by the Minister for incurring the losses is that the Airlines is operating some of its flights on loss incurring routes. One of these routes is stated to be Jammu and Kashmir. Less number of passengers in flight to Jammu via Chandigarh, has been discontinued for a considerable time, due to wrong timings. Many of the people of that place have demanded for changing its timings if timings are changed it would get plenty of passengers. My question is what steps are being taken by your Ministry to make up the loss and whether there is any proposal to constitute a high powered Committee comprising of members of parliament belonging to different political parties to discuss this issue amongst them, as most of the reasons mentioned by you are not practical. If some of the suggestions offered by the people are accepted, particularly in regard to routes timings, the loss of Air India, and Indian Airlines would be reduced to considerable extent. Would you like to examine this proposal?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: So far as operation of flights to North East India, Jammu and Kashmir, Andman and Nicobar and some other areas in the south which I don't remember are concerned, we would have to run flight there. It is the social obligation of Indian Airlines because this airlines belongs to India, it is the utmost duty of the Indian Airlines to provide facilities to the citizens of the country whatever loss it may incur in the process. Therefore, we would not back out so far as loss is concerned, the ticket fare has to be hiked to reduce the losses. If we hike the

fare to make up the loss, no passenger would come whether it is North East or J&K whatever may be the loss, we would continue to run flights to these areas and try to make up for the loss from the profit earned from the trunk routes. We are trying to make a balance.

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister said that they are weighing the various options between loss-making sectors and non-loss-making sectors. This is the height of hoax. His reply says that the Air India has been incurring losses on its operations to the European Continent, Canada, the UK, the USA, Israel, East Africa, Hongkong and Japan. What is left? I do not understand what kind of options he is weighing.

Air India seems to be making losses on every conceivable route. So, when he says that he will take it to the Cabinet; there are certain routes which are profitable and certain routes which are non-profitable. It seems that for Air India, every route is non-profitable. In relation to this, why does he not pinpoint the fact that the whole of the Civil Aviation industry worldwide knows that between six to eight weeks, Air India has laid up two of its aircraft always mortgaged to VVIPs travellers. I do not say that the VVIP travel is not important. The hon. President has to go out, the hon. Prime Minister has to go out. But why does Air India have to suffer losses for six to eight weeks? Why do they not make alternative arrangements? Why does Air India have an Albatross cross around its neck? Why do they not buy some other aircraft?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Sir, the hon. Member's first question is as to how these losses occur. If I ask the MD, Air India, to provide a passage to him, the hon. Member of Parliament, it will be done. Not only that. I wanted to send some MPs from the Consultative Committee to know about the losses which are being incurred. Really, those routes are making losses and we have calculated them.

About the flights to other countries, I want to tell one thing. It is only our flights which are having 500 peoples working in every flight.

[Translation]

25,000 people are working on 28 flights. We have got them in dowry. We can't retrench them due to social obligation. We are watching this social obligation helplessly ... (Interruptions)

[English]

The gulf routes are profitable. Our Moscow route is profitable. Our Jakarta route is profitable. So, except these three routes, whatever European and other routes are there, they are not profitable routes. That is why I have told Air India Board to work out the countries where these are making losses. Should I run the airlines to that country or on the commercial viability, should I stop it?

So, I am putting the proposal before the Cabinet.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: Mr. Minister, can you stop the flights to Europe and America? Can you do that? You cannot stop the flights to Europe and America. It is not possible. I mean to say to Japan, Europe and America, how can you stop the flights? It is an extraordinary suggestion. That means, you will fly only to the gulf and Jakarta. That is it! I am amazed to hear the answer. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will go to the next question.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have already had four supplementaries on this question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, I want to say about merger ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, it is the last supplementary. Yes, Shri Rajesh Pilot, who is an ex-Air Force Officer should be given a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussions for merger is going on for many days. It is being argued that there is a need to merge Air India and Indian Airlines to cut, reduce operational losses. My colleagues, who have been the Ministers here, All have given priority to this. I would like to know the progress made in regard to merger and the reasons for which Air India and Indian Airlines could not be merged? The operational cost and Administration cost at these two places is on increase due to having top heavy administration. If merger takes place, then the cost comes down. I would like to know the views of the Government in the regard.

Secondly, I would like to know from the Minister how much importance is given to Air India and India Airlines professionals in the Boards and the number of retired pilots, Engineers, Air traffic controllers and operational trained persons in the Board who can guide you?

[English]

If you put politicians on the Board, if you put your own people on the Board who do not know how does the aircraft fly, how can they guide the Board? Do you have that guidelines for implementation by the Board?

Thirdly, the Minister has said that he always makes a Department profitable.

[Translation]

He takes charge of only those departments which are profitable. He won't take charge of loss making departments. He takes departments such as Information and Broadcasting and civil Aviation departments. Let him take the charge of Power Sector Department and run it into profit. The Prime Minister should be asked to hand over

him Power Sector Department and Surface transport Department.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as merger is concerned, you will be glad to note that we have merged the posts of Chairman and MD for the merger of Indian Airlines and Air India. Earlier Chairman and M.D. used to be two different persons. Now, M.D. and Chairman is the same person. We are saving at least Rs. 31 Lakhs from this and moreover we are saving more time ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rs. 30 Lakh has been saved?

[English]

Do you mean to say that by merging two posts you have saved Rs. 30 lakh?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: That is the rough estimate that I have told you.

[Translation]

I am giving a rough estimate that we have saved this much amount. I can't say exactly how much have been saved, but a lot of amount has been saved ...*(Interruptions)* Secondly, the Board which has been constituted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: When will you merge these airlines?

[English]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: About the merger, I cannot tell you definitely now. But the thinking is that as far as the Board is concerned and as far as the Department is concerned.

[English]

25-25 thousand employees are engaged in each of these two Departments. It is a bit difficult to merge these two departments at a time in a single decision but we are taking steps in this direction. We have taken steps in this regard.

[English]

For the first time I have got a very good Managing Director whom I have made the chairman. He is now Chairman-cum-Managing Director.

[Translation]

So you can see that there was a loss to the extent of Rs. 8 crores on 250 in 1993 whereas in 1997 it is Rs. 24 crores and I would like to tell you that during the current year or during the ensuing year.

[English]

This will go towards profit.

Regarding constitution of the Board, for your information, we have not nominated any politician. Whatever the

lower recommendations have come, based on those recommendations we have constituted the Air India and the Indian Airlines Boards.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, his question was very specific. Is there any technocrat, any flier, any engineer on the Board? Are there any technocrats on the Board?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: There are professionals from tourism and from hotel industries. From HAL, its Chairman Shri Sharma is represented on the Board.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: As a special invitee?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: No. He is a Board Member. As special invitees, we wanted to take three NRIs for which there is no provision. But I have told the Indian Airlines and the Air India Boards to make a provision in their company law, so that they can invite the NRIs to the Board.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Why do you not put senior pilots and senior engineers on the Board? They will guide you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There appears to be a number of hon. Members wanting Supplementaries. The time does not allow this. If they want, one hon. Member can send a requisition for a Half-an-Hour discussion and I would request the speaker for the Half-an-Hour discussion.

Now the next question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM): This will be the twelfth Half-an-Hour discussion which will never be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is also possible. It may come up in the next session.

[Translation]

STD Facility to Panchayats

*465. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have plan to provide STD facility at all Panchayats in the country;

(b) if so, the number of villages under hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and other States where this facility has been provided so far; and

(c) the time by which STD facility is likely to be provided in all Panchayats in the country?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Government is having a Plan to provide STD Facility in Village Public Telephones (VPTs) where it is Administratively and Technically feasible.

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

(c) The Government is having plan to extend the STD facility to all the Exchanges from where Village Public

Telephones (VPTs) are working by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Hon. Chairman, Sir, I had asked a specific question about S.T.D. facility/service in the Panchayats of the Country particularly in the Panchayats of the hilly areas of the country. The hon. Minister had given reply regarding Village Public Telephones (VPT) and has included/conversed S.T.D. facility therein. The question was whether the Government have any scheme to provide STD facility at all the panchayats in the country? But specific reply has not been given to this. In his reply, the Minister has said that STD facility will be extended to all the Exchanges from where Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are working by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan. I had mentioned about hilly areas particularly it was about Uttarakhand. Moreover, not a Single Exchange in the rural areas is functioning properly.

All the telephone lines are not in working condition. My supplementary is whether the Union Government propose to formulate a special scheme in regard to the existing telephone exchanges, for which the Government propose to provide STD facility. and in regard to its infrastructure?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I had already told that the Government have taken a decision to connect all Panchayats with telephone facility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not talking about telephone facility. He is asking about STD facility.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: The Government would extend STD facility to all the exchanges of urban and rural areas by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': The Hon. Minister has said that STD facility would be provided by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan. I would like to ask whether STD facility would be provided in the exchanges functioning till 1996-97 or in those exchanges which would be set up by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan and what financial provision would be made in this regard.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: There are 3 lakh and 37 thousand villages in the country which have not been covered under STD facility. Our target is to provide telephone and STD facility in 2 lakh and 39 thousand villages. As far as the amount is concerned, the required amount would be arranged.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI): The minister has just now said that Public telephone would be provided in villages and panchayats. I belong to Sitamarhi in Bihar, I would like to inform that not a single telephone set up under MARR system in Panchayat or village is functioning. The House can collect requisite information in this regard. The MARR towers are useless. These towers do not help to communicate. No one can communicate from Delhi to any Panchayat of the country through 'MARR

towers'. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Minister whether he will go on giving figures only or he will do something in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question is very good. Do not drag it further.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: The hon. Member may be saying so based on some bitter experience. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, please sit down. Prof. Chandumajra, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Please let me complete ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give him a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, he is not the Minister concerned ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give him a chance to reply. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Telephones in all the Panchayats are out of order ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I have a very important thing to say. So, please give me a chance to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Shri Kanaujia, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Beni Prasad Varma is not present. Sine uproar was expected on this question, so Mr. Ramoowalia has been made a scape-goat ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: You please listen to me ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was to give you a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: You please listen to my request. I am going to say a very important

thing. The hon. Members are agitated over two issues. Since every Member has love for the village so they are agitated regarding the villages. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me speak. Since the hon. Members have love for villages, so they are agitated. Secondly, since the telephones remains out of order so the hon. Members are agitated. You please listen to me too. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kanaujia, please do not disturb. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Mr. Kanaujia, you please tell me. If you are in my place and there is disturbance then will it be possible for you to reply? Please let me reply. ...*(Interruptions)* I will give such a reply which will make you happy. *(Interruptions)* Please atleast now listen to me. Mr. Chairman, Sir, a lot of concern has been shown in this case in this House. We have taken four steps in this regard so that these telephones work without any problem, messages received immediately and there should be no delay. ...*(Interruptions)*. You are not allowing me to speak. Some members are saying that Mr. Beni Prasad Verma is not present. After all I am also a Minister. I am replying to this question ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (SURENDRA NAGAR): We have never said that you are not a Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us have some order in the House. The Cabinet has a collective responsibility. The Minister of Communications has authorised Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia to give the reply. Let us give him a chance to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Time is running out. You please listen to me. You want a reply. Does it makes any difference...*(Interruptions)* You please allow me to speak. Firstly, we have increased checking by four times. Secondly, we have accelerated the repairing of faulty units with the help of computer. Thirdly, we have accelerated the monitoring system. And last, we have opened new repair centres. It will accelerate the pace of work. ...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Mobile Telephone Facilities

*463. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities in the country where the 'Mobile Telephone' facility has been provided, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that 'Mobile Companies are collecting excess money from their consumers at different places; and

(c) the difference of the rates of mobile phones in different States and cities and the basis thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of cities in the Country where the Cellular Mobile Telephone service provided by Licensee Companies is operational, is given in the attached statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Government has fixed a ceiling tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service as given in the statement-II enclosed. The Service providers are permitted to charge the customers at a lower tariff than the ceiling tariff. Actual tariff charged may vary from place to place and company to company as a result of competition.

Statement-I

Cities where Cellular Mobile Telephone service is available State-wise

Sl. No.	State	Cities for which provisional clearance given
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Guntur and Vijayawada.
2.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad and Gandhi Nagar.
3.	Haryana	Sonepat, Panipat, Karnal, Ambala and Yamuna Nagar.
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla.
5.	Karnataka	Bangalore.

1	2	3
6.	Kerala	Cochin, Kozhikode, Trichur and Trivandrum.
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore.
8.	Maharashtra	Pune, Nasik, Nagpur, Ahmed Nagar, Bombay and Kalyan.
9.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Chennai, Maraimalai Nagar, Minjur and Mahabalipuram.
10.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur, Meerut, Agra, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, NOIDA, Muradabad and Rampur.
11.	NCT, Delhi	Delhi.
12.	West Bengal	Calcutta.

Statement-II*Ceiling Tariffs for Cellular Mobile Telephone service Tariff:*

1. Monthly Rental for the Service -Rs. 156/- per month
2. Security Deposit -Rs. 3000/-
3. installation Charges -Rs. 1200/-

4. Call Charges:-

4.1 for calls originated by the Mobile Subscriber:-Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed network for Local, STD, and ISD calls. For mobile to mobile calls within the same Cellular Service area, only air time charges will be levied.

4.2 for calls terminating on the Mobile subscriber-Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call will be levied. No charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.

5. Notes on tariff:-

1. Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.

5.2 The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.3 Call charges for the air time during peak hours shall be fixed at rates not exceeding double the rates prescribed in para 4 above. Peak hours shall be restricted upto a maximum of 4 hours per day. Peak hours and air time call charges during peak hours may be fixed by the Licensee in consultation with Telecom Authority.

5.4 Call charges for the air time during Sundays and 3 National holidays (15th August, 26 January & 2nd October) shall be half the rates prescribed in para 4 above.

5.5 For calls from mobile subscriber to the fixed net work, the Licensee shall charge the mobile subscriber at the rates prescribed by the Telecom. Authority according to time and day of the call. Unit rate for such calls shall be the highest slab rate of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.6 There are no free calls to be given in the air time.

5.7 For calls originating from the fixed net work to mobile, the mobile subscriber will be charged for the air time and DOT will not have to pay any access fee to the Cellular Operator. The air time charges will be collected by the Cellular Operator.

5.8 For mobile to mobile both caller and called party will be charged.

6. All tariff increase shall be subject to prior approval of the Telecom Authority and/or its successor.

7. The rental does not include the cost of the Subscriber's terminal equipment (mobile handset). The subscriber is free to buy the terminal equipment from any source.

[English]

Foreign Equity in Telecom Sector

*466. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered automatic approval of foreign equity upto 50% in manufacturing projects in the Telecom sector;

(b) whether India has also permitted a maximum of 49% foreign equity in the Telecom Service Sector following opening up the telecom sector to private enterprises;

(c) if so, whether inviting foreign investment for telecom projects, the Government have made it clear that

import of all capital goods required for manufacturing project was also being allowed without any licence;

(d) whether the level of customs duty on telecom equipment has also been reduced from 95% in 1992 to 40% in 1996; and

(e) the details of the foreign companies who have been permitted to enter into telecom agreement with India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Government have permitted automatic approval of foreign equity upto 51% in manufacturing projects in the Telecom Sector.

(b) Government have permitted at present a maximum of 49% foreign equity in the Basic Telephone, Cellular Mobile Telephone, Radio Paging, VSAT and Public Mobile Radio Trunking Services. In respect of the following Value Added Services, foreign equity is permitted upto 51%:

- Electronic Mail
- Voice Mail
- On line information and data base retrieval
- On line information and/or data processing
- Enhanced/Value Added facsimile services including store and forward, store and retrieve.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. The level of basic customs duty on telecom equipment has been reduced from 85% in 1992 to 40% in 1996.

(e) The details of major foreign companies which have been permitted to enter into agreements with Indian Companies for manufacture of Telecom equipment and provision of Telecom Services are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Major Foreign Companies which have been permitted to enter into Agreement with Indian Companies

A. Telecom Manufacturing Sector

S. No.	Foreign Company	Equipment
1	2	3
1.	Krone A.G. Germany	Main Distribution Frame Products
2.	DSC Communic A/S, Denmark	Transmission
3.	NEC Corporation, Japan	Switching, Transmission
4.	Samsung Electronics Co Ltd., Korea	Switching, Epabx, Fax Transmission
5.	Ericsson, Sweden	Switching
6.	Casio Telecom Ltd., Japan	Pagers
7.	AFC Harris Multimedia Comm (P) Ltd. Mauritius	Transmission
8.	Fujikura Ltd., Japan	Telecom Cables
9.	Alcatel-Cit, France	Switching
10.	Siemens AG, Germany	Switching, Transmission
11.	Simoco International Ltd., U.K.	Radio Trunking
12.	Hitachi Cable Ltd., Japan	Telecom Cables
13.	Lucent Technologies INTL, USA	Switching, Transmission
14.	Fujitsu Ltd., Japan	Switching Transmission
15.	Motorola INC, USA	Pagers Transmission Radio Trunking

B. Telecom Service Sector

S. No.	Telecom Service Sector	Service
1	2	3
1.	Telstra Corporation Ltd., Australia	Cellular Mobile
2.	Bell Canada International Inc., Canada	Cellular Mobile
3.	France Telecom France	Radio Paging Cellular Mobile
4.	First Pacific Company Ltd., Hongkong	Cellular Mobile
5.	Hutchison Telecommunications, Hongkong	Cellular Mobile Radio Paging
6.	ABC Communications Ltd., Hongkong	Radio Paging
7.	Bezeq, Israel	Cellular Mobile
8.	Stet International S.P.A., Italy	Basic Telecom Cellular Mobile
9.	Itochu Corporation, Japan	Radio Paging Cellular Mobile
10.	Korea Telecom Ltd., Korea	Basic Telecom Radio Paging
11.	Korea Mobile Telecom Corpn. Korea	Radio Paging
12.	Millicom International SA, Luxembourg	Cellular Mobile
13.	Telecom Malaysia BHD, Malaysia	Cellular Mobile
14.	Telesistem Ltd. Malaysia	Radio Paging
15.	AT & T Cellular Pvt. Ltd., Mauritius	Cellular Mobile
16.	Motorola India Networks Ltd., Mauritius	Cellular Mobile
17.	Distacom Communication (India) Ltd., Mauritius	Cellular Mobile
18.	Bell Atlantic Offshore Mauritius Ltd., Mauritius	Basic Telecom
19.	US West Cellular Investment Co., Mauritius	Cellular Mobile
20.	Nynex International India Ltd.	Cellular Mobile Basic Telecom
21.	Ertel Ltd., Mauritius	Cellular Mobile
22.	Bell Canada International Inc., Mauritius	Cellular Mobile

1	2	3
23.	CCH (Mauritius) Inc., Mauritius	Cellular Mobile
24.	Swiss Telecom PTT., Switzerland	Cellular Mobile
25.	Stet International Netherlands Netherland	Cellular Mobile Basic Telecom
26.	PTT Telecom BV, Netherland	Radio Paging
27.	Nijholt Telecommunication BV, Netherland	Voice Mail
28.	BT (Netherlands) Holdings B.V. Netherland	VSAT
29.	Philippine Wireless Inc, Phillipine	Cellular Mobile
30.	Easy Call Communications Ltd., Phillipine	Radio Paging
31.	Marconi, Portugal	VSAT
32.	Singapore Telecom International PTE Ltd., Singapore	Cellular Mobile
33.	Telia International, Sweden	Cellular Mobile Radio Paging
34.	Jasmine International Public Co Ltd., Thailand	Cellular Mobile
35.	Shinwatra International Public Co Ltd., Thailand	Cellular Mobile
36.	Airtouch International, USA	Cellular Mobile
37.	Alltel, USA	Basic Telecom
38.	Sprint, USA	E Mail
39.	Bellsouth International (Asia/Pacific) Inc., USA	Cellular Mobile
30.	LCC INC., USA	Cellular Mobile

[*Translation*]

Construction of New Terminals at Palam

*467. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airport Authority of India has sent any proposal to the Ministry for constructing more new terminals at Palam Airport in Delhi keeping in view the increasing number of passengers and planes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the details of the amount likely to be spent on these terminals and the time by which these terminals are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India has submitted a feasibility report for construction of International Passenger Terminal 2B at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 715 crores and

completion of the project will take 36 months from the date of award of the work. The proposal is being processed for obtaining the necessary approval from the Public Investment Board and the Cabinet.

Foreign Equity for Privatisation of Airports

*468. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is considering any proposal to permit 100% foreign equity for privatisation of airports on built operate transfer (BOT) principle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this system is also likely to be introduced in air traffic services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal to this effect is under consideration.

(b) The modalities are being worked out.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Incomplete Railway Projects

*469. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores that have not been completed as per their targetted time schedule along with the details of the targetted completion time of each of these projects;

(b) the details of the cost overrun in respect of the projects running behind their respective targetted time schedule; project-wise; and

(c) the details of the present position of the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c)

List of Projects costing more than 100 crores where there is cost over run

S.No.	Name of Work	Cost		Target		Status
		Original	anticipated	Original	Revised	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

New Lines

1.	Jogighopa-Guwahati	427	635	6/94	12/98	The work is in progress. Delay has been due to technical problems in the foundation of 2 piers. Target for Jogighopa Goalpara-December'97 and balance Dec. '98
2.	Talcher-Sambalpur	220	337	12/95	12/97	Talcher-Angul and Sambalpur-Maneswar sec. have since been completed the balance work is in progress. Target to be completed within 97-98.
3.	Jammu-Udhampur	195	327	3/97	12/99	Jammu-Bajalta sec. completed. In the rest of the portion work is progressing and is likely to be completed by Dec '99. There has been delay due to law and order situation and contractual problems.
4.	Guna-Etawah	158	256	Not fixed	03/02	Work is in progress. Guna-Khajuri & Panihar-Sanichare opened. Target for Khajuri & Sanichera-Bhind—Dec. '98.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Godhra-Indore Dewas Maksi	297	297	-do-	Not fixed	Work in progress on Dewas Maksi section and would be completed by Dec. '99.
Gauge Conversion						
6.	Guntur- Guntakal- Kalluru	216	367	12/98	12/98	Nandyal-Guntakal completed on 31.3.97. Remaining section by 31.12.98.
7.	Mudkhed- Adilabad	108	110	12/95	3/98	The work has been taken up under BOLT and is now expected to be completed by March '98.
8.	Secunderabad- Dronachellam & Secunderabad- Bolarum	217	283	12/96	12/97	Work is in progress. Secunderabad-Bolarum and Secunderabad-Mehboobnagar have already been completed and balance target is Dec '97.
9.	Hospet-Hubli Goa	408	522	12/98	03/97	The work has been completed.
10.	Gondia- Chandafort	159	215	12/96	3/98	Gondia to Nagbir 131 kms. has already been completed. For balance portion target is March '98.
11.	Madras-Trichy	200	300	Not fixed	3/98	The work is in good progress and targetted for 31.3.98.
12.	Phulera- Marwar- Ahmedabad	280	540	3/96	3/97	The work has been completed. The residuai work in Sabarmati and Ahmedabad yard are in progress.
13.	Rajkot-Veraval	100	153	03/96 (Prop.)	12/99	This work has held up due to a survey for diverting the line near the Gir forest. This work is now being taken up.
14.	Arsikere- Mangalore	186	219	06/97	12/98	Arsikere-Hassan section has been completed and commissioned on 20.8.96.
Doubling						
15.	Sonenagar- Mughalsaria	139	230	3/94	12/98	Work is progressing well. 05 block sections have been completed and 04 more would be completed in 1997-98. The entire work is targetted for completion by Dec '98.
16.	Kuppam- Whitefield	108	105	4/97	Not fixed	The work has been taken between Kuppam to Whitefield and will be completed in coming years.

MPT

Name of Projects	Cost (Rs. in crores)		Target		Remarks
	Original/ Sanctioned	Revised/ Sanctioned	Original	Revised	
17. Design & Const. Dum Dum Tollyganj	140.30	1640.00	Dec 1978	March 1998	Line opened to traffic on 27.9.95 and minor residual works are in progress.
18. Extension of Rly. lines from Mankhurd-Belapur with a bridge across Thane Creek and ancillary facilities on harbour branch.	132.15	440.87	-do-	-do-	Line opened to traffic in phases on 16.6.93. Residual works are in progress.
19. Construction of MRTS line from Madras Beach-Luz	108	259	03/94	6/97 (5.05 Km)	Madras Beach-Chepauk is in operation since 16.11.95 in phases.
Railway Electrification					
20. Bokaro-Barsuan	195	-	3/97	12/98	Due to failure of contractor.
21. Sitarampur-Mughalsaria	287	-	3/98	12/99	-do-

*[English]***Exodus of Executives of DSP**

*470. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether majority of the executives have left the Durgapur Steel Plant after receiving training on the company's expenses resulting in a set back to the plant's expansion programme;

(b) if so, the number of the executives who have left the Durgapur Steel plant so far;

(c) the reasons for the exodus of the executives; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Majority of the executives have not left the Drugapur Steel Plant (DSP) after receiving training on the company's expense. However, ever since the specific training for modernisation in DSP started in 1992-93, 2046 executives have been given training, of which 73 have left the company (till 31.3.1997). The reasons for leaving inter-alia include personal reasons, joining other organisations, etc. The expansion programme of DSP has not received any set back on this account.

*[Translation]***Setting up of Tourism Industry and Trade Board**

*471. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been made by the task force of Planning Commission to set up a Tourism Industry and Trade Board for promotion of tourism;

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

(c) the time by which the action is likely to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to constitute a Board of Tourism Industry and Trade as a part of the National Strategy for Tourism Development. The Minister for Tourism will be the Chairman of the Board and its members would consists of the Secretaries of different Central Departments, representatives of various industry associations and other professionals.

A.T.C. Strike

*472. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Air Traffic Control

(ATC) resorted to nationwide strike recently causing great inconvenience to thousands of air passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons for which they resorted to strike;

(c) the loss suffered by the country due to this nationwide strike;

(d) whether the Government have made any plan to prevent such strikes in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The strike was resorted to as a result of the suspension of an officer belonging to Air Traffic Control who was considered responsible for an airmiss incident.

(c) Airports Authority of India - Rs 3.67 crores;
Indian Airlines - Rs. 15.70 crores.

(d) and (e) A contingency plan has been formulated to meet such eventualities in future. The plan includes close coordination between civil and military Air Traffic Controllers. There is also a programme to familiarise the Air Traffic Controllers of the Indian Air Force and Navy with the civil air traffic procedures, so that the air traffic services could be carried out with the help of the defence personnel whenever necessary.

Promotion of Tourism in World

*473. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism in the later half of nineties is likely to increase in the world;

(b) if so, the details of plans/programmes being prepared to ensure that India gets optimum benefit of this increase;

(c) whether any special scheme is being considered to attract tourists towards sports related to the culture and religion of ancient India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) According to the forecasts made by the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), the world tourist traffic is expected to grow at a rate of about of 3.1% from 1995 to 2000 and reach 661 million tourist arrivals by 2000 AD.

The schemes/projects drawn up for obtaining optimum benefit for India from the expected increase include integrated development of infrastructure and special tourism areas, incentives for attracting private investment, human resource development, strengthening of publicity and marketing efforts, research and computerisation, etc.

Special schemes taken up for promoting cultural and religious tourism include refurbishment of monuments and landscaping of area around them, development of pilgrim centres, SEL shows and Flood lighting of monuments, etc.

[English]

Censor Board

*474. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being followed by the Censor Board while censoring films;

(b) the details of the members of Censor Board along with their eligibility, terms and tenure of the present Board;

(c) whether there are prescribed rules for giving approval to telecast films and other programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) According to the principles for guidance in certifying films laid down in section 5B(1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952), a film shall not be certified for public exhibition if, in the opinion of the authority competent to grant the certificate, the film or any part of it is against the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or involves defamation or contempt of court or is likely to incite the commission of any offence. Based on these provisions, the Central Government has issued detailed guidelines to the Central Board of Film Certification (Board) for certification of films. A copy of the same is given in the statement-I enclosed.

Apart from the Central Board, advisory panels have been constituted at each of the regional centres. The examination of films is done by committees. Initially, a film is examined by an examining committee with which members of the advisory panel are associated. If the recommendation of the examining committee is not acceptable to the applicant or the Chairman, the film is referred to a revising committee. The revising committee is presided over by the Chairman or a member of the Central Board and consists of members of the Board or its advisory panel.

(b) Apart from the Chairman, the Board consists of 25 members. The present members were appointed w.e.f. 07.03.96. The names and other details of the members are given in statement-II. The criteria being followed for appointment of members of the Board are that they should be persons from different walks of life such as social sciences, law, teaching, literature, art, culture etc. who are qualified, in the opinion of the Central Government, to judge the effect of films on the public. The tenure of the members is three years.

(c) and (d) Government have, under section 9 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, exempted all Doordarshan programmes from the certification provisions subject to the condition that while clearing programmes for telecast, the

Director General, Doordarshan, or the concerned Director, Doordarshan Kendra, shall keep in view the film certification guidelines issued by Government.

However, Doordarshan telecasts only those films which are certified by the Board for universal exhibition. In addition, all films shown over Doordarshan are previewed by a Preview Committee consisting among others, at least one woman member, to judge the suitability of the feature films for family viewing and any undesirable scene etc. is deleted before telecast. Doordarshan previews all programmes before telecast to ensure that they conform to its programme and advertisement code and are suitable for family viewing.

Statement

Referred to in part (a) of the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 474 for 08.05.1997.

Government of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

New Delhi, the 6th December, 1991.

Notification

S.O. 836-(E) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952) and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting No. S.O.9 (E), dated the 7th January 1978, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby directs that in sanctioning films for public exhibition, the Board of Film Certification shall be guided by the following principles:-

1. The objectives of film certification will be to ensure that—

- (a) the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society;
- (b) artistic expression and creative freedom are not unduly curbed;
- (c) certification is responsive to social change;
- (d) the medium of film provides clean and healthy entertainment; and
- (e) as far as possible, the film is of aesthetic value and cinematically of a good standard.

2. In pursuance of the above objectives, the Board of Film Certification shall ensure that—

- (i) anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified.
- (ii) the modus operandi of criminals, other visuals or words likely to incite the commission of any offence are not depicted;
- (iii) scenes—

(a) showing involvement of children in violence as victims or as perpetrators or as forced witness to violence, or showing children as being subjected to any form of child abuse;

(b) showing abuse or ridicule of physically and mentally handicapped persons; and

(c) showing cruelty to, or abuse of, animals, are not presented needlessly;

(iv) pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scenes as may have the effect of desensitising or dehumanising people are not shown;

(v) scenes which have the effect of justifying or glorifying drinking are not shown;

(vi) scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise drug addiction are not shown;

(vii) human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity;

(viii) such dual meaning words as obviously cater to baser instincts are not allowed;

(ix) scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner are not presented;

(x) scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape, rape or any form of molestation, or scenes of a similar nature are avoided, and if any such incident is germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown;

(xi) scenes showing sexual perversions shall be avoided and if such matters are germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown;

(xii) visuals or words contemptuous of racial, religious or other groups are not presented;

(xiii) visuals or words which promote communal, obscurantist, anti-scientific and anti-national attitudes are not presented;

(xiv) the sovereignty and integrity of India is not called in question;

(xv) the security of the State is not jeopardised or endangered;

(xvi) friendly relations with foreign States are not strained;

(xvii) public order is not endangered;

(xviii) visuals or words involving defamation of an individual or a body of individuals, or contempt of court are not presented;

EXPLANATION: Scenes that tend to create scorn, disgrace or disregard of rules or undermine the dignity of court will come under the term "contempt of Court" and

(xix) national symbols and emblems are not shown except in accordance with the provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 (12 of 1950).

3. The Board of Film Certification shall also ensure that the film—

(i) is judged in its entirety from the point of view of its overall impact; and

(ii) is examined in the light of the period depicted in the film and contemporary standards of the country and the people to which the film relates, provided that the film does not deprive the morality of the audience.

4. Films that meet the above mentioned criteria but are considered unsuitable for exhibition to non-adults shall be certified for exhibition to adult audience only.

5. (1) While certifying films for unrestricted public exhibition, the Board shall ensure that the film is suitable for family viewing, that is to say, the film should be such that all the members of the family including children can view it together.

(2) If the Board, having regard to the nature,

content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that it is necessary to caution the parents/guardian to consider as to whether any child below the age of twelve years may be allowed to see such a film, the film shall be certified for unrestricted public exhibition with an endorsement to that effect.

(3) If the Board, having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that the exhibition of the film should be restricted to members of any profession or any class of persons, the film shall be certified for public exhibition restricted to the specialised audiences to be specified by the Board in this behalf.

6. The Board shall scrutinise the titles of the films carefully and ensure that they are not provocative, vulgar, offensive or violative of any of the above-mentioned guidelines.

Foot note:-notification No. 5/577-F (C) dated 7.1.78 published in the Extraordinary Gazette of India Part II, Section 3 sub-section (ii) dated 7.1.78 as S.O. 9(E).

Amended by—

- (i) Notification No. 5/577-F(C) dated 27.1.79 published as S.O.618 in the Gazette of India Part II Section 3 sub-section (ii) dated 17.2.79.
- (ii) Notification No. 805/2/83-F(C) dated 7.5.83 published as S.O. 356(E) in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II Section 3, sub-section (ii) dated 7.5.83.
- (iii) Notification No. 805/4/89-F(C) dated 11.8.89 published as S.O. 2179 in the Gazette of India, Part II, Section 3, sub-section (ii) dated 9.9.89.

[File No. 805/1/90-F(C)]

Sd/-

(S. Lakshmi Narayanan)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Tele. 383857

Statement-II

Members of the C.B.F.C.

Name	Profession
1	2
Chairman-Shri Shakti Samanta	Film producer and director
Members	
1. Smt. Saroja Devi	Cine artiste
2. Smt. Hemalatha Ramesh	Film maker and distributor
3. Shri G.K. Kutti	Film maker and distributor
4. Shri Dipak Bysack	Journalist
5. Ms. Maitreyi Saha	Film maker
6. Shri Rama Kant Rath	Author
7. Smt. Pratibha Ray	Reader in Education

1	2
8. Shri Sukhblr Singh Panwar	Business
9. Ms. Subha Rajan Tampi	Management executive
10. Shri Hormohan Bordoloi	Business
11. Smt. Sharada Ashokvardhan	Retired government officer and author
12. Shri Turlapty Kutumba Rao	Journalist
13. Shri T.V. Narayana	Social Service
14. Shri Subha Somu	Business
15. Ms. Sivasankari	Writer
16. Smt. Minu Rathor	House Wife
17. Smt. Jayasudha Kapoor	Movie artiste
18. Shri S.V. Ramanathan	Business
19. Smt. Sudha V. Joshi	Social Worker
20. Smt. Puspha Bharati	Journalist
21. Shri Kiran Shantaram	Film maker
22. Shri Vinay Kumar Sinha	Film maker
23. Mrs. Megha Patil	Architect
24. Prof. Sulochana Nair	Professor (Retd.)
25. Shri P. Bhaskaran	Business

[Translation]

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds in Railways

*475. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria adopted by the Government to provide employment to the kins of deceased persons;
- (b) the number of appointments on compassionate grounds lying pending with the different zones of Railways;
- (c) the number of such cases wherein the appointments have not been provided to the kins of deceased persons even after lapse of 10 years or more;
- (d) the reasons for delay in providing such appointments; and
- (e) the time by which the employment is likely to be provided by the Government to the kins of the deceased persons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Compassionate appointments on the Railways are considered in favour of dependents of Railway employees in the following types of cases in order of priority:

(i) who die or are permanently crippled in the course of duty,

(ii) who die in harness as a result of Railway accidents when off duty and

(iii) who die in harness or are medically incapacitated/decategorised, subject to eligibility and suitability of such dependents and availability of vacancies and various stipulations in the extant rules.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected from the Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) and (e) Delays in making compassionate appointment occur due to various reasons viz, the wards being minor, legal cases pending in courts and non availability of suitable vacancies.

The Zonal Railway Administrations have been instructed to make all out efforts of provide compassionate appointments to all eligible persons as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose.

It is, however, difficult to fix any time limit for the appointment of compassionate grounds as the same depends upon several factors like availability of suitable vacancies, availability of eligible wards, etc.

*[English]***Encroachment of Railway Land**

*476. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

DR. BALI RAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that railway lands worth crores of rupees are being encroached upon in different States;

(b) if so, the estimated acres of railway lands encroached upon; State-wise, and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove encroachers and to protect the railway properties?

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

(b) Information about area of railway land under encroachment is not maintained State-wise but Zonal Railway-wise as Railway zones span over more than one state. The details are as follows:-

Railway	Area under encroachment
	(in hect.)
Central	64
Eastern	85
Northern	900
North Eastern	115
Northeast Frontier	304
Southern	83
South Central	84
South Eastern	715
Western	107
Total	2457

(c) Removal of encroachments on Railway land is a continuous process. Regular inspections are done by the Railway officials to prevent fresh encroachments. New encroachments are removed as soon as they are noticed. Regarding old encroachments, action is taken to remove them under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 with the help of Civil Police.

To prevent encroachment on Railway land, construction of boundary wall and fencing in the vulnerable sections are undertaken. Planting of suitable trees/shrubs including quick growing thorny trees is also done.

*[Translation]***Train Accidents**

*477. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents which took place during June 1996 and April 1997, Zone-wise;

(b) the causes of these accidents;

(c) the number of people killed, injured and total loss suffered by Railways, Zone-wise;

(d) the number of accidents due to sabotage;

(e) the details of compensation given to victims; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check these train accidents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Information regarding number of consequential train accidents during the period 1.6.96 to 30.4.97, casualties therein and cost of damage to railway property is as under:-

Rly	No. of accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured	Cost of damage to railway property (Rs. in lakhs)
Central	57	34	131	768.08
Eastern	27	24	72	760.23
Northern	51	27	38	440.34
N.E.	16	23	12	11.44
N.F.	17	34	69	127.18
Southern	37	9	18	577.26
S.C.	32	44	40	713.36
S.E.	61	12	47	823.28
Western	33	10	48	118.50
Metro	2	-	-	12.50
Konkan	3	-	-	20.10
Total	336	217	475	4372.27

Note: (1) Figures are provisional.

(2) Figures regarding cost of damage are for the period June 1996-March 1997.

Main causes of the accidents were human failure, equipment failure, sabotage and incidental factors.

(d) 14.

(e) Immediately after the accidents, ex-gratia relief amounting to Rs. 11.65 lakhs was paid to the dependents of dead and injured passengers. 59 claims have been received out of which 6 claims amounting to Rs. 6.51 lakhs have been settled. Settlement of claims in remaining cases will be done after receipt of decrees from the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(f) Some of the measures taken to improve safety and prevent accidents are as under:-

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the Signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about "Signal at danger" to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

(iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vii) To prevent cases of cold beakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(viii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossing and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(x) Step have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

[English]

Identification of Tourist Places by State Governments

*478. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Government have identified tourist places for development;

(b) if so, the details of tourist places identified state-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to sanction grants for the development of those tourist spots; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) Identification and development of tourist places is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Central financial assistance for the development of tourism is provided on the basis of specific project proposals received from them, inter-se priorities and availability of funds each year.

[Translation]

Unprofitable Railway Lines

*479. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several unprofitable railway lines in the country where the trains are being run;

(b) if so, the names of these railway lines and the total annual loss being suffered on account of these lines;

(c) whether the Government have estimated the total financial loss due to these railway lines during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the total amount of loss suffered and the future plan of the Government to check this financial loss?

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

(b) A list is given in the attached statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) The total loss suffered by the Uneconomic Branch Lines and the New Lines during the last three years was as under:

1993-94	-	Rs. 190.76 Crores.
1994-95	-	Rs. 220.77 Crores.
1995-96	-	Rs. 225.67 Crores.

(ii) *Plan to check future losses*—In order to check this financial loss, Ministry of Railways have already plans to close those lines where alternative arrangements of roads are available or can be developed. Besides, various other steps have been already taken to reduce the losses on these lines. These are:

(a) Reduction in staff: This has been achieved through:-

(i) Downgradation of stations into contractor-operated halts.

(ii) Introduction of "One Engine Only" system whereby only one train can be in the section at any time. This obviates the need for block working and hence reduces the staff requirement.

(iii) Curtailment of train services including running of trains only during day time, cancellation of trains on Sundays and other holidays etc.

(iv) Issue of passenger tickets by travelling Ticket Checker/Booking Clerks on the trains running on the section.

(b) Reduction in infrastructure through:

(i) Dismantling sidings

(ii) Dismantling of signalling equipments.

Despite adoption of these measures, however, the likelihood of these lines becoming viable is remote since the density of traffic on these lines is extremely low.

Statement

Names of Branch Lines and their annual loss during 1995-96

S.No.	Name of the Branch Line	Amount of Loss (in thousands)
1	2	3
1.	Ait-Konch (14 Kms)	75,30
2.	Gwalior-Sheopur-Kalan (200 Kms)	2,54,44
3.	Gwalior-Bhind (84 Kms)	44,42
4.	Dholpur-Tantpur-Sirmutra (89 Kms)	88,88
5.	Neral-Matheran (21 Kms)	3,79,80
6.	Pachora-Jamner (56 Kms)	50,06
7.	Karjat-Khopoli	80,59
8.	Miraj-Khurduwadi-Latur (327 Kms)	4,36,60
9.	Daund-Baramati (44 Kms)	2,45,22
10.	Diva-Roha (103 Kms)	2,05,43
11.	Bhimgarh-Palasthali (27 Kms)	20,65
12.	Barasat-Hasnabad (53 Kms)	1,60,57
13.	Santipur-Nabadwipghat (27 Kms)	66,51
14.	Bardhaman-Katwa (53 Kms)	70,55
15.	Bhagalpur-Mandar Hill (50 Kms)	33,89
16.	Baruipur-Lakshmikantpur (37 Kms)	1,21,62
17.	Jamalpur-Monghyr (10 Kms)	34,21
18.	Sonarpur-Canning (29 Kms)	82,54
19.	Dildarnagar-Tarighat (19 Kms)	11,51
20.	Kalyani-Kalyani Simanta (4 Kms)	40,77
21.	Batala-Qadian (19 Kms)	1,02,80

1	2	3
22.	Garhi-Harsaru-Farukhanagar (11 Kms)	22,58
23.	Verka-Derababa Nanak (4 Kms)	4,73,61
24.	Samdari-Munabao (248 Kms)	5,20,74
25.	kalka-Shimla (97 Kms)	5,95,12
26.	Raja-Ka-Sahaspur-Sambhal Hatima Sarai (20 Kms)	1,28
27.	Phagwara-Jaijon Doaba (36 Kms)	2,23,20
28.	Raniwara-Bhildi (71 Kms)	3,08,37
29.	Ratangarh-Sardarshehr (43 Kms)	49,13
30.	Dalmau-Daryapur (25 Kms)	28,25
31.	Merta Road-Merta City (15 Kms)	23,83
32.	Rohtak-Bhiwani (49 Kms)	1,53,16
33.	Gohana-Panipat (39 Kms)	75,30 (N.L.)
34.	Rohtak-Gohana (32 Kms)	52,16
35.	Lalgarh-Srikolayat jee	1,00,48
36.	Rai-Ka-Bagh-Pokrao (192 Kms)	5,46,60
37.	Shamli-Saharanpur	2,44,35
38.	Delhi-Shahadra Shamli	23,89
39.	Amritsar-Attari	18,07
40.	Banmankhi-Bihariganj (27 Kms)	1,17,59
41.	Sakri-Jay Nagar (70 Kms)	2,43,34
42.	Narkatiaganj-Bhikhanthori (47 Kms)	1,18,44
43.	Narkatiaganj-Bagaha (56 Kms)	1,63,16
44.	Kaptanganj-Chhitauni (64 Kms)	99,54
45.	Indara-Dohrighat (40 Kms)	81,40
46.	Anand Nagar-Nautanva (49 Kms)	1,41,38
47.	Gainsari-Jarwa (20 Kms)	50,88
48.	Mathura-Vrindaban (14 Kms)	29,72
49.	Mandhana-Brahamvart (9 Kms)	25,20
50.	Thanabihpur-Mahadeopur Ghat (26 Kms)	40,33
51.	Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazar	1,78,74
52.	New Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling (88 Kms)	2,96,39
53.	Katihar-Maniharighat (36 Kms)	2,23,61
54.	Katihar-Jogbani (108 Kms)	8,30,92
55.	Old Makda-Singhabad (24 Kms)	1,89,84
56.	Barsoi-Radhikapur (53 Kms)	4,00,20

1	2	3
57.	Alipurduar-New Gitaldah Bamanhar (71 Kms)	2,66,47
58.	Rangapara-North-Tezpur (27 Kms)	1,08,72
59.	New Mal-Domohani (37 Kms)	1,26,75
60.	Fakiragram-Dhubri (65 Kms)	2,20,23
61.	Karimganj-Mahisashan (10 Kms)	65,38
62.	Baraigram-Dullavcherra (29 Kms)	1,68,51
63.	Simalugiri-NaginImara (14 Kms)	4,19
64.	Mariani-Jorrahath Niamati (18 Kms)	39,48
65.	Makum-Dangari (30 Kms)	44,17
66.	Simalugiri-Moranhat (54 Kms)	65,84
67.	Chaparmukh-Silghat (81 Kms)	1,85,85
68.	Katakhal-Lalabazar (36 Kms)	1,41,13
69.	Shoranur-Nilambur (66 Kms)	56,86
70.	Tiruturipoondi-Kodikkarai (46 Kms)	34,25
71.	Mettupalayam-Udhagamandalam (46 Kms)	1,49,05
72.	Madurai-Bodinayakanur (90 Kms)	63,31
73.	Bangalore City-Yelahanka-Bangarapet (163 Kms)	4,80
74.	Tirunelveli-Tiruchandur (62 Kms)	75,30
75.	Sagarajambaguru-Talaguppa (16 Kms)	68,94
76.	Villupuram-Pondicherry (38 Kms)	54,93
77.	Bangarapet-Marikuppam (16 Kms)	1,95,10
78.	Hassan-Mangalore	5,05,26
79.	Walajah Road-Ranipet (6 Kms)	6,31
80.	Nanjangud-Chamraj Nagar (35 Kms)	24,44
81.	Hospet-Kottur (69 Kms)	27,02
82.	Jankampet-Bodhan (20 Kms)	16,69
83.	Gunda Road-Swamihalli (40 Kms)	19,06
84.	Alnavar-Ambewadi (31 Kms)	8,29
85.	Gudivada-Machilipatnam (40 Kms)	73,05
86.	Mudhkod-Adilabad (162 Kms)	1,12,79
87.	Bhlmavaram-Narasapur	26,17
88.	Nawapada-Gunupur (90 Kms)	1,90,38
89.	Purulla-Kotshilla & Ranchi-Lohardaga (104 Kms)	2,46,56
90.	Raipur-Dhamtari (89 Kms)	3,66,92
91.	Satpura-Railways (1007 Kms)	29,18,40

1	2	3
92.	Tata-Badampahar (99 Kms)	24,74
93.	Kanhan-Ramtak (24 Kms)	22,55
94.	Khurda Road-Puri (43 Kms)	1,17,41
95.	Rupsa-Talbundh (88.7 Kms)	1,33,78
96.	Jakhapura-Daitari (33.43 Kms)	5,79,08
97.	Billimora-Waghai	72,26
98.	Chhuchapura-Tankhala	15,48
99.	Chorenda-Motikorai	9,71
100.	Samni-Dahej	19,53
101.	Godhra-Lunawada	21,29
102.	Broach-Jambusar-Kavi	57,57
103.	Chota Udaipur-Jambusar	97,74
104.	Chanded-Malsar	73,87
105.	Nadiad-Kapadvanj	24,42
106.	Nadiad-Bhadran	23,13
107.	Gandhidham-New Kandla	1,74,53
108.	Malwi Junc.-Bari Sadri	2,73,04
109.	Sihor-Palitana	55,95
110.	Mahasana-Taranga Hill	22,04
111.	Himmat Nagar-Khed Brahm	41,53
112.	Borvivadtal-Swami Narayan	37,09
113.	Anand-Cambay	1,26,34
114.	Fatehpur-Churu (43.28 Kms)	44,56
115.	Udaipur-Himmat Nagar	2,34,21
New Lines		
116.	Lakshmikantapur-Kulpi	5,20,00
117.	Dharmanagar-Kumarghat	4,04,00
118.	Lalabazar-Bairabi	7,05,00
119.	Silchar-Jiribam	6,54,00
120.	Balipara-Bhalukpong	3,55,00
121.	Amguri-Tuli	1,69,00
122.	Santragachi-Baragachia	4,61,00
123.	Tupkadlh-Talgaria	4,98,00
124.	Trichur-Guruvayoor	20,00

*[English]***Production/Consumption of Gold**

480. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production and consumption of gold in the country during the last three years in terms of quantum and value and percentage increase/decrease;

(b) the production targets for 1997-98 and additional investment in ongoing/new projects—both in public sector and private sector;

(c) whether the Government have proposed to allow private/foreign participation in Gold Mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with proposals received/cleared; and

(e) the details of new Gold reserves located in the country by GSI and steps taken/proposed to Mine these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The details of the estimated production of gold in the country during the last three years in terms of quantum, value and percentage increase/decrease is indicated below:-

Year	Gold Production Quantity (Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)	Increase/Decrease in Quantity (in Percentage)
1994-95	2369	116	+14
1995-96	2036	103	-14
1996-97	2904	145	+43

As far as consumption of gold in India is concerned, no official data is available. However, a very rough estimate suggests that the demand for gold in India is about 600 Tonnes per annum.

(b) At present, gold is produced primarily in the Public Sector. The target of gold production for 1997-98 is 3140 Kgs. The approved Plan outlay for 1997-98 for M/s. Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) in this regard is Rs. 6 crores. To augment the gold production as a byproduct by M/s. Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), an investment of Rs. 5 crores has been proposed in the IXth Five Year Plan. M/s. Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML), a Karnataka State Government Undertaking engaged in production of gold, has a plan to increase gold production to 3600 Kgs. per annum.

(c) Under the National Mineral Policy, 1993, 13 minerals including Gold which were hitherto reserved for exploitation by the public sector were also thrown open for private sector participation, both domestic and foreign. Now, any company incorporated in India, is eligible for grant

of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease for exploration/exploitation of Gold in the Country. Further, Government have issued guidelines for grant of Prospecting Licence for area larger than 25 square kilometer in cases involving aerial survey.

(d) So far, the following two proposals have been approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB):

(i) Hindustan Zinc Limited & BHP Minerals, Australia with 60% foreign equity for prospecting of Gold, among other base metals.

(ii) Australian India Resources N.L., Australia for 100% subsidiary unit for exploration/exploitation of Gold. No Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease has been granted to these Companies so far.

(e) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has located new deposits of gold in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The details are as follows:-

Andhra Pradesh:-(i) Dona Temple Block, Kurnool District, (ii) Kotnapalle Block, Anantpur District, (iii) Kudithanpalle Block, Chittoor District.

Bihar:-(i) Sonapet Valley and Tamar Porapahar in Babikundi and Taramba area.

Karnataka:-Hira-Buddini, Raichur District, (ii) Chinmulgund, Dharwar District, (iii) Nagavi, Dharwar District, (iv) Ajjanhalli West Block, Tumkur District, (v) G.R. Halli, South Block, Chitradurga District.

Kerala:-(i) Kappil Sector, Mallapuram District.

Madhya Pradesh:-(i) Gurharpahar West, Sidhi District.

Maharashtra:-(i) Paraspro West Block, Nagpur District.

Rajasthan:-(i) Anantpur-Bhukia, Banswara District.

Uttar Pradesh:-(i) Gurharpahar area, Sidhi Belt, Sonbhadra District.

Any exploration/exploitation agency is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules made thereunder and in the light of the National Mineral Policy, 1993 announced by the Government of India.

Development of Habib-Ganj Railway Station

5158. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development of the Habibganj railway station (Central Railway in Madhya Pradesh) is being impeded because the State Government has not been able to remove the 'Jhuggis' and other encroachments on the land of the railway station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 has been taken to remove these encroachments.

Illegal Occupation of Railway Quarters

5159. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the railway quarters in S.C. Railway at Secunderabad have been illegally let out/leased out depriving genuine claimants;

(b) if so, the action taken by the authorities including eviction of quarters;

(c) the reasons for serving eviction notices concentrated only in lower type of quarters and higher type of quarters located in Secunderabad have been left out selectively;

(d) the number of quarters are occupied by non-railway employees including police personnel in the city and the action has been taken to evict them for allotting the quarters to genuine railway employees who are waiting for a long period.

(e) whether any special cell has been created to expedite the cases of eviction and to monitor the progress; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. However, a few cases of subletting of railway quarters by railway officials have been noted during the checks conducted by vigilance.

(b) Action under D&AFI has been initiated against the delinquent officials besides cancellation of their allotments.

(c) Eviction proceedings have been initiated in all cases where subletting has been detected without exception.

(d) Out of 93 cases of subletting noted during January-March, 1997, 54 quarters were sublet to outsiders. Allotment of these quarters has been cancelled and the same are being allotted to the next eligible employees. The quarters under the occupation of the police personnel are under the administrative control of the State Police since a few decades and their allotments are controlled by them.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Setting up of Terminal Station at Tala

5160. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4159 on December 19, 1996 and state:

QUESTION

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target to set up Terminal Station at Tala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The proposal of additional facilities at Tala has been approved as "Material Modifications" to the existing estimate of Calcutta Circular Railway. The project is likely to be completed by September 1999, depending on the availability of funds.

Study on Travelling

5161. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made or a committee has been appointed to look into people's preference for Road travel although Railway travel is cheaper and eco-friendly; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such preferences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Recruitment of RPF Personnel

5162. SHRI RAM SAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had entrusted the task of undertaking probe into a large number of complaints alleging that some former officials allegedly recruited RPF personnel on consideration of bribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure non-recurrence of the irregularities and corruptions in the recruitment of RPF in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

A case has been registered and investigation has been taken up by the CBI in this regard.

(d) It has been decided to nominate only serving officers to serve on the recruitment committees in future.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

5163. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations regarding appointment of dependents of deceased railway employees on compassionate grounds have been received by the Government during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps initiated to ensure their recruitment expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a large number of representations regarding compassionate appointments are received by MR/MOS(R) in the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) office as well as by the Zonal Railways including Divisional Headquarters and Production Units etc., it is not feasible to give the details of such representations.

(c) and (d) Such representations are considered on merits keeping in view the extant policy regarding compassionate appointments and appropriate action is taken as warranted.

Metre Gauge Rail Lines

5164. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the kilometers on which metre gauge line is operating at present in the country zone-wise;

(b) the details regarding diesel rail engines and coaches provided to each Zonal Railway on metre gauge line during each of the last three years;

(c) the details regarding new rail passenger services provided on metre gauge line during the above period under Ratlam Railway Division; and

(d) the details regarding facilities given to Mass Rapid Rail Service between Ujjain-Indore-Ujjain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) length (Route kilometres) of metre gauge lines zone-wise as on 31.3.96 (latest available):

Railways zone	Metre Gauge Route	Kilometres
Northern		2,075
Northern Eastern		3,514
Northeast Frontier		2,685
Southern		3,270
South Central		2,119
Western		4,838
Total		18,501

(b) Railways have not manufactured and supplied any MG diesel locos and coaches to zonal railways during the last three years. However, due to gauge conversion some Metre Gauge locos and coaches have been transferred from one railway to another depending upon the gauge conversion programme.

(c) 69/70 Mhow-Indore Fast passenger introduced.

(d) 9303/9304 Indore-Ujjain-Bhopal Inter-city Express (DMU) introduced.

Mining Lease of Alumina Project in Orissa

5165. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any alumina project for want of sanction of mining lease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present position of the project alongwith the reasons for delay in clearance; and

(d) the time by which project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The State Government have sent a proposal for approval to the grant of mining lease for Bauxite over 1388.74 hectares in village Baphalmali in Rayagada district of Orissa in favour of M/s. Orissa Mining Corporation. The Orissa Mining Corporation and INDALCO has reached an agreement that once a lease is sanctioned in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation, it will be transferred to INDALCO or the JVC named Utkal Alumina International. The State Government expects that the project will be covered within two years from the date of transfer of lease in favour of INDALCO.

Increased Traffic

5166. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger traffic both domestic and international have increased largely over the years;

(b) if so, the rate of growth of traffic during the last three years;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India is awaiting for clearance from the Government to build more terminals; and

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

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

(b) The average growth of international traffic during the last 3 years was around 8% and in respect of domestic traffic it was 11%.

(c) and (d) Proposals regarding construction of 2nd Phase of International Passenger Terminal at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi and construction of 2nd Phase of Domestic Passenger Terminal at Mumbai are being processed.

Facilities to Actors Going Abroad

5167. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any catalogue of troupe of dance, drama and music in the country and to enable them to project the good image of our Nation while going abroad;

(b) whether any facility is given to them by Government for publishing and drawing up of programmes through Indian Missions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. The Song and Drama Division does not have any scheme/provision to send troupes abroad.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Posting of Train Superintendents in Trains

5168. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had selected 50 trains to post train superintendents in the trains for the year 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether train superintendents have been posted in the said selected trains and necessary resources have been made available to them;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are committed to

ensure the implementation of said decision and whether Union Government propose to select additional trains for this purpose for the year 1996-97; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) and (d) Train Superintendents have been posted in 20 pairs of trains so far and in other trains, postings have been delayed due to non-availability of suitable staff etc.

(e) and (f) Decision to provide Train Superintendents in other trains will be taken up only when the trains already specified are covered fully. All efforts are underway to post Train Superintendents in the selected trains.

Statement

List of Trains:

Central Railway:

1. 1037/1038 Punjab Mail.
2. 1077/1078 Jhelum Express.
3. 1081/1082 Mumbai VT-Kanniyakumari Express.
4. 1013/1014 Kurla-Bangalore Express.
5. 1015/1016 Kushinagar Express.
6. 1033/1034 Pushpak Express.
7. 1093/1094 Mahanagri Express.
8. 1027/1028 Dadar-Amritsar Express.

Eastern Railway:

1. 2303/2304 Poorva Express.
2. 2311/2312 Kalka Mail.
3. 2381/2382 Poorva Express.
4. 2391/2392 Maghad/Vikramshila Express.
5. 3003/3004 Howrah-Mumbai VT Mail.
6. 3073/3074 Himgiri Express.

Northern Railway:

1. 2479/2480 Goa Express.
2. 4067/4068 Malwa Express.
3. 2401/2402 Sharamjeevi Express.
4. 2473/2474 Sarvodaya Express.
5. 2475/2476 Rajkot-Jammu Tawi Express.
6. 2477/2478 Hapa-Jammu Tawi Express.

7. 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail.
8. 4007/4008 Sadhbhavna Express.

North Eastern Railway:

1. 5063/5064 Awadh Express.
2. 5011/5012 Gorakhpur-Cochin Express.
3. 5089/5090 Gorakhpur-Hyderabad Express.
4. 5645/5646 Dadar-Gawahati Express.
5. 5047/5048 Gorakhpur-Howrah Purvanchal Express.

Southern Railway:

1. 2617/2618 Mangala Express.
2. 6003/6004 Chennai-Howrah Mail.
3. 6039/6040 Ganga Kaveri Express.
4. 6059/6060 Charminar Express.
5. 6529/6530 Udyan Express.
6. 6519/6520 Bangalore-Guwahati Express.
7. 6313/6314 Cochin-Guwahati Express.
8. 6321/6322 Trivandrum-Guwahati Express.
9. 6315/6316 Howrah Cochin Express.
10. 6335/6336 Gandhidham-Trivandrum Express.
11. 6063/6064 Chennai Express.
12. 6043/6044 Patna-Chennai Express.
13. 6093/6094 Lucknow-Chennai Express.

South Central Railway:

1. 7021/7022 Dakshin Express.

South Eastern Railway:

1. 2815/2816 Puri Express.
2. 8001/8002 Howrah-Mumbai VT Mail.

3. 8475/8476 Neelanchal Express.
4. 8045/8046 East-Coast Express.
5. 8477/8478 Utkal Express.
6. 2801/2802 Purushottam Express.
7. 8029/8030 Howrah-Mumbai VT Express.

Western Railway:

1. 2955/2956 Jaipur-Mumbai Central Express.
2. 2915/2916 Chetak Express.

Modernisation of Telegraph Service in Gujrat

5169. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any initiative for taking steps for modernisation of telegraph services in Gujarat;

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

(c) whether any budgetary allocation has made for this purpose during the current financial years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the modernisation work of telegraph services is likely to be commenced?

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

(b) The Microprocessor based Store and Forward Message Switching Systems (SFMS), Formatted Terminal Concentrators (FTCS), Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBCs), Fax and Electronic Terminals have been provided in Gujarat District-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No separate budget has been made for Telegraph Services.

(e) The work of modernisation has already been commenced and progress has been made as per details in the statement of answer for (b) above.

Statement*District-wise modern telegraph system in Gujarat circle*

Name of Dist.	No. of 128 L	SFMS 32 L	T.P. CONC.	FTCs	EKBCs	FAX
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ahmedabad	1	-	-	-	2	11
Gandhinagar	-	-	-	-	-	01
Amreli	-	-	-	-	-	01
Banaskantha	-	-	-	-	-	01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bharuch	-	-	-	-	1	03
Jamagar	-	-	-	-	1	01
Junagadh	-	-	-	-	-	03
Kheda	-	-	-	-	1	04
Kutchh	-	-	-	-	-	02
Mehsana	-	-	-	-	-	02
Panchmahal	-	-	-	-	1	03
Rajkot	-	1	-	1	1	02
Sabarkantha	-	-	-	-	-	01
Surendrangar	-	-	-	-	-	01
Surat	-	-	1	-	1	03
Vadodara	-	-	-	1	1	04
Valsad	-	-	-	-	-	03
Dang	-	-	-	-	-	-
Divyanagar (UT)	-	-	-	1	1	01

Legend:-

SFMS-Store And Forward Message Switching System

FTC-Formatted Terminal Concentrator

EKBC-Electronic Key Board Concentrator

T.P.-Teleprinter.

Private Viman Anurakshan Abhiyantran Sansthan

5170. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private 'Viman Anurakshan Abhiyantran Sansthan' in the country which are recognised by the Directorate of Civil Aviation;

(b) the number of students admitted in one batch every year in these institutes;

(c) whether the students in these institutes do not enjoy basic and other facilities;

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

(e) whether there is any provision to employ the students in various airlines and other engineering business trained through these private 'Viman Anurakshan Abhiyantran Sansthan' which are recognised by the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) There are 18 Viman Anurakshan Abhiyantran

Sansthan (Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Institutes) in the country approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

(b) Approximately 1000 students are admitted annually to these Institutes.

(c) and (d) While granting initial approval as well as the annual renewal, these Institutes are inspected by the Director General of Civil Aviation to ensure the availability of proper training facilities. Appropriate action is taken by the Institutes to remove any deficiency observed by the Director General of Civil Aviation. Disciplinary action is taken in case of serious lapse in this regard.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, Director General of Civil Aviation has generally recommended to the operators that they should give due consideration to students of these Institutes while recruiting technical persons at initial levels.

Transmission Capacity of Akashvani Kendra of Ajmer

5171. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the transmission capacity of Akashwani Kendra of Ajmer, Rajasthan;
- (b) the amount disbursed for the development of this station during each of the last three years;
- (c) the reasons for keeping this kendra just as a relay station;
- (d) whether all infrastructural facilities and equipments required for the broadcasting of Vividh Bharti and other programmes are available there; and
- (e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made a regular Akashwani Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) AIR, Ajmer is equipped with 200 KW MW Transmitter, which works as a relay centre for Jaipur channel 'A' to provide radio coverage to far flung areas of Rajasthan. As there is no approved scheme for development of AIR, Ajmer. No amount has been disbursed for development of the station. However, for operation and maintenance, amounts of Rs. 61.21, Rs. 64.32 and Rs. 84.15 lakhs were disbursed during the year 94-95, 95-96 and 96-97 respectively.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no approved scheme to relay Vividh Bharti Programme or to set up programme production centre at Ajmer.

[*English*]

Centralisation of Stores Purchasing

5172. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to centralise the stores purchasing of the Railways in respect of common user items between several Zonal Railway at common places to avoid duplicity and avail economies of scale; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, for a large number of common user items, Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals finalises the Rate Contracts centrally, which are used by Railways to get these items. Only very high value items like Locos, Wagons, Coaches, Steel, POL Products etc. and vital and safety items, where capacity and sources in the country are limited, are procured centrally to avail economies of scale and avoid different Railways chasing a few suppliers. Centralised procurement of other items is not proposed to be done as it may prove detrimental to the interest of Small Scale Industries and other Regional Industries and may also not be economical.

Doordarshan Relay Centre, Kerala

5173. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Doordarshan Relay Centre has been set up at Kallisserry, Chengannur and Alleppey in Kerala;
- (b) whether the same has not been functioning due to lack of enough staff;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The existing LPT at Chengannur in Alleppey District is located at Kallissery, in Kerala. The LPT at Chengannur is already functioning but providing only limited transmission i.e. evening transmission on week days and full transmission on Sundays, as only 50% of the staff required has been sanctioned for the project. Full time transmission from this LPT Centre would be started once sanction for full complement of staff is received.

There is no TV transmitter at present at Alleppey which lies in the coverage range of High Power TV Transmitter functioning of Cochin.

Out of Turn Allotments

5174. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of turn allotment of STD/ISD telephone connections and Government quarters have been made between January 1, 1990 and June 30, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date;

(c) whether such out of turn allotment have also been made from July 1, 1996 to date;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the norms laid down by the Government for these out of turn allotments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): ISD/STD Telephone Connections: (a) to (d) No, Sir. Only ordinary telephones i.e. telephones without STD/ISD facilities are sanctioned on out of turn basis. STD/ISD facilities are provided to the users of telephone connections at their option.

(e) Does not arise.

Government Quarters

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

[*Translation*]

Gauge Conversion

5157. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for gauge conversion of Lalkuan-Bareilly and

Bareilly-Pilibhit-Mailani line;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the time by which the above conversion work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

Vacuum Cleaners and VAX Computers in D.S.P.

5176. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Durgapur Steel Plant purchased vacuum cleaner cost about Rs. 2 crores and vax computer cost about Rs. 30 crores which are not functioning by the side of the Sinter Plant after modernisation;
 (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
 (c) whether the technical audit has been done; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) had purchased a Vacuum Cleaners for approximately Rs. 85,000/- and a VAX computer for approximately Rs. 36 lakhs under the New Sinter Plant package of D.S.P. Modernisation.

The vacuum cleaners are functioning satisfactorily.

The VAX computer hardware has been installed and is functional. The software is being developed indigenously and is in advance stage of completion.

Vacuum Cleaners and VAX Computer being part of the New Sinter Plant package, technical audit would be taken up alongwith the audit of New Sinter Plant package.

[Translation]

Construction of Pedestrian Subway

5177. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the construction work of pedestrian subway near Ramghat road railway crossing in Aligarh District has started for which prior sanction has already been accorded;
 (b) if not, the reasons for delay; and
 (c) the steps being taken by the Government in order to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. No work of Pedestrian Subway has been approved at this site. However, a Road Over Bridge will be taken up after the State Govt. acquires land for approaches and starts work thereon.

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

[English]

Outstanding Dues against Railways

5178. SHRI RAM NAIK:

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of outstanding dues from the Railway Administration as on March 31, 1997 on account of expenditure incurred on Railway Police by the Government of Maharashtra;
 (b) the reasons for non-payment so far; and
 (c) the time bound programme for the full repayment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The total outstanding with the Railway Administration as on March 31, 1997 on account of expenditure incurred on Railway Police by the Government of Maharashtra is Rs. 15.66 crores. This includes bills for Rs. 4.93 crores received in March '97.

(b) The outstanding dues are mainly on account of:-

- (i) Non-submission of audit certificate by the State Govt.
 (ii) Non-availability of funds.
 (iii) Unilateral creation of GRP posts by the State Govt. without approval of Railway administration.

(c) Railways have already been instructed to liquidate all clearly admissible claims of Maharashtra Govt. subject to availability of funds.

[Translation]

Stoppages of Trains

5179. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received memoranda about providing stoppages of Mahamaya Express at Vidisha Railway Station, Shipra Express Train and Jhelum Express Train at Ganj Basoda and Pathankot Express Train at Gulabganj Railway Stations;

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

(c) the time by which the Government are likely to issue the orders in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Examined but not found commercially justified.

[*English*]

Replacement of Railway Track and Old Bogies in Kerala

5180. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to replace the very old railway tracks, old bogies of trains and also overhaul the bogies to improve railway in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 193 kms. of rail renewals has been sanctioned as on 1.4.1997. Out of this 115 kms. rail renewal has been targetted for completion during 1997-98. Similarly, 165 kms. of sleeper renewals have been sanctioned as on 1.4.97 out of which 111 kms. are targetted for completion in 1997-98. Passenger coaches provided on trains in Kerala region are relatively new and age-profile indicates that there are no overaged coaches in operation in this region. Further, during recent months, 160 new coaches have been inducted on trains operating in Kerala. The coaches are being given regular periodic overhaul in workshops according to prescribed norms. In addition, there is continued endeavour to bring about further improvement in the upkeep and maintenance of coaches by undertaking renovation of coaches and use of mobile jet cleaning machines at stations enroute.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Production of Mica

5181. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reserves of mica are declining especially in the tribal areas of Gujarat state;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to establish mica based industries?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b)

The production of mica from the identified reserves is a continuous process and as such the resources are declining.

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

Office of Senior Superintendent in Gadchiroli

5182. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open the office of Senior Superintendent of Posts in Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of districts in the country without the office of Senior Superintendent of Post;

(e) the reasons therefor;

(f) the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which the office of the Senior Superintendent of post is likely to be established in all the districts of Maharashtra and in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The opening of an office of Senior Superintendent of Post Offices is based on norms fixed in this behalf in accordance with Staff Inspection Unit formula which is not fulfilled in the case.

(d) It is not possible to furnish the information readily particularly as new districts keep on coming up. The information is, however, being compiled.

(e) Senior Superintendent of Post Offices/Superintendent of Post Offices head a Postal Division which is not considered as an essential adjunct to a revenue district since its establishment is dependent on norms based on total postal business in the district, which varies from district to district. In case of districts having heavier postal business, there may even be more than one Postal Division.

(f) There are well formulated specific norms for setting up of Postal Divisions and action is taken to create additional Divisions in light thereof as and when the same are found fulfilled in any specific case.

(g) It is not possible to indicate any specific deadline in this behalf in view of what has been stated in reply to parts (e) and (f) above.

[English]

Financial Irregularities in B.S.P.

5183. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started inquiry into the alleged gross financial irregularities of Rs. 1625 crores in Bokaro Steel Plant as reported in the Times of India dated April 25, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Creation of Additional Posts

5184. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no new posts can be created by the Ministries/Departments without the surrendering of an equivalent number of existing posts as per directive issued by the Union Government;

(b) whether Ministry of Railways propose to create 3000 additional posts without surrendering equivalent number of existing posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the financial burden likely to be borne as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Based on the extant orders of the Union Government and the practice obtaining on the Railways, new posts on the Zonal Railways, etc. cannot be created without surrender of post or posts of equal monetary value except in the case of certain categories like running staff namely drivers, guards, fireman and loco inspectors etc.

(b) There is no proposal to create 3000 additional posts without matching surrender on the Railways. However, in the context of abolition of safai contracts with effect from 1.1.97, Zonal Railways were directed to create the required posts of safaiwalas with matching surrender of the posts of equivalent monetary value and, if such surrender is not

available at present, to provide the same by 31.12.1997

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Advertisement on AIDS

5185. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether publicity/advertisement in the name of safety measures for prevention of AIDS is encouraging the promiscuity; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to bring improvement?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) One of the routes of HIV infection is through sexual intercourse. According to the data available in National Aids Control Organisation (NACO), 71.9% HIV positive cases in the country are in the category of heterosexual promiscuous behaviour. As such, the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign for prevention and control of AIDS in India is targetted to this category, for safe sex and behaviour change. It is, therefore, not correct that the safety measures for prevention and control of AIDS are encouraging promiscuity.

Serials

5186. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of serials in respect of which production proposals for morning Transmission had been received by Delhi Doordarshan in March 1991;

(b) whether Delhi Doordarshan propose to accord sanction to the above mentioned proposals particularly to serial Amar log;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) A total number of 24 proposal were received in the month of March, 1991. The details are given in the statement enclosed. The proposal for the serial 'Amar Log' was received on 29/01/1991.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to change in the format of the Morning Transmission, there is no scope for telecast of such programmes in the Morning Transmission at present.

Statement*List of proposals received in March 1991 for morning transmission*

S. No.	Agency	Title	Date of Submission
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s R.R. Communications C-471, SFS Flats, Sheikh Saral Face-I New Delhi-18.	Sukanya-Charitam	4-3-91
2.	M/s Suhasini Mulay Production, B-42, Friends Colony West, New Delhi-65.	Sanskrit Mandakini	5-3-91
3.	M/s Vishrakala Druk Shravyakala Pvt. Ltd. 8-B Pereira Building Khotachi Wadi Girgum, Bombay-400004.	Kathakaumudi or Bal Kathakunj	7-3-91
4.	M/s Telewaves A-1/312, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058.	Malvikagni Nigam	7-3-91
5.	M/s Creative Vision 554, Pocket-5 Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-91	Katha Sarit Sagar Se	7-3-91
6.	M/s Arti Films 41 Queens view Juhu Road, Bombay-400049	Daridra	22-3-91
7.	M/s Garib Niwaz Picutres 190/1 Rly House, Khar (E) Bombay-400051	Nrutragatha	22-3-91
8.	M/s Tele Creations India 1-1783, Chitranganj Park New Delhi-110019.	Mudra Rakshas	22-3-91
9.	M/s Kajal Creations, D-41E, Rock View Flats Oddaj Munirka, New Delhi-110067.	Naganandam	22-3-91
10.	M/s Garib Nawaz 2 Pictures 190/1 House, Khar (E) Bombay-400051.	Nrityagatha	23-3-91
11.	M/s Mathur Video Vision 107, Osian Building 12, Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019.	Tantuwai Kabir	26-3-91

1	2	3	4
12.	M/s Sur Bharti 61/4-A Kali Bari Marg New Delhi-110011.	Shakuntlam	27-3-91
13.	M/s Lokyatra Village House Khas New Delhi-110016.	Prahalika	30-3-91
14.	M/s Om Communications 962 Paschim Puri-II New Delhi-110063	Face in the Crowd	5-3-91
15.	M/s Rook Video Matics H-14/12 Malviya Nagar New Delhi-110047	Face in the Crowd	5-3-91
16.	M/s Sahyog R-2, Patel Nagar West New Delhi-110008.	Face in the Crowd	7-3-91
17.	M/s Sheh Singh 142 Sector 98, Chandigarh.	Face in the Crowd	7-3-91
18.	M/s Tele Waves A-1/3 12, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.	Face in the Crowd	13-3-91
19.	M/s Sumit Radhey Films, WZ-54, Street No. 2, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, New Delhi-45.	-do-	13-3-91
20.	M/s Arbudha Communications, 64-C, Lok Sabha Quarters, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-57.	Face in the Crowd	22-3-91
21.	M/s R.E. Mapakshi, 7/1, Chinnapa Mansion, West Park Road, 8th Cross Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003.	-do-	22-3-91
22.	M/s Spectrum International B-1-8-2, Ashok Apartments, Ranjit Nagar, Commercial Complex, New Delhi-110058.	-do-	26-3-91
23.	M/s Abhishek Films, 2G, Jayanti, 2, Mandovilla, Garden, Calcutta-700019.	-do-	-do-
24.	M/s Murti Chadha B-71, LIG DDA Flats, Motia Khan, New Delhi-59.	-do-	-do-

*[English]***Removal of Jhuggi Dwellers**

5187. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to give monetary compensation to the jhuggi dwellers so as to develop platforms and to open a second entry at New Delhi and Old Delhi railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Delhi High Court in its decision in the case of Jhuggi Jhonpri Welfare Association VS Thuglakabad Railway Station has held that the JJ dwellers should vacate the railway land within two months; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the light of that decision and to remove the jhuggi dwellers from the land and of the railway causing obstruction in development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Delhi High Court judgement dated July 8, 1996 stated that the Jhuggies should not be removed till 31.8.96.

(d) Eviction proceedings were started but had to be stopped on account of law and order situation.

Restoration of Rail Line

5188. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status in regard to restoration of rail line between Kotipalli and Kakinada in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to acquire the land for restoring this world war II line; and

(c) the time by which the above line is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The work of restoration of Kakinada-Kotipalli line via Samalkot was included in the Budget, 1995-96, with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining approval of the Planning Commission.

However, the State Government have to first provide free land for the project, in lieu of the land, which has been built upon, after abandonment of the old line. The project can only be considered further, once the State Government makes available the land.

Setting up a Cold Rolling Mill

5189. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given green signal for installation of a new cold rolling mill of Korba in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which the installation is likely to be completed; and

(c) the likely quantity of its product per annum?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The Central Government have not given green signal for installation of a steel cold rolling mill at Korba in Madhya Pradesh.

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

*[Translation]***HPT/LPT in Himachal Pradesh**

5190. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of setting up Low-power Transmitters in the country;

(b) whether Low Power Transmitters have been set-up in Simla and other places for the expansion of Doordarshan in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether requisite staff have been provided for maintenance of LPTs in the country particularly in Himachal;

(d) if so, the number of persons appointed therein location-wise;

(e) the details of the staff falling short for LPTs, location wise; and

(f) the time by which the said staff is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The broad criterion for setting up of TV transmitter projects is to provide TV service to hitherto uncovered areas of the country particularly the hilly, backward, tribal, remote, sensitive and border areas.

(b) The existing TV transmitter network in Himachal Pradesh comprises 2 HPTs, 7 LPTs, 21 VLPTs and 2 transposers.

(c) Staff sanction for operation and maintenance of a number of transmitter projects across the country, including LPT (DD-II) at Shimla, have not been received from the competent authority.

(d) and (e) Location-wise number of persons in position

at various TV transmitter projects in Himachal Pradesh is given in the the statement attached.

(f) Filling up of vacant posts is a continuous process and action is taken, from to time, to fill up the existing vacancies in the network.

Statement

Location-wise details of staff in position at various TV Transmitter Projects (HPTs and LPTs) in Himachal Pradesh

Project	Number of Posts Sanctioned	Posts Filled	Vacancies
HPT, Shimla	11	11	Nil
HPT, Kasauli	15	14	01
LPT, Bilaspur	11	09	02
LPT, Dharamshala	11	11	Nil
LPT, Kullu	09	09	Nil
LPT, Mandi	10	08	02
LPT, Manali	11	10	01
LPT, Rampur	05	02	03

Note: VLPTs and Transposers are unmanned installations.

Non-Availability of Proformas for Funds, Pension and Other Facilities

5191. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to complicated procedure, the railway employees do not get proformas for their various funds, pension and other facilities etc;

(b) if so, the total number of retired employees upto March, 1997 who have not been provided the above facilities;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to simplify the procedure and to provide proformas to the railway employees; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that various funds and pension payable to the employees are given immediately to them after their retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Subsidy in Telephone Rates

5192. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI:

SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to withdraw subsidy in telephone rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Tourism Projects in Karnataka

5193. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka had sent Rs. 900 Crore Tourism Project for inclusion in the Ninth Five Year Plan for the development of tourism in each district of the State;

(b) if so, whether the Government have cleared the above plan; and

(c) if so, the details of important tourist places proposed to be improved with the proposed plan in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During 1996-97 the State Government of Karnataka identified 11 schemes amounting to Rs. 940/- crores for investment during 9th Five Year Plan through Central Financial Assistance and external funding. Sanctioned 21 projects amounting to Rs. 356.89 lakhs for the development of tourism in Karnataka.

Bihar Sharif Aerodrome

5194. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion/complaints to renovate Bihar Sharif Aerodrome;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir. This airport belongs to the State Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Doordarshan Relay Kendras, Madhya Pradesh

5195. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of VLPT and Doordarshan Relay Kendras which have been set up in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of Doordarshan Kendras under construction and the number of those which are not operating due to lack of staff; and

(c) the details of the places where these Doordarshan Kendras have been set up in Mandsoor and Ujjain districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Location-wise details of Doordarshan projects presently operational in the State of Madhya Pradesh are given in statement attached.

(b) 3 PPCs, 6 LPTs and 5 VLPTs are presently under implementation in Madhya Pradesh. No project in the State is pending commissioning for want of staff.

(c) An LPT at Ujjain in Ujjain district and three LPTs, one each at Mandsoor, Neemuch and Kukadeshwar, in Mandsoor district are presently operational.

Statement

List of Doordarshan Projects presently operational in the State of Madhya Pradesh

PPCs	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Transposer
1	2	3	4	5
Bhopal	Bhopal	Alirajpur	Budhni	Singrauli
Raipur	Gwalior	Ashoknagar	Diamond Mining- Project	
	Indore	Ambikapur	Jashpurnagar	
	Jabalpur	Bailadilla	Kondagaon	
	Jagdalpur	Balaghat	Parasia	
	Raipur	Betul	Pakhanjore	
		Bhander		
		Bhind		
		Bijaipur		
		Bilaspur		
		Burhanpur		
		Chanderi		
		Chhattarpur		
		Chhindwara		
		Damoh		
		Datia		
		Dungargarh		
		Gandarwara		
		Guna		
		Harda		
		Itarsi		
		Jaora		
		Jhabua		
		Kanker		
		Kelaras		
		Khandwa		
		Khargaon		
		Khurai		

1	2	3	4	5
		Korba		
		Kukadeshwar		
		Kurasia		
		Kurwai		
		Lahar		
		Maihar		
		Malanjhand		
		Mandla		
		Mandsaur		
		Manindergarh		
		Murwara		
		Nagda		
		Narayanpur		
		Narsimhapur		
		Neemuch		
		Panchmarhi		
		Panna		
		Raghogarh		
		Raigarh		
		Rajgarh		
		Rajhara Jharandili		
		Ratlam		
		Rewa		
		Sagar		
		Sakti		
		Satna		
		Seoni		
		Shahdol		
		Shajapur		
		Sheopur		
		Shivpuri		
		Sidhi		
		Singrauli		
		Sironj		
		Tikamgarh		
		Ujjain		
		Bhopal (DD2)		

Legend:

PPC: Programme Production Centre

HPT: High Power TV Transmitter

LPT: Low Power TV Transmitter

VLPT: Very Low Power TV Transmitter

*[English]***HPT at Narkatiya and Bagaon in Bihar**

5196. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct high power T.V. Transmitter in Bihar particularly in Narkatiya and Bagaon sub-division towns; and

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Three High Power TV transmitters, one each at Motihari, Jamshedpur and Deoghar, are envisaged to be set up in Bihar subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities. The lead time involved in implementation of such projects is about 3-4 years after approval of the scheme by the competent authority. There are, however, no approved schemes, at present, to set up HPTs in Narkatiya and Bagaon sub-divisions of Bihar.

Introduction of Long Distance Trains

5197. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of long distance trains introduced from Mysore after the commissioning of Broad-gauge line between Mysore and Bangalore;

(b) whether the Government propose to start some of the long distance trains to Mumbai, Trivandrum and Delhi from Mysore; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Introduction of new trains and extension of trains beyond its destination is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to the availability of resources, operational feasibility and traffic justification. After the conversion of Bangalore-Mysore section into Broad Gauge, direct train services have been introduced from Mysore to Madras and Tirupati, besides Mysore-Bangalore Express/Push Pull trains.

(b) At present there is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Computerised Post Offices**

5198. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH:

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR':

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in which computers are proposed to be installed under the modernisation of services during the year 1997-98;

(b) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and;

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) During the current plan period 1997-98 it is proposed to instal 1000 Computer Based Counter Machines, including 100 Local Area Network (LAN) for Savings Bank Services. Each LAN comprises of one server and two nodes which would be installed in 100 Post Offices. The remaining 700 computer based multi purpose counter machines are proposed to be installed in 200 to 250 Post Offices depending upon the size of the Post Office.

(b) The expenditure on installation of 1000 machines, including 100 Local Area Network, is estimated at Rs. 6.60 Crores approximately.

(c) The work of installation of computers planned for 1997-98 is likely to be completed by March, 1998.

*[English]***Construction of Over-Bridges**

5199. SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway over-bridges constructed over the railway stations in the country during the last three years, Zone/State-wise;

(b) the number of over-bridges which are likely to be constructed during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated for this purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]***Opening of South-Eastern Railway Zone Manager's Office in Nainpur**

5200. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to open the office of the South Eastern Railway Zone Manager in Nainpur;

(b) if so, whether any fund is likely to be made available to the above office for its full establishment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Government had not agreed to set up a Zonal Manager's Office at Nainpur. However earlier in 1984, it had planned to set up a Divisional Railway Manager's Office at Nainpur primarily for the Narrow Gauge sections in the area.

(b) and (c) In view of the Project Unigauge, construction of Konkan Railway and increase/change in traffic pattern the Government has decided to set up six new Zones at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Bangalore, Jaipur and Jabalpur and 8 new Divisions at Agra, Ahmedabad, Pune, Singrauli, Rangiya, Raipur, Guntur and Ranchi.

Discarded Rail Engines

5201. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rail Engines/Coaches lying discarded due to accidents or other reasons alongwith the railway tracks;

(b) whether these engines or coaches are being stolen in pieces by the Kabadies with the connivance of Railway officers/employees;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to protect such unguarded Rail Engines/Coaches; and

(d) the total value of such unguarded Rail Engines/Coaches lying at different places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Two Diesel Locos and 106 Coaches are lying discarded due to accidents or other reasons alongwith the Railway Track.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Estimated scrap value of the above discarded Locos and Coaches on Indian Railways is approximately Rs. 1.15 crores. This stock is under process of disposal at site itself.

[English]

Establishment of Steel Plants

5202. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by the Government to consider the pending proposals with regard to the establishment of steel plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of steel plants expected to come up in that State during Ninth Plan; and

(c) the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, iron and steel industry has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing, except for certain locational restrictions. In terms of this policy, approval of the Union Government for industrial license is required only if the project is proposed to be located in restricted locations. No proposal is pending at present with the Union Government for the grant of industrial license for establishment of steel plants in Orissa.

According to State Government of Orissa, they have received fifteen proposals for setting up of iron and steel projects in the State of Orissa. Further, according to information available from the All India Financial Institutions, three plants viz. Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., Mid-East Integrated Steel Ltd. (Phase-I) and Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (Phase-I) have been approved by them and are expected to be commissioned during IXth Five Year Plan.

Technical Staff in Doordarshan/AIR Kendras

5203. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has reviewed the staff position in respect of various Doordarshan Kendras and All India Radio Stations;

(b) if so, whether there is enormous shortage of technical and operating staff in various Doordarshan and Akashvani Kendras; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken for recruitment of required staff immediately?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The review of staff positions in AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras is a continuous process. Proposals for creation of about 2,000 posts in Doordarshan and about 700 posts in AIR are currently being processed with the Ministry of Finance.

As soon as the posts are created, steps are immediately initiated to fill-up these posts as per the provisions of relevant recruitment rules.

Setting up of Concrete Sleeper Plant in Sri Lanka

5204. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have offered assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka for setting up concrete sleeper plant and implementation of Rail Track Projects in Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government of Sri Lanka in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Sri Lanka showed interest in setting up concrete sleeper plant. An offer was submitted by IRCON (a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways) to Govt. of Sri Lanka in 1994.

There is no offer for implementation of rail track projects in Sri Lanka by the Government.

(b) Government of Sri Lanka has informed that based on reviews of their requirement they have pending the proposal for setting up of concrete sleeper plant.

[*English*]

Survey for Laying Down New Rail Line in Nandyal-Yerraguntla Section

5205. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for laying down new rail lines in Nandyal-Yerraguntla section under South-Central Railway is proposed to be taken up;

(b) if so, the time by which the above survey work is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) the approximate funds sanctioned for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The survey for Nandyal-Yerraguntla section has already been completed and based on this survey the work has been included in the Budget.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 3.78 lakhs has been spent on the survey.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of STD/PCO Booths

5206. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STD/PCO booths allotted to the handicapped and unemployed persons are being illegally run by other persons;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any connivance of the Telecom employees has been detected in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details for the last two years, State-wise?

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

[*English*]

Functioning of Rural/Urban Telephones

5207. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the functioning of telephones in urban areas and rural areas;

(b) whether the Government have imparted training to the linemen to handle the latest technology to ensure prompt and efficient service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The linemen cadre has been re-structured into the cadre of phone mechanic. The phone mechanics are being imparted 8 weeks training including the latest technology. However, Linemen who have not opted for Phone Mechanics cadre, are being imparted a 3-week training to upgrade their skill.

Rush of Passengers on New Delhi-Palwal Route

5208. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is heavy load of daily passengers on Palwal-New Delhi route and particularly at New Town Faridabad station;

(b) if so, whether any Action Plan has been chalked out by the Government to meet the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that if 4003 Intercity Express is provided with a halt at New Town Faridabad station and the same is extended upto New Delhi it will meet the genuine demand of the people of this area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. During the morning and evening peak hours.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no plan to introduce additional trains on Palwal-Faridabad-New Delhi section due to operational and resource constraints. However, EMU rakes on this sector are being progressively augmented to 12 car to meet extra rush.

(d) and (e) Stoppage of 4003 Agra Cantt.-Nizamuddin Express at Faridabad Town has been examined but not found feasible.

Extension of 4003/4004 Express upto New Delhi has also not been found feasible due to operational constraints including terminal facilities at New Delhi.

Electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda Railway Section

5209. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned in principle and are allocating funds for electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda section;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds already spent and progress made in this regard so far; and

(d) the targetted date of completion of the electrification work of above section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda Road section of South Eastern Railway is covered in electrification projects of Kharagpur-Bhubneswar and Bhubneswar-Visakhapatnam sections.

(c) No expenditure has been incurred upto 31.3.97. However, allocation of Rs. 46.53 crores has been made for these works in the budget for the year 97-98.

(d) The target for completion is March '2002.

AI's Share in International Traffic

5210. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steady fall in Air India's share in International Traffic from and to India while other Airlines improved their position;

(b) the reasons for dismal performance of Air India; and

(c) the steps taken for boosting growth of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) While the number of passengers carried by Air India has not declined, its market share has come down from 24.5% in 1990 to 23.1% in 1995, as the airline has not been able to grow at the same rate as the international traffic.

(c) To increase its market share, Air India is taking steps to augment capacity, intensify marketing efforts and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Expansion of Flights

5211. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India and Indian Airlines have plans to renew and expand their flights during 9th Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific proposals in that regard for the year 1997-98; and

(d) the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Expansion/renewal of fleet by the two airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type, viability of operations on various sectors/routes etc.

Air Bus-300 and Boeing-737 Aircraft

5212. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air-Bus-300 and Boeing-737 aircraft which forms part of the fleet of Indian Airlines are only aging flying machines;

(b) if so, the period for which each such aircraft has been on wings, indicating their optimum safe flight period or mile-age of flights; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to replace them?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Introduction of Train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi

5213. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run a train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi for the convenience of the people of Nalanda, Nawada, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi, people have to go to Patna from remote places; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Government propose to run a train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) 6 pairs of train including Rajdhani Expresses connect Gaya and Delhi. Introduction of a train between Gaya and Delhi has been examined but not found feasible due to operational including terminal/maintenance constraints at both Gaya

and Delhi besides resource constraints.

[*English*]

Promotion of SC/ST Officers

5214. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the promotions of several SC/ST officers are held up on account of pre-judicial acts of Senior Officials leading to adverse confidential reports and conducted enquiries etc;

(b) whether to mitigate the hardships of the affected officers the Government had given assurance in Parliament during last Budget Session for setting up a high-power Committee for reviewing all the pending cases and screening all such cases in future;

(c) if so, whether the Committee has been formed so far; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Facilities of Pantry Cars in Long Distance Trains

5215. SHRI LAL BABU PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are attaching pantry cars in most of the long distance trains;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the waiters of immobile catering units stops supplying food materials in the above trains when pantry cars are attached with them;

(c) if so, whether the loss suffered by the catering units due to stopping of the supply of food materials is compensated;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to give this contract to only immobile catering contractors;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The passengers are free to meet their food requirements from the static units or mobile units.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. As per policy, pantry car licences are awarded by inviting applications through Press notifications for which static catering licences can also apply.

Proposal to Stop the Flights

5216. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to stop the flights on some routes due to lack of aircrafts in the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the alternative measure taken for resuming the air service in these areas on which flights have been stopped?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Declaration of Trimbakeshwar as Centrally Sponsored Tourism Centre

5217. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests or representations to declare Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra as centrally sponsored Tourism Centre; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Identification and development of Tourist Centres is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Department of Tourism has not received any representation to declare Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra as centrally sponsored Tourism Centre.

Agitation against TISCO

5218. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the ongoing agitation against the proposed Mega Steel projects of TISCO at Gopalpur in Orissa;

(b) whether the Union Government have given clearance for the projects;

(c) whether Government propose to send an experts team to Gopalpur to explore the possibility of alternative site for the projects in view of the mass protest against the selection of the present site; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) According to the Government of Orissa, there is some agitation, against the proposed steel project of TISCO at Gopalpur in Orissa.

(b) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, 'iron and steel industry' has been exempted from the purview of licensing, except for certain locational restrictions. Thus, an entrepreneur is not required to obtain industrial license under the New Industrial Policy to set up iron and steel plants at any location, save for the restricted locations.

(c) There is no such proposal with the Union Government at present to send an expert team to Gopalpur. The State Government of Orissa have informed that various alternative sites were considered before selecting the present site at Gopalpur which is most suitable for the proposed port-based steel plant.

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

Payment of Dividend

5219. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the payment of dividend has not been made to his Ministry by Air India since 1994-95;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the dividend dues of AI as on 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(d) the steps taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Air India is soon likely to pay dividend of Rs. 8.00 crores for the year 1994-95, which it could not pay earlier due to financial crunch. In the years 1995-96 and 1996-97, the company incurred losses and therefore no dividend is payable.

Air Miss incidents

5220. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of air miss incidents took place on Indian sky since the disaster of air collision of Savoie-Kazak Jumbos near Delhi and details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Ten air-miss incidents have been reported in the Indian skies since the mid-air collision between the two planes on 12.11.96. The details are as follows:

1. Between KLM 807 and UAE 82 on 16.11.96.

2. Between Indian Airlines IC-839 and IAF Boeing-737 on 3.1.97.

3. Between Indian Airlines IC-168 and Air India AI 308 on 4.1.97.

4. Between Alliance Air CD 257 and Jet Air 612 on 9.1.97.

5. Between Lufthansa LHA-761 and an unknown aircraft on 10.1.97.

6. Between Kuwait Airways KAC-365 and Air Lanka ALK-505 on 11.1.97.

7. Between Malayasian Airlines MAS-6125 and Singapore Airlines SIA 422 on 17.1.97.

8. Between Indian Airlines IC-439 and Singapore Airlines SIA-352 on 6.3.97.

9. Between Indian Airlines IC-917 and Singapore Airlines SQ-7536 on 12.3.97.

10. Between Air India AI-305 and United Airlines No. 2 on 2.4.97.

(b) The main steps taken to avoid chances of mid-air collision are: (i) Refresher courses to update professional knowledge of Air Traffic Controllers, (ii) Periodical proficiency checks of Air Traffic Controllers, (iii) Monthly random analysis of ATC tape transcripts to ensure that Air Traffic Controllers use standard phraseology and follow the laid down procedure while giving instruction to aircraft, (iv) Appropriate action against Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCO) involved in ATC incidents, (v) Modernisation of Air Traffic Services at Delhi and Mumbai airport, and (vi) Proper maintenance of navigational communication and landing facilities.

Construction of Railway Quarters

5221. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway quarters constructed during the last two decades in Madras, Tiruchi and Madurai Divisions;

(b) the number of Railway staff who had applied for quarters in these divisions and are still waiting for allotment for the last 10 years and more; and

(c) when the Government propose to provide quarters to those waiting for such a long period?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a)

Madras Division:	1746
Tiruchi Division:	1063
Madurai Division:	548

(b) In Madras Division 438, Tiruchi 324 and in Madurai 41 employees are in the waiting list.

(c) To increase the housing satisfaction of Zonal Railways, increasing allotments are made every year.

Rural Phone Plan

5222. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "Rural Phone Plan hit due to delay in basic services projects" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated April 24, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed for effective and timely implementation of Rural Phone Plan; and

(d) the details of revised action plan worked out for Rural Phone, State-wise in general and for Maharashtra

In particular, for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In National Telecom Policy (NTP), 1994 the Government was having a plan to provide village Public Telephones (VPT) in all the villages alongwith the contribution from the Private Operators of Basic Services. As the participation of Private Operators was delayed, there has been a partial set-back in the provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(c) The target of Department of Telecom and Private Operators has been taken into consideration and Annual Plan is being updated.

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

Statement*VPT Programme for 1997-98*

S. NO.	CIR	Target 96-97	Achieve- ment for 96-97	Villages VPT as on 31.3.97	No. of the uncovered Villages as on 1.4.97	DOT Target 97-98	Pvt. operator target 97-98
1.	A&N	200	75	111	181	181	0
2.	AP	3000	2619	21272	8188	3000	0
3.	AS	2000	1665	7864	14360	4000	0
4.	BH	6000	3526	15569	63639	12000	0
5.	BJ	4000	1505	13923	4202	0	4202
6.	HY	1700	1204	6510	508	508	0
7.	HP	1000	1034	5075	11922	2500	0
8.	JK	600	730	2003	4450	1200	0
9.	KT	3000	4120	17481	9543	3000	0
10.	KL	0	0	1530	0	0	0
11.	MP	7350	7355	35367	36159	5500	5500
12.	MH	5000	4727	26450	13980	3000	0
13.	NE	1000	6400	3136	11061	2000	0
14.	OR	5000	3423	16173	30816	8819	0
15.	PB	4750	3506	12007	1245	1245	0
16.	RJ	6500	5051	17325	20564	5000	0
17.	TN	3200	2608	17038	3158	1000	0
18.	UPE	9000	5702	23394	52068	14000	0
19.	UPW	6300	4000	13907	23119	8000	0
20.	WB	5000	2860	10985	27352	8000	0
21.	DEL	0	0	191	0	0	0
22.	CAL	400	365	421	47	47	0
		75000	56719	267782	336592	83000	9702

Air Service

5223. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of districts in Maharashtra linked with air services; and
- (b) the remaining districts which are proposed to be linked with air services during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) At present, Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad, Nagpur and Kolhapur are linked with air services.

(b) Indian Airlines has no plans to link any new station due to constraints of aircraft capacity. Private airlines are however free to operate to any station depending on commercial viability.

Screening of Netaji Bose Documentaries

5224. SHRIMATI KIRSHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have plans to telecast on Doordarshan two documentaries on Netaji, "Enemy of Empire" produced by BBC and telecast in Britain at prime time, and "Netaji and India's Freedom" produced by Netaji Research Bureau, Netaji Bhawan, Calcutta; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) In respect of the documentary titled "Netaji and India's Freedom" Doordarshan has received an offer and the same is under process. The producer of the other documentary has not yet made the offer to Doordarshan. Further action in this regard will be taken by Doordarshan as and when the offer is made.

Production of Mica

5225. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in the production of mica;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of mica?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Production of mica has shown a declining trend.

(b) and (c) Decline in the production of mica is due to decline in its demand in the international market. With a view to assess the future production capacity of the country and to reopen the closed mines, Geological Survey of India and Indian Bureau of Mines have taken up the detailed study in mica belts of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and

Rajasthan. Government of India have also set up the Working Group/Committees to investigate the problems of the mica industry. To promote the mica mining, Government have also offered a number of incentives to the exporters of mica such as withdrawal of duty on export of mica scrap and waste, and decanalisation of export of processed mica.

Closure of Mines Under HCL

5226. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have finally taken a decision to close down some of the mines under the Hindustan Copper Limited.

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

(c) whether the fate of the employees have been considered;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the loss suffered by the units of above company during the last two years; and

(f) the efforts made to revive those units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) During the year 1995-96 Hindustan Copper Limited earned a record profit of Rs. 75.84 crores. However, mainly due to crash in LME price of copper during the year 1996-97 coupled with reduction in customs duty on copper, the loss suffered by the Company during the year is estimated to be more than Rs. 100 crores. During the year 1995-96, the Ghatshila unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mine suffered a loss of Rs. 44.32 crores. The loss incurred by Ghatshila Unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines during the year 1996-97 is estimated to be in the region of around Rs. 50 crores.

(f) To improve the financial condition the Company has taken a number of measures which include reduction of inventory level, improvement in norms of consumption, recovery and productivity and reduction of administrative expenses. As a long term strategy to improve its competitiveness, the Company has drawn up a plan for expansion of its Khetri Smelter from its present capacity of 31,000 tpa to 1,00,000 tpa.

Hindustan Copper Unit/Ghatshila Unit

5227. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the financial position, manpower and Production Plan of Hindustan Copper Unit as a whole and Ghatshila

Unit in particular;

(b) whether the Copper has been imported during the last four years;

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

(d) whether the present economic policy and its excise and custom tariff region had any adverse effect on Hindustan Copper Units;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps Government is contemplating to improve the condition?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) During the year 1995-96 Hindustan Copper Limited earned a record profit of Rs. 75.84 crores. However, mainly due to crash in LME price of copper during the year 1996-97 coupled with reduction in customs duty on copper, the loss suffered by the Company during the year is estimated to be more than Rs. 100 crores. During the year 1995-96, the Ghatshila unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines suffered a loss of Rs. 44.32 crores. The loss incurred by Ghatshila unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines during the year 1996-97 is estimated to be in the region of Rs. 50 crores. The total number of employees on the roll of the Company as on 31.3.1997 was 19884 including 9786 employees at ICC, Ghatshilla.

In terms of the MOU for 1997-98 signed by the Company with the Ministry of Mines, HCL has fixed a target to produce 45,000 tonnes of refined copper (cathode) and 42,000 tonnes of wire rod during 1997-98. The break up of cathode is as follows:-

Indian Copper Complex	-	16,000 tonnes
Khetri Copper Complex	-	29,000 tonnes.

(b) and (c) The import of copper cathode made by Hindustan Copper Limited for conversion in its wire-rod plant at Talaja during the last four financial year is given below:-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)
1993-94	16476.730
1994-95	16480.037
1995-96	29886.618
1996-97	31563.928

(d) and (e) On account of decanalisation of copper, abolition of administered pricing system and reduction in customs duty, HCL is facing serious competition from imported copper which has seriously affected the profitability of Hindustan Copper Limited.

(f) To improve the financial condition the Company has taken a number of measures which include reduction of inventory level, improvement in norms of consumption,

recovery and productivity and reduction of administrative expenses. As a long term strategy to improve its competitiveness, the Company has drawn up a plan for expansion of its Khetri Smelter from its present capacity of 31,000 tpa to 1,00,000 tpa.

[*Translation*]

Recommendation for Change the Name of ITDC

5228. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior working group of the Planning Commission has recommended to change the name of India Tourism Development Corporation as National Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The Report of the Working Group on Tourism for the Ninth Plan has made a recommendation to structure the India Tourism Development Corporation as a National Tourism Development Corporation which would have 50 percent joint venture interest in all the State Tourism Development Corporation. There is, however, no proposal with the Government at present to implement the recommendation.

[*English*]

Flying Clubs

5229. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Flying Clubs in India State-wise with the number of microlight aircraft in their possession;

(b) whether an application from Aerosports Club of Assam for getting clearance for flying of microlight aircrafts is pending in his Ministry;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in granting clearance and time by which it will be granted;

(d) whether application made by "Agni Aerosports" of Bangalore was cleared in the same year;

(e) whether it is also a fact that six microlight aircrafts were allotted to Aerosports Club of Assam by the Aeroclub of India; and

(f) if so, the present status of those aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) Aero Sports Club of Assam has applied to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (Dte. GCA) for issue of a 'Permit to Fly' Microlight aircraft. The Dte. GCA is awaiting clearances from security agencies.

(d) Yes, Sir. The 'Permit to Fly' for microlight aircraft was issued to M/s. Agni Aerosports, Bangalore in 1995.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Dte. GCA has issued instructions to its Guwahati Office to grant requisite permission for these microlight aircraft to be test flown and accorded necessary facilities. The 'Permit to Fly' shall be issued after the receipt of security clearances.

Statement

Number of Flying Clubs/Organisations possessing Microlight Aircraft

Organisations	No. of Microlight Aircraft	
	Owned	Given by Aero Club of India
P. Vasavi Reddy & Syed Mohammed Ibrahim Jamsheed, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh	1	-
Hyderabad batteries Ltd, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	1	-
Aero Sports Club of Assam, Guwahati, Assam	-	6
Agni Aero Sports Adventure Academy Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, Karnataka	1	10
Raj Hamsa Ultralights (P) Ltd, Mysore, Karnataka	3	-
Thomas Meenathathil Thomas, Bangalore, Karnataka	1	-
Shri Chithira Aero Adventure Club, Trivandrum, Kerala.	-	3
Indian Hang Gliding Association, Pune, Maharashtra	1	-
Light Flyers Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra	1	-
T.R. Chaudhary, Mumbai, Maharashtra	2	-
Vijaypat Singhania, Mumbai, Maharashtra	1	-
Hindustan Marketing & Adventuring Co. (P) Ltd, New Delhi	1	-
Micro Light Flyers Club, New Delhi	1	-
Coimbatore Training Aviation Academy, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	-	3
		(Damaged during transit from Delhi)
Joel Koechlin, The Nilgiris Hang Gliding Centre, Ootacamand, Tamil Nadu	1	-
Narayansamy Soundarajan, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu	1	-

Amendment in Indian Telegraph Act

5230. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the century old Indian Telegraph Act 1885, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) For amendment of Indian Telegraph Act. Govt. had constituted a committee which has submitted its report. One of its recommendations envisaged setting up of a separate Telecom Regulatory Authority body. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has since been constituted under Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 (24 of 1997).

**Deletion of Minerals from Scheduled List
of Minerals**

5231. SHRI SANAT MEHTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has represented to delete Lime-Stone and Bauxite from the list of scheduled minerals shown in Schedule-I of MMRD Act, 1957;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal which was received on 28.4.97 was discussed in the 1st meeting of the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of, Secretary (Mines) to review the Mining Rules and procedures held on 29th April, 1997. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of prospecting Licence/Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining.

Kho-Kho Team

5232. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 734 dated March 6, 1996 and state:

(a) whether Railways have since got affiliation with the Kho-Kho Federation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Railways to get affiliation with the Kho-Kho Federation of India early;

(d) whether the Kho-Kho players already on the rolls of Railways have since been identified and process for recruitment of others has since been initiated;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Federation is being approached for grant of affiliation early.

(d) to (f) Further action would be processed only after the Kho-Kho Federation of India grants formal affiliation to the Railways.

Railway Projects

5233. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV:

SHRI N.J. RATHWA:

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway projects implemented during the Eight Five Year Plan and proposed for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan, zone-wise and particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon during above period and funds earmarked for current financial year, project-wise;

(c) the time by which the above projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to complete the above projects within stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Extension of Railway Link upto Ponnani

5234. SHRI G.M. BANATWALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need to extend rail link upto Ponnani in District Malappuram in Kerala (Southern Railway); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Facilities to Freedom Fighters

5235. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the freedom fighters are entitled to get telephone connections on out of turn basis and at the concessional rates as few as installation and calls are concerned; and

(b) if so, the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Sir, the freedom fighters are entitled to register their demand for one telephone connection under "Non-OYT-Swatantra Senani" Category at a place where he/she is normally available. Freedom fighters are provided telephone without payment of installation charges and are charged only half the normal rentals.

[Translation]

Unsuccessful Satellite Money Order Scheme

5236. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL:

SHRI ANAND RATAN MAURYA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of sending money orders through satellite started with great fanfare has failed to meet its objectives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether steps have been taken for making this scheme successful; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) For making the scheme of "Satellite Money Order Service" successful the Department has initiated following measures:

(i) Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) has got two ports. Previously only one port was activated which was used for transmission and receipt of data. Now, the Department has activated the 2nd Port also to increase the traffic. While the one Port is being used exclusively for receipt of data the 2nd Port is used for transmission of data.

(ii) Each VSAT Centre is, now, being linked with 5 more Post Offices where MODEMS and computers are under installation for one line receipt and transmission of data directly in these identified Post Offices. 220 MODEMS have already been installed which has resulted in increase in the traffic of money order and Hybrid Mail Service.

(iii) VSAT Centres have been ordered to be kept open at night

(iv) Satellite Money order software has been upgraded which has now the enhanced capability of exchange of data amongst the VSATs with Single access.

(v) For ensuring optimum utilisation of VSATs a monthly control statement has been prescribed which is reviewed and analysed in the Directorate.

Above, measures have resulted in 337% increase in

the Satellite based transmission of Money Orders during the month of March, 1997 as compared to the figures for September, 1996. Similarly, Hybrid Mail Service has increased by 76% from September, 1996 to March, 1997.

[English]

Export of Steel

5237. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is rise in Salem steel's exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned by the export in 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is an increase in the exports made by Salem Steel Plant in 1996-97 over 1995-96 as given below:

Year	Quantity of Export ('000 T)
1995-96	7
1996-97	25 (Prov.)

(c) The value of foreign exchange earned by the export in 1996-97 is Rs. 175 crores (Prov.).

SC/ST in Rail Service

5238. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that percentage of representation in rail service of SC/ST is microscopic minority, particularly in higher grade services;

(b) the details of percentage of representation of SC/ST in rail services, grade-wise;

(c) the figures and percentages of SC/ST in rail services in respect of reservation in promotion are concerned; and

(d) the steps are being taken to absorb SC/ST in rail services and to clear the backlogs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The representation as on 31.3.96 of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Railway Services are as follows:

	SC	ST
Group 'A'	14.33%	5.49%
Group 'B'	17.26%	4.60%
Group 'C'	15.11%	5.52%
Group 'D'	17.75%	8.58%
(Excluding Safaiwalas)		
Group 'D' (Safaiwalas)	72.36%	5.19%
Grand Total	18.06%	6.72%

(c) Reservation in promotions is 15% and 7-1/2% upto the lowest rung of Group 'A' services.

(d) Special Recruitment Drive is going on to clear the backlog of reserved posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Construction of Fly Over

5239. LT. GEN. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a long pending demand of the people of Deoria to construct a fly over on Railway crossing at Deoria Road; and

((b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for construction of said fly over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demand is to provide road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 129-A at Km. 455/3-4 between Deoria-Sadar and Nunihar on Gorakhpur-Bhatni section. However, no proposal has been received from the State Govt. for construction of the fly over.

Backlog for Telephone Connections

5240. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT:

SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the position of waiting list for telephone connection as on 31.3.97 in major Towns, Distt. H. Qrs. and rural areas in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of new telephone connections given during each of the last three years at the major cities/towns/ Distt. H. Qrs. and rural areas in Maharashtra and investment made;

(c) the details of achievements on Telecom projects in Maharashtra during 1996-97 and provision of funds likely to be available to the State during 1997-98;

(d) the most outstanding achievement in telecommunication in Maharashtra during 1996-97; and

(e) the details of new proposal for Maharashtra recently clear/under consideration of the Government?

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

Special Drive for Recruitment in RPF

5241. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a plan to start Special Drive for recruitment in Railway Protection Force

(RPF) for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and time by which the drive is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Special Drive for recruitment of 300 constables in RPSF from J & K State has been decided by Govt. of India. Accordingly, recruitment at Jammu has been conducted in Jan' 1997. Recruitment in Srinagar and Leh could not be conducted due to bad climate. The date of recruitment at Sringar and Leh will be decided immediately on the report of visiting team of Srinagar and Leh.

[*Translation*]

Running of Long Distance Train on Shahganj and Mau Junction

5242. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of inauguration of broadgauge line between Shahganj and Mau Junction no new long distance train has been plied on this line so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which new trains are likely to be introduced via Shahganj and Mau junction; and

(d) the details of the trains proposed to be introduced on this section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) To start with, 2 pairs of passenger trains were introduced from 28.3.1997 on Mau-Shahganj section after its conversion into broad gauge. Further, it has also been decided to divert 4649/4650 Delhi-Muzaffarpur/Darbhanga Saryu Yamuna Express and 9165 A/9166 A Ahmedabad-Muzaffarpur Express via Mau-Shahganj during 1997-98.

[*English*]

Functioning of Rural Telephones

5243. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that no Telephones are functioning in rural Panchayat offices, for long time, including those in district of Howrah;

(b) the reasons of non-functioning of telephones;

(c) the steps the Government have taken to improve the telephones; and

(d) the time by when those telephones in Panchayat offices in the district of Howrah and else where are likely to be functioning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Sir, all the Telephones in the rural areas are not out of order for a long time. Only 11,952 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) out of 2,67,220 are lying faulty as on 30th April, 1997. In Howrah district 84 VPTs out of 319 total installed are out of order.

(b) The reasons for non-functioning of VPTs are as follows:

- (i) Remote and inaccessible location;
- (ii) Theft of overhead Lines and Wire;
- (iii) Unstable power supply;
- (iv) Damage due to lightning;

(v) Damage by extremists particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) The following steps are being taken to improve the functioning of Village Public Telephones:-

(i) All the VPTs are tested daily from the concerned exchange. VPT faults are reported to the Sub Divisional Engineer incharge of the exchange daily. Faults pending for more than 2 days, 7 days or longer are looked into by the field officers at various higher levels.

(ii) The performance of VPTs is monitored at the Headquarters regularly;

(iii) Annual Maintenance Contract for the repair of faulty Modules of Multi Access Rural Radio equipment is being entered into by the field units;

(iv) The telecom circles are setting up Circle Repair Centres for in-house repair of MARR Systems;

(v) Action is being taken to equip all VPTs with Solar panel power back up;

(vi) Action to replace unserviceable MARR equipment is being taken;

(d) The process of VPTs becoming faulty and their rectifies a continuous one. The faults on VPTs do take place occasionally and are detected by field units of DOT, who are monitoring their performance, continuously. Repair action of faulty VPTs is also being taken on a continuous basis.

[Translation]

Agreement with Foreign Countries

5244. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion was held with foreign countries regarding cooperation in the railway sector;

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

(c) the names of the foreign companies which have signed agreements with the Government for cooperation in the Railway Sector alongwith its affect on production, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Nil. However, IRCON and RITES two PSUs under Ministry of Railways have signed some agreements with foreign companies.

Statement

Discussions were held with foreign countries regarding cooperation in the Railway sector at various levels, the countries where specific proposal have been agreed to is listed below:

Country	Details of outcome
1	2
IRAN	(i) Exchange of Technical experts in the field of training. (ii) Contract for signalling project for Shahrud-Mashad section. (iii) Upgradation of Maintenance Facilities for Locomotive Workshop. (iv) Container movement and Multi modal Transport.
IRAQ	The Iraqi side mentioned spare parts and other critical materials for rehabilitating track, rolling stock, signalling and telecommunication equipment as their immediate requirements for the present.
JAPAN	(i) Upgradation of coach building facilities at ICF to achieve international quality standards. (ii) Study and determination of track structure for high speeds of 160 kmph. and above. (iii) Development of high speed OHE including the provision of 'fit & forget type fittings', suitable for running of trains upto 200 km/h. (iv) Metro Railway (v) Safety
	After this 8th meeting of Indo-Japan Railway working Group held on 21.1.97. The minutes are under finalisation with Sr. Dy. Director General of Japanese Railways.

1	2
AUSTRIA	Collaboration in areas of hardened steel rails, points and signalling. The Austrian side also mentioned about their interest in participating in the Delhi Mass Railway Transit System.
ROMANIA	It was agreed to study the possibility of setting up of working groups in Railway.
CZECH REPUBLIC	Indian side conveyed its interest in providing support and services in the following areas in the railway sector:
	(i) Technical and management support services for repair and maintenance of rolling stock.
	(ii) Procurement of spare parts.
	(iii) Supply of locos along with spare parts to specific performance.
	(iv) Traffic audit for developing the standard of maintenance of locos, coaches and wagons.
	(v) Contract maintenance packages.
	(vi) Technical assistance in the field of OHE
	(vii) Rehabilitation of railway track and bridges.
	(viii) Rehabilitation of loco workshop.
	(ix) Leasing/supply of locos.
	(x) Supply/Leasing of other rolling stock.
SLOVENIA	-do-
RUSSIA	A meeting took place both Russian Transport Minister and M.R. Three areas of cooperation between Indian and Russian Railways have been identified, these being:
	(a) Transport of import-export cargo; this will be mostly by containers by a combined rail-cum-sea route.
	(b) Transfer of technology, including imports from Russia in areas as suited to Indian Railways.
	(c) Cooperation in the construction of railway lines and maintenance of assets via IRCON & RITES.
	Working Groups for item (a) and (b) are under formation.
NEPAL	Greater Janakpur Development Project Broad Gauge Rail line between Raxaul and Birganj.

1	2
GERMAN	Improvement of signalling on Delhi-Kanpur Corridor (yet to be finalised)
AUSTRALIA	Government of India and Government of Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 3rd October, 1994 for the implementation of Railway Simulator Project under India-Australia Development Cooperation Programme.

[English]

Proposals for Promotion of Tourism in Gujarat

5245. SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted various proposals for the promotion of tourism in the State during 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government on each of the proposals; and

(c) the details of financial assistance given to Gujarat during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) 11 projects submitted by the Government of Gujarat for central financial assistance were approved and a sum of Rs. 82.21 lakhs was sanctioned during 1996-97. These projects included Flood lighting and refurbishment of monuments, tourist reception centres, public conveniences, etc. The amount sanctioned for various tourism projects in Gujarat during last three years are as given below:-

Year	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	21.95
1995-96	7.98
1996-97	82.21

Conversion of LPT into HPT, Himachal Pradesh

5246. SHRI SAT MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reception of programme being relayed through the Dharamshala LPT, Himachal Pradesh is very poor as compared to Lahore Station of Pakistan television;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert the LPT into HPT in Dharamshala;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be converted;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the telecasting time of Shimla Doordarshan Kendra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The lead time involved in implementation of a project of this nature is about 3 to 4 years, after approval of the scheme by the competent authority, subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Voluntary Organisation for Welfare Schemes

5247. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by his Ministry of by the concerned Ministries to inform Voluntary Organisations about various welfare schemes which are intended to be implemented through them;

(b) whether in the absence of providing timely information in the local languages, these organisations are not in a position to take advantage of the schemes; and

(c) whether the Government propose to bring changes by utilising the services of the State Governments, nodal voluntary agencies, the press, electronic media etc., so that more and more Voluntary agencies will come forward to implement these welfare schemes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Daily Running of Trains

5248. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trains Ganga-Jamuna and Sarayu-Jamuna run between Ayodhya to Delhi are proposed to be plied daily;

(b) if so, the date by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Railway Heading Towards Debt Trap

5249. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are heading towards debt trap;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the new projects proposed in the Budget are insufficient to meet the necessities of tribals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) This Govt. has decided to accord priority to projects in backward and tribal areas to expedite their development. A number of new projects have been taken up in the last one year in such areas. Further, more projects will be sanctioned in future, depending upon availability of funds and budgetary support from the Government.

[*Translation*]

Heavy Passenger Traffic

5250. DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing passenger traffic on Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Jind and Delh-Rewari sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to electrify the Delhi-Jind and Delhi-Rewari railway sections so as to provide superfast rail facilities like E.M.U. to the passengers of these areas;

(d) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct any survey in this regard; and

(f) the plans being formulated by the Government to provide superfast rail facilities to cope up with the increasing passenger traffic on these sections in case the railway lines of these sections are not electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The daily average number of passengers on Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Jind and Delhi-Rewari sections during the year 1996-97 has shown an increase of 23% and 2.8% respectively in comparison to the last year, i.e., 1995-96.

(c) to (e) Due to constraints of resources and priority for high density routes, there is at present no proposal to electrify Delhi-Jind and Delhi-Rewari Railway Sections where traffic density is low.

(f) Introduction of train services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification. At present, however, there is no proposal to introduce superfast service on the sections.

Cooperation from the States for Development of Radio/Doordarshan

5251. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sought any cooperation from State Governments for the development of Radio and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the course of implementation of the AIR and Doordarshan projects, co-operation and help of the State Governments is required for providing infrastructural facilities such as land/building with proper approach road, power and water supply and security arrangements specially in the disturbed areas.

(c) As a follow up action with regard to above, State-wise/Union Territory-wise advisory committees consisting of Zonal Chief Engineers of AIR and Doordarshan and Senior Officers of the State Governments have been formed to monitor availability of infrastructural facilities. Cooperation from State Governments, by and large, has been satisfactory.

Ring Railway Line in Shoranur

5252. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay a ring rail line at Shoranur in Kerala;

(b) if so, the total funds earmarked therefor;

(c) the advantage of the ring rail line proposed to be provided in Shoranur Junction Railway Station;

(d) the time by which the work of ring rail line is likely to be started and completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) At

present there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Railways. Under the Revised Allocation of Business Rules 1986, new proposals for rail-based urban transport projects are now to be processed by Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and State Government concerned.

[Translation]

Derailment of Goods Train

5253. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 16th January, 1997 five wagons of a goods train had overturned after derailment at Anwarganj's Juhi Yard, Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any investigation was carried out by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the investigation and the consequential financial loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The accident was enquired by a Committee of Officers which has concluded that it occurred due to non-observance of loading procedure and examination of the train. The financial loss suffered by the Railways due to this accident is Rs. 4.52 lakhs.

Sub Post Offices in Unnao District

5254. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sub-post offices in the Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there is shortage of sub-post offices in Unnao district;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is shortage of employees in the post offices functioning there;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to open a sub post office at Unnao in the near future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of Sub Post Offices in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh is 23.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal.

[Translation]

Opening of Doordarshan Centre, Chandigarh

5255. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to open a Doordarshan centre at Chandigarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A suitable site for the proposed Programme Generation Facility Centre at Chandigarh has already been taken over. The normal lead time for implementation of a project of this magnitude is about two years from the start of civil works at the site.

- (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Expert Panel to Assess New Value Added Services

5256. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister

Statement

List of value added Telecom Services identified by the Working Group for 9th Five Year Plan period in the Country

Category	Name of the service
1	2
I. Existing Value Added Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (ii) Radio Paging Service (iii) Public Mobile Radio Trunked Service (iv) Electronic Mail Service (v) Voice Mail/Audiotex (vi) Videotex (vii) Video Conferencing (viii) Closed Users Group (CUG) 64 kbps Domestic Data Network Service via INSAT Satellite Systems. (ix) Credit Card Authorisation (x) INTERNET
II. New Value Added Services (to be introduced during 9th Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Pay Phone Services (ii) Home banking/tele-banking (iii) Automatic Teller Machine (iv) Global Positioning System (v) Multi-media Services

of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the expert panel which was set up to assess the requirement of new value added services in the telecom sector in the Ninth Plan period, has submitted its reports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Panel?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The expert Working Group headed by Member (Technology), Telecom Commission which was set up by Planning Commission to assess the requirement of new valued added services in the Telecom Sector in the 9th Plan Period, has submitted its report.

The group has identified 12 new Value Added Services for introduction and 10 existing Value Added Services for expansion during the 9th Five Year Plan Period. The group has also identified 5 services as emerging Value Added Services envisaged to be at the experimental/development stage by the end of 9th Plan. List of Services identified in the three categories is given in the statement attached.

1

2

III. Emerging Value Added Services
(Experimental/Development stage by
the end of 9th Plan).

- (vi) Global Mobile Satellite Services
- (vii) Mobile Satellite Phone through INSAT-2C
- (viii) Services using IN Platform
- (ix) Services using ISDN Platform
- (x) Personal Communication Service
- (xi) Tele-medicine/Health Information Services
- (xii) Distance Education Service
- (I) Multi-media Data Bases
- (ii) Video on Demand
- (iii) Electronic and on-line Magazine
and Newspapers
- (iv) Video Games/Virtual Reality
- (v) Home Shopping/Video Shopping.

Setting up of Railway Coach Factory in Andhra Pradesh

5257. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Railway Coach Factory in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At the time of setting up of a second coach manufacturing unit, several States suggested sites for locating the proposed unit. Warangal was one of the locations suggested. Taking all factors into consideration, Kapurthala in the State of Punjab was the site ultimately selected for the coach factory.

Comprehensive Plan for Development

5258. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up a comprehensive plan of action development/upgradation/modernisation of postal services in each district of

Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of investments made in this regard during the last five years and major achievements reported in terms of targets set in each district of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra;

(c) the details of investments likely to be made during 1997-98 in Maharashtra for urban and rural areas separately and district-wise investment proposed on postal communication projects in Vidarbha region; and

(d) the major on-going/new projects for upgradation of post communication in urban areas of Maharashtra and present status thereof in terms of targets set?

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

(b) The details of investments made in this regard during the last five years and major achievements in Maharashtra Circle including the district of Vidarbha Region are given in statement attached.

(c) The financial outlay for the Annual Plan 1997-98 is yet to be approved.

(d) So far as target for expansion of Postal Network is concerned it is proposed to open 3 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 35 Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices in Maharashtra subject to availability of resources and norm based justification. As for other projects these are still under formulation.

Statement

Details of investments made during the past 5 years and major achievements in Vidharbha Region of Maharashtra Circle:

Sl. No.	Major achievements during the last 5 years	Details of Investments
1.	37 Multi Purpose Counter Machines have been installed in Vidarbha Region where 22 have been installed in Nagpur, 1 in Bhuldhana, 2 each in Chandrapur, Yeotmal and Wardha and 4 each in Amravati and Akola.	Rs. 22,57,930
2.	5 Very Small Aparture Terminals (VSATs) have been installed in Maharashtra Circle with 1 installed at Nagpur.	Rs. 50.0 lacs (for all 5 VSAT Stations)
3.	77 Post Offices were modernised in Maharashtra Postal Circle. In the Vidharbha Region, Nagpur City H.O., Wardha H.O., Amravati Camp S.O. and Chandrapur City S.O. have been modernised.	A total amount of Rs. 3.44 crores has been invested for the 77 Post Offices.
4.	1546 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) and 466 Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) have been sanctioned during the 8th Five Year Plan for the whole of the country. Out of this a total number of 170 EDBOs against a target of 163 EDBOs and 62 DSOS against a target of 51 DSOs have been sanctioned for Maharashtra Postal Circle.	A sum of Rs. 16.50 crore approximately has been invested in this regard for the whole of the country which includes Maharashtra Circle as well.
5.	Upgradation of Speed Post Centers and Modernisation of Premium Products.	A total sum of Rs. 51.10 lacs has been invested for this purpose for the whole of Maharashtra Circle.

Separate Compartment for Ladies

5259. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Women's Commission had submitted a representation to the Government that in the long distance trains two compartments should be exclusively for ladies and separate colour with a picture of women should also be deployed;

(b) if so, whether the Government had assured some time back to reserve two compartments for ladies and also separate colour and picture of a woman on them;

(c) if so, whether the implementation of the said assurances have not taken place so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) No, Sir. However, Southern Railway has been instructed to identify some passenger trains in Kerala, justifying earmarking of full II class coach for Ladies and marshal the ladies compartment in the middle, painted with a picture of the woman.

Action against Black Listed Firms

5260. SHRI P. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has initiated action against the black listed telecom firms;

(b) if so, the number and names of such firms; and

(c) the details of action taken against these firms?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. However action has been initiated to ban business activities against some firms.

(b) As per the statement enclosed.

(c) An Inquiry Officer has been nominated by the Deptt. Show cause notices have been issued to all the 14 firms.

Statement

List of the firms against whom action has been initiated to ban business activities

S.No. Name of the firms and their addresses.

1	2
1.	M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd., 903-905, Tolstoy House, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110 001.
2.	M/s Birla Ericsson Optical Ltd., P.O. Chorhata, Udhoyog Vihar, Rewa-486 006 (MP)
3.	M/s Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd., 8, Commercial Complex, Masjid Moth, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110 048.
4.	M/s Bhillai Wires Ltd., (Optical Fibre Cable Division), K-33, Opp. Balaji Estate, Kalkaji, New Delhi.
5.	M/s Aksh India Ltd., 9-D, Atma Ram House, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110 001.
6.	M/s Uniflex Cable Ltd., 147, Sagar Bhawan, Princess Street, Mumbai-400 002.
7.	M/s VHEL Industries Ltd., A-287, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 065.
8.	M/s Gujarat Optical Communications Ltd., 507, Hare Krisahna Complex, Pritamnagar, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad-380 006.
9.	Surana Telecom, Ltd., Plot No. 214-215, Phase-II, IDA Chalapally, Hyderabad-500 051.
10.	M/s Plasmac Machine Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd., Shyam Nagar, Majlis Wada, Jogeshwar (East), Mumbai-400 060.
11.	Siemens, 215/70/2/1, Sarai (Saahji), Malviya Nagar, Box No. 7320, New Delhi-110 001.

1	2
12.	R.P.G. Telecom., Partap Building, 1st Floor, N-83, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110 001.
13.	M/s Telematics Systems Limited, P.B. No. 978, Mount Poonamalle Road, Nandambakkam, Chennai-600 089.
14.	M/s Advance Radio Masts Ltd., (M/s. ARM Ltd.) 7-139, Habsiguda Cross Road, Hyderabad-500 007.

Installation of STD/PCO

5261. SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred question No. 198 dated 6.3.1997 regarding "Installation of STD/PCOs" and to State.

(a) whether in Karnal SSA instead of two there are 3 non-official members;

(b) whether one of the three members has been included despite the fact that neither the M.Ps. from Karnal nor Kurukshetra constituencies have recommended his name, which covers the complete area of SSA Karnal;

(c) if so, the circumstances and manner the third member has been nominated on SSA Karnal;

(d) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matter and to remove the third member from SSA Karnal forthwith; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Sir, the number of non-official members is not fixed for any SSA. All the three members of Karnal SSA STD/PCO allotment committee have been duly recommended by the Members of Parliament representing the SSA in full or partly.

(c) Part of Sonapat and Hissar constituency also overlaps with the jurisdiction of Karnal SSA. The third member has been recommended by the M.Ps. from the above constituencies.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Appointment of SC/ST Sportsmen

5262. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

men have been appointed in the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof during last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(c) Does not arise.

Requirement of Funds for Daitari-Banspani Railway Lines

5263. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has requested the Union Government for early provision of funds for the completion of Daitari-Banspani railway line by December, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the required fund is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Daitari-Banspani line would be completed by Dec. '99 to match the time frame required for servicing the Steel Plants coming up in the area. Funds would be arranged and work progressed to match this target.

IA Services Withdrawn from Madurai

5264. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have withdrawn some of its services originating from Madurai to other destinations and effected some changes in the original schedule;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the businessmen/traders and other passengers alongwith its impact on the revenue side?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to make IA's operations economically viable and to provide direct terminator services between Mumbai/Coimbatore and Mumbai/Madurai, the triangular service Mumbai/Coimbatore/Madurai/Mumbai was split into separate services, resulting in delinking of Coimbatore/Madurai sector. Calicut/Madurai/Chennai services were also rescheduled to operate terminator services between Chennai/Madurai, delinking Madurai/Calicut. The average number of passengers per flight on Coimbatore/Madurai and Madurai/Calicut/Madurai sector are as under:-

	Jan '97	Feb '97	Mar '97
Coimbatore/Madurai	07	04	05
Madurai/Calicut	08	03	01
Calicut/Madurai	03	02	03

(c) Some representations have been received from businessmen and traders in respect of the changes in schedule. However, better and increased connections are now available between Mumbai and Madurai.

Petitions Filed by the Booking Clerks in Supreme Court

5265. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petitions filed in the Supreme Court by the permanent, temporary, casual and mobile booking clerks during the last three years;

(b) the number of petitions decided and the number of petitions lying pending;

(c) the number of cases decided in favour of employees and the number of cases decided in favour of the Government;

(d) the number of decisions implemented in favour of employees and the number of decisions which are under the consideration; and

(e) the details of the cases relating to Northern Railways under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Promotion of Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

5266. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a Rs. 100 crores comprehensive plan to the Union Government to develop tourism in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the plan;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to give financial assistance to implement the said plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has prepared a Master Plan for the development of tourism with a long

term perspective. The Central financial assistance to State Govts. is based on specific proposal received, their merits, inter-se priorities and availability of funds. During 1996-97, the Deptt. of Tourism sanctioned 7 projects amounting to Rs. 125.50 lakhs to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for tourism projects.

[*Translation*]

Modernisation of Telegraph Service in Rajasthan

5267. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken steps for strengthening and modernising the telegraph services in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, District-wise;
- (c) the budget provision made in this regard during

the last and the current year separately; and

(d) the time by which telegraph services are likely to be modernised in Rajasthan?

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

(b) Telegraph services have been modernised by induction of microprocessor based technology involving equipments like store and forward message switching systems (SFMSS), Formatted Terminal concentrators (FTCs), Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBCs), Fax etc. District-wise details are given in the statement attached.

(c) No separate budgetary allocations are made for the modernisation of Telegraph Services.

(d) Modernisation of telegraph services in Rajasthan has already been done to a great extent. However, it is an ongoing Process.

Statement

Modernisation of Telegraph Services at a glance in Rajasthan Circle as on 31.03.97

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Telegraph Equipments installed in Telegraph Offices					Remarks
		SFMS System	EKBC	FKB TMLs	Elect-ronic TPs	No. of Bureau Fax Centres	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Jaipur	SFMS-64-L (S/L) = 01	04	32	12	16	-
2.	Dausa	-	-	04	01	01	-
3.	Sawaimadhopur	-	01	03	04	04	-
4.	Tonk	-	-	-	02	02	-
5.	Bundi	-	-	03	01	01	-
6.	Kota	-	02	08	05	04	-
7.	Baran	-	-	-	01	01	-
8.	Jhalawar	-	-	-	02	02	-
9.	Jodhpur	SFMS-32-L (Roman) = 01	03	11	09	04	-
10.	Dholpur	-	-	-	01	01	-
11.	Bharatpur	-	01	10	02	02	-
12.	Sikar	-	01	08	04	02	-
13.	Alwar	-	01	10	04	04	-
14.	Jhunjhunu	-	01	08	08	04	-
15.	Churu	-	02	10	04	03	-
16.	Nagaur	-	02	17	07	02	-
17.	Bikaner	-	02	07	05	02	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Hanumangarh	-	01	06	02	02	-
19.	Sriganganagar	-	01	07	04	02	-
20.	Barmer	-	-	01	04	02	-
21.	Jaisalmer	-	-	-	03	01	-
22.	Sirohi	-	01	05	04	03	-
23.	Jalore	-	01	05	02	02	-
24.	Pali	-	02	15	06	02	-
25.	Ajmer	-	03	19	12	07	-
26.	Bhilwara	-	01	09	03	03	-
27.	Chittorgarh	-	-	-	01	01	-
28.	Udaipur	-	02	11	06	04	-
29.	Dungarpur	-	-	-	01	01	-
30.	Banswara	-	-	-	02	01	-
31.	Rajsamand	-	-	-	01	02	-
Grand Total		64 Lines+ = 1	32	209	123	88	-
		32 Lines = 1					

B/L = Bilingual

Lack of Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations

5268. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Dankaur, Chola and other important railway stations under Northern Railway in Khurja constituency lack necessary basic facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the railway stations under Khurja constituency where basic facilities have been provided by the Government during the last three years alongwith the year-wise total amount spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways do not maintain constituency-wise information in respect of stations.

Sub-Standard Essential Service in Bihar

5269. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of sub-standard essential services available in the post, telegraph and Communications in Bihar;

(b) whether the improvement is required in the quality of these services; and

(c) if so, the instructions issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Essential services of the post, Telegraph and Communications in Bihar are generally satisfactory. However, there are occasional instances of delay to mail due to various reasons, viz., natural calamities, transportation bottlenecks, receipt of sudden and exceptionally heavy volume of mails.

(b) Yes, Sir. There is always a scope for improving the quality of service which, is an ongoing process in the department.

(c) Instructions are issued from time to time to the inspecting staff to make surprise visits and through an effective inspection process to monitor and improve mail, delivery arrangements, ensure proper financing of Post Offices and give adequate attention to public grievances. Transmission and delivery of mails, moneyorders and telegraph services are continuously monitored at various levels and corrective measure taken to remove deficiencies. In order to improve the quality of postal services, counter operations in 48 Post Offices have been computerised by installing 92 multi-purpose counter machines in Bihar.

Publications

5270. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of books published by the Department of Publication in Hindi, English, Urdu and other Indian language during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the titles of these books separately;

(c) the expenditure incurred on these books language-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage publication of books in Indian languages?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The details of books published by the Publications Division in English, Hindi, Urdu and other Indian Languages with the expenditure incurred thereon are given in statement attached.

(d) Publications Division is taking a number of steps to bring out books in regional languages. Eminent authors are identified to write books originally in regional languages. Some of the books already published in Hindi and English are translated to regional languages. Another project has been taken up whereby the eminent literatures are commissioned to identify the modern Indian classics (published in the last two hundred years or so) in regional languages. Ten to fifteen classics of identified versions are brought out in respective languages. These books are then translated in other Indian languages. The objective is to make the classics written in one regional language available to the readers of the other regional languages.

Statement

Publications released during the year 1994-95

English

Collected Work of Mahatma Gandhi

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|---|-------|
| 1. C.W.M.G. Vol. XLI (41) | Rep. | 18. Buddhist Sculptures & Monuments | Rep. |
| 2. C.W.M.G. Vol. LXI (61) | Rep. | 19. C.W.M.G. Vol. 27 | Rep. |
| 3. C.W.M.G. Vol. LXVII (67) | Rep. | 20. C.W.M.G. Vol. 64 | Rep. |
| 4. C.W.M.G. Vol. LXVIII (68) | Rep. | 21. C.W.M.G. Vol. 65 | Rep. |
| 5. C.W.M.G. Vol. LXIX (69) | Rep. | 22. C.W.M.G. Vol. 66 | Rep. |
| 6. C.W.M.G. Vol. LXXV (75) | Rep. | 23. C.W.M.G. Vol. 72 | Rep. |
| 7. C.W.M.G. Vol. L (50) | Rep. | 24. C.W.M.G. Vol. 73 | Rep. |
| 8. C.W.M.G. Vol. V (5) | Rep. | 25. Govind Ballabh Pant | (BMI) |
| 9. Mass Media in India 93. | | 26. An Introduction to Indian Music | Rep. |
| 10. Press in India 93. | | 27. Folk Arts & Social Communication | |
| 11. C.W.M.G. Vol. 17 | Rep. | 28. Nataraja | Rep. |
| 12. C.W.M.G. Vol. 18 | Rep. | 29. All are Equal in the Eyes of God | Rep. |
| 13. C.W.M.G. Vol. 28 | Rep. | 30. Mahatma Gandhi—His Life in Pictures | Rep. |
| 14. C.W.M.G. Vol. 43 | Rep. | 31. Gandhi Album | Rep. |
| 15. C.W.M.G. Vol. 62 | Rep. | 32. Quotable Quotes: Gandhi | |
| 16. C.W.M.G. Vol. 58 | Rep. | 33. Significance of Gandhi as a Man & Thinker | Rep. |
| 17. C.W.M.G. Vol. 59 | Rep. | 34. Gandhian Values & 20th Century Challenges | Rep. |
| | | 35. Let us know Gandhiji | Rep. |
| | | 36. Gandhi in Champaran | Rep. |
| | | 37. Epigrams from Gandhi | Rep. |
| | | 38. Mahatma Gandhi—A Chronology | Rep. |
| | | 39. Mahatma Gandhi as a Student | Rep. |
| | | 40. Message of Mahatma Gandhi | Rep. |
| | | 41. Buddhist Shrines in India | Rep. |
| | | 42. Mahatma Gandhi & One World | Rep. |
| | | 43. Press in India 1994. | |
| | | 44. C.W.M.G. Vol. 21 | Rep. |
| | | 45. C.W.M.G. Vol. 23 | Rep. |
| | | 46. C.W.M.G. Vol. 19 | Rep. |
| | | 47. C.W.M.G. Vol. 32 | Rep. |
| | | 48. C.W.M.G. Vol. 33 | Rep. |
| | | 49. C.W.M.G. Vol. 35 | Rep. |
| | | 50. C.W.M.G. Vol. 36 | Rep. |
| | | 51. C.W.M.G. Vol. 37 | Rep. |
| | | 52. C.W.M.G. Vol. 38 | Rep. |
| | | 53. C.W.M.G. Vol. 47 | Rep. |
| | | 54. C.W.M.G. Vol. 10 | Rep. |
| | | 55. C.W.M.G. Vol. 51 | Rep. |
| | | 56. C.W.M.G. Vol. 52 | Rep. |
| | | 57. C.W.M.G. Vol. 56 | Rep. |
| | | 58. C.W.M.G. Vol. 57 | Rep. |

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| 59. C.W.M.G. Vol. 60 | Rep. | 100. C.W.M.G. Vol. 92 | Rep. |
| 60. C.W.M.G. Vol. 94 | | 101. C.W.M.G. Vol. 93 | Rep. |
| 61. C.W.M.G. Vol. 95. | | 102. C.W.M.G. Vol. 98 | Rep. |
| 62. C.W.M.G. Vol. 96. | | 103. C.W.M.G. Vol. 99 | Rep. |
| 63. C.W.M.G. Vol. 97. | | Hindi | |
| 64. C.W.M.G. Vol. 100. | | 1. Apni Hindi Sudharein. | |
| 65. Language of Music. | | 2. San Sattavan Ke Bhule Bisre Shaheed Part III | |
| 66. Prominent Mystic Poets of Punjab. | | 3. Madhya Bharat Ke Lok Katha Geet. | |
| 67. Yoga-Illustrated | Rep. | 4. Ajanta Ka Vaibhav. | |
| 68. A Thought for the Day. | Rep. | 5. Adarsh Vidyarthi Babu | Rep. |
| 69. Nala—Damayanthi | Rep. | 6. Tulsi Ka Byah | Rep. |
| 70. C.W.M.G. Vol. 34 | Rep. | 7. Sabbu Satpat | Rep. |
| 71. C.W.M.G. Vol. 40 | Rep. | 8. Bhaisohn Ka Rajkumar | Rep. |
| 72. C.W.M.G. Vol. 55 | Rep. | 9. Hindi Sahityakar: Album (Portfolios of Eminent Hindi Writers). | |
| 73. C.W.M.G. Vol. 77 | Rep. | 10. Betal Kathaen | Rep. |
| 74. C.W.M.G. Vol. 78 | Rep. | 11. Kheer Ki Gudiya | Rep. |
| 75. C.W.M.G. Vol. 79 | Rep. | 12. Manimala | Rep. |
| 76. C.W.M.G. Vol. 80 | Rep. | 13. Bharat Ke Budh Tirthsthal. | |
| 77. C.W.M.G. Vol. 81 | Rep. | 14. Pravasi Karantikari | Rep. |
| 78. C.W.M.G. Vol. 82 | Rep. | 15. Bharat Mein Jansamvad. | Rep. |
| 79. C.W.M.G. Vol. 86 | Rep. | 16. Press in India. | |
| 80. C.W.M.G. Vol. 87 | Rep. | 17. Gandhi Shatdal | Rep. |
| 81. C.W.M.G. Vol. 88 | Rep. | 18. Mahatma Gandhi Ka Sandesh | Rep. |
| 82. C.W.M.G. Vol. 89 | Rep. | 19. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi | Rep. |
| 83. Gandhi: An Indian Patriot in South Africa. | | 20. Aise The Babu | Rep. |
| 84. Gopal Bhand—The Jesture from Bengal. | | 21. Mahatma Gandhi—Chitra Mein Jivan Gatha | Rep. |
| 85. SSI—Incentives & Facilities for Development M/O. Industry. | | 22. Gandhiji—Ek Mahatma KI Samshipt Jivni. | |
| 86. The Way of Buddha | Rep. | 23. Vagyaniko KI Jivan Kathaen. | |
| 87. The Tale of the Tailor Bird & Other Stories. | | 24. Hiran Ka Vyapari | Rep. |
| 88. C.W.M.G. Vol. 2 | Rep. | 25. Kamal Aur Ketki | Rep. |
| 89. C.W.M.G. Vol. 12 | Rep. | 26. Samrat Ashok | Rep. |
| 90. C.W.M.G. Vol. 13 | Rep. | 27. Pracheen Kathaen. | |
| 91. C.W.M.G. Vol. 31 | Rep. | 28. Chidiyon Ka Darbar | Rep. |
| 92. C.W.M.G. Vol. 39 | Rep. | 29. Rashtra Kavi Malthill Sharan Gupta | Rep. |
| 93. C.W.M.G. Vol. 48 | Rep. | 30. Giani Chuha | Rep. |
| 94. C.W.M.G. Vol. 76 | Rep. | 31. Sher Ka Dil | Rep. |
| 95. C.W.M.G. Vol. 83 | Rep. | 32. Rashtrapati Giani Zail Singh Speeches Vol. II | |
| 96. C.W.M.G. Vol. 84 | Rep. | 33. Kranti Jyoti Savitri Bal Phule | Rep. |
| 97. C.W.M.G. Vol. 85 | Rep. | 34. Bhartiya Jan Jivan-Chintan Ke Darpan Mein Vol. II. | |
| 98. C.W.M.G. Vol. 90 | Rep. | 35. Bhartiya Hathi | Rep. |
| 99. C.W.M.G. Vol. 91 | Rep. | 36. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad | Rep. |

37. Jawaharlal Nehru Ke Bashan Vol. II
 38. Bharat 1994.
 39. Dur Desh Ke Nunne Munne Rep.
 40. Bihar Ki Lok Kathaen Vol II Rep.
 41. Bihar Ki Lok Kathaen Vol. I Rep.
 42. Rochak Etthasik Kahanian Rep.

Urdu

1. Syed Ahmed Khan (BMI)
 2. Kashmir Ki Lok Kathain.
 3. Kaghzi Hai Paivahan.

Other Indian Languages

1. Bipin Chandra Pal (BMI).
 2. Sukhno Suraj Rep.
 3. Megh Bhanus Rep.
 4. Manyamlo Myuram.
 5. Stree Ratnali
 6. A.P. Lo Pushkaranadulu.
 7. Bala Deepikalu.
 8. Hamara Bharat Desh.
 9. Punyapitha Kapilash.

Expenditure

Total English publications:	103	93,48,648.00
Total Hindi publications:	42	Rs. 24,85,015.00
Total Urdu publications:	03	Rs. 1,12,390.00
Total Other Indian Languages publications:	09	Rs. 2,22,070.00
Total publications:	157	Rs. 121,68,123.00

*Publications released during the year 1995-96***English**

1. P.V. Narasimha Rao: Selected Speeches Vol. III
 2. Forgotten Monuments of Orissa-Vol. I
 3. Ancient India.
 4. Gandhi: The Man and His Thought Rep.
 5. National Parks of India.
 6. India—1994.
 7. MA Ansari (BMI)
 8. Andhra Kesari T. Prakasam (BMI)
 9. Towards Food for All—Ideas for a new PDS.
 10. Reprinting of the book "1857".
 11. Reprinting of C.W.M.G.-Vol. 44.

12. Gandhi-A Pictorial Biography Rep.
 13. C.W.M.G. Vol. XIII Rep.
 14. C.W.M.G. Vol. LXXXIV. Rep.
 15. Gandhi—Ordained in South Africa.
 16. Ancient India
 17. Challenge to the Empire—A Study of Netaji Rep.
 18. Sardar Patel Memorial Lectures 1993-94.
 19. Folk Tales of Kerala.
 20. C.W.M.G. Vol. XII Rep.
 21. Mass Media in India 1994-95.
 22. The Years of Endeavour: Selected Speeches of Indira Gandhi. Rep.
 23. Indian Tribes Through the Ages Rep.
 24. P.V. Narasimha Rao's Selected Speeches-Vol. IV.
 25. An Outline History of Indian People Rep.
 26. C.W.M.G. Vol. XX Rep.
 27. India—1995.
 28. United Nations in the Service of the Common Man.
 29. C.W.M.G. Vol. XIII Rep.

Hindi

1. Raishree Purushottam Das Tandon Rep.
 2. J.L. Nehru Ke Bashan Vol. Rep.
 3. Bhartiya Vyagyapan Main Naithiktha.
 4. Budh Gatha.
 5. Samyukt Rashtra Bachchon Ke Liye.
 6. Suron Ka Sadhak.
 7. Doordarshan: Dasha Aur Disha.
 8. Bharat Ke Samachar Patra 1994.
 9. Chidiyon Ki Duniya Rep.
 10. Grammen Jivan Mein Vigyan Rep.
 11. Pauranik Bal Kathaen Rep.
 12. Rajkumari Nehalde Rep.
 13. Dharti Ka Sapna Rep.
 14. Dasto Rog Rep.
 15. Kalguru Anand Kumar Swami Rep.
 16. Dakshin Bharat Ke Mandi Rep.
 17. Sunehra Kachua Rep.
 18. Hindi Aur Uski Upbhasaen
 19. Bhartiya Sankriti Ki Jhanki Rep.
 20. Premchand Ki Vichar Yatra
 21. C.K. Nayudu

22. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sachitra Jivni	Rep.	59. Aajkal Anugramanika.	
23. Laghu Udyog Vikas Ke Liye Protsahan Aur Suvidhaen.		60. Premchand—Quotable Quotes.	
24. G.V. Mavalankar	(BMI).	61. Louha Purush Sardar Patel	Rep.
25. Manipur Ki Lok Kathaen	Rep.	62. Boudh Kathaen	Rep.
26. Keshab Ch. Sen	(BKI).	63. Kumaun Ki Lok Kathaen	Rep.
27. San Sattaon Ke Bhule visre Shahid	Rep.	64. C.W.M.G. Vol. VIII	Rep.
28. Kasturba Gandhi	Rep.	65. C.W.M.G. Vol. VII	Rep.
29. Bhojpuri Lok Kathaen	Rep.	66. C.W.M.G. Vol. V	Rep.
30. Bharat Ki Masjide	Rep.	67. Dr. Zakir Hussain	(BMI)
31. Apni Hindi Sudharen	Rep.	68. Bhimrao Ambedkar	(BMI)-Rep.
32. Uttar Pradesh Ki Lok Kathaen	Rep.	69. Bharat—1995.	
33. Yoga Sachitra		70. C.W.M.G. Vol. VI	Rep.
34. Sarojini Naidu	Rep.	71. C.W.M.G. Vol. XXII	Rep.
35. Sant Gadge Baba	Rep.	Urdu	
36. Rabindra Nath Thakur ki Bal Kahaniyan	Rep.	1. Abul Kalam Azad	(BMI)
37. Madan Mohan Malviya	Rep. (BMI)	2. Hamari Tahzeebi Weraset	
38. Hamare Bhadur Bacche	Rep.	3. Hindustani Taahzeeb Ki Musalman Par Asar	
39. Rochak AitihasiK Kahaiyan Pt. II	Rep.	4. Ainee-E-Ghalib.	
40. Prachin Bharat		Other Indian Languages	
41. Iswar Ch. Vidyasagar	(Rep.) BMI.	1. B.R. Ambedkar	(BMI)
42. Man Jiska Mazbut Vol. II		2. R.N. Tagore	
43. Kartabi Janwar	Rep.	3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak	
44. Netaji Subhash Ch. Bose	Rep.	4. Maulana Kalam Azad	
45. Bajjik Ki Lok Kathaen	Rep.	5. Sari Saep Ki Kahani	
46. Bundel Khand Ki Lok Kathaen	Rep.	6. Kaka Sahib Gadgll	
47. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. XXI	Rep.	7. Mantri Ka Patti (Television)	
48. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. XXIII	Rep.	8. Besare Devils	
49. Quotable Quotes—Vinobha Bhave.		9. The Grandpa and Horses	
50. Quotable Quotes—Subramaniam Bharti.		10. Techniques of Planning	
51. Quotable Quotes—Jayshankar Prasad.		11. The Immortal Flower	
52. C.W.M.G. Vol. XX	Rep.	12. K. Kamraj	
53. C.W.M.G. Vol. XXV	Rep.	13. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai	
54. Awadh Ki Begum	Rep.	14. India SutruChuzal-Ithil Namadu Pangu	
55. Batal Kathaen	Rep.		
56. C.W.M.G. Vol. XXIV (Hindi)	Rep.		
57. C.W.M.C. Vol. X	Rep.		
58. C.W.M.G. Vol. IV	Rep.		
			Expenditure
		Total English Publications - 29 Nos.	Rs. 42,82,667.00
		Total Hindi Publications - 71 Nos.	Rs. 34,44,196.00
		Total Urdu Publications - 04 Nos.	Rs. 1,39,652.00
		Total Other Indian Languages - 14 Nos.	Rs. 4,99,779.00
		Total Publications	118 Nos. Rs. 83,66,294.00

*Publications Released During 1996-97***English**

- | | | | |
|--|------|---|------|
| 1. C.W.M.G. Vol. 84 | Rep. | 19. C.W.M.G. Vol. 14 | Rep. |
| 2. Indian Shipping A Historical Survey | | 20. C.W.M.G. Vol. 3 | Rep. |
| 3. Jawaharlal Nehru: Selected Speeches Vol. I | Rep. | 21. C.W.M.G. Vol. 26 | Rep. |
| 4. Jawaharlal Nehru: Selected Speeches Vol. II | Rep. | 22. C.W.M.G. Vol. 39 | Rep. |
| 5. Jawaharlal Nehru: Selected Speeches Vol. III | Rep. | 23. C.W.M.G. Vol. 19 | Rep. |
| 6. Jawaharlal Nehru: Selected Speeches Vol. IV | Rep. | 24. Gopal Krishna Gokhale | Rep. |
| 7. Jawaharlal Nehru: Selected Speeches Vol. V | Rep. | 25. Maratha Shakti Ka Uday | Rep. |
| 8. Poverty and Un-British Rule in India | Rep. | 26. Hindi Vikas Aur Sambhavanayan. | |
| 9. Jawaharlal Nehru: A Pictorial Biography (Revised Edition) | | 27. Bhartiya Swatantrata Andolan Ka Itihas Part I. | |
| 10. Great Men Great Deeds | | 28. Bhartiya Swatantrata Andolan Ka Itihas Part II. | |
| 11. Press in India 1995 | | 29. C.W.M.G. Vol. 70 | Rep. |
| 12. President Shanker Dayal Sharma Speeches Vol. I. | | 30. Ustad Bhure Lai | Rep. |
| 13. Regreening of our Earth | Rep. | 31. Mahabali Rustam | |
| 14. Sufis of Sindh | Rep. | 32. Mushtaq Ali. | |
| 15. Prem Chand: Life & Works | Rep. | 33. Vedanta Aur Vishwachetna. | |
| 16. C.W.M.G. Vol. 9. | | 34. C.W.M.G. Vol. 18 | Rep. |
| 17. Forgotten Monuments of Orissa, Vol. II. | | 35. Bengal Ki Lok Kathaen | Rep. |
| 18. Forgotten Monuments of Orissa, Vol. III. | | 36. Chetak Aur Pratap. | |
| 19. A Moment in Time, with Legends of Indian Arts. | | 37. Rashtrapati Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, Chunne Hue Bhashan Vol. I | |
| 20. Madan Mohan Malviya (BMI) | Rep. | 38. Indira Gandhi, Chunne Hue Bhashan Aur Lekh | |
| Hindi | | 39. Bhartiya Sanskriti Ka Musalmano Per Prabhav | |
| 1. Sita | Rep. | 40. Lai Bahadur Shastri (BMI) | Rep. |
| 2. Gangadhar Rao Deshpande (BMI) | | 41. Bhartiya Kala Aur Kalakar | |
| 3. Pannadhay | Rep. | 42. C.W.M.G. Vol. I | Rep. |
| 4. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai (BMI) | | 43. Malviyajee | Rep. |
| 5. Gopal Krishna Gokhle (BMI) | Rep. | 44. C.W.M.G. Vol. 35 | Rep. |
| 6. Raja Rammohan Roy (BMI) | Rep. | 45. Loh Purush Sardar Patel | Rep. |
| 7. C.W.M.G. Vol. 68 | Rep. | 46. Hamara Paryavaran | Rep. |
| 8. Rani Lakshmi Bai | Rep. | 47. Chiriyon Ki Dunia | Rep. |
| 9. Bacchon Ka Vikas | Rep. | 48. Desh-Videsh Ki Kahanian | |
| 10. Kaurvi Lok Kathain | Rep. | 49. Aise The Bapu | Rep. |
| 11. Bharat Ki Veer Gathain | | 50. Babu Jagjivan Ram (BMI) | |
| 12. Secularbad Bhartiya Parikalpana | | 51. Shamsher Bahadur Singh | |
| 13. Bharat Ke Samachar Patra 1995 | | 52. C.W.M.G. Vol. 69 | Rep. |
| 14. Rochak Aitihasik Kahanian | | 53. Dada Bhai Naoroji | Rep. |
| 15. Hindi-Mat Abhimat | | 54. Prachin Bharat | Rep. |
| 16. Bharat Aur Manav Sanskriti Vol. I | | 55. Mehnat Ki Mahak | |
| 17. Bharat Aur Manav Sanskriti Vol. II | | 56. Bharat Ke Pakshi | Rep. |
| 18. Lakshagriha Part III | Rep. | 57. Valgyanikon Ki Jeevan Kathain | Rep. |

Urdu

1. Ganjine-e-Ghalib.
2. Hindustan Mein Islamic Uloom Ke Markez.
3. Hindustan Ke Azeem Mosikar.

Others Indian Languages

1. MR. Jayakar.
2. Freedom Movement in A.P.
3. Glory of Vijayanagram.
4. Fidele Nayudu Gasu.
5. Glory of Kakatiyas.
6. Our National Song.
7. C.F. Andrews.
8. Valmiki & Vyas.
9. Vaigyaniko.
10. Rabindra Nath Tagore.
11. Vishwa Ki Shresth Lok Kathain.
12. Bapu Ke Saath.
13. A.P. Geography and Resources.
14. Acharya Vinoba Bhawe.
15. Ghalib And Hundred Moods.
16. Keshub Chander Sen.

Expenditure

Total English Publications	20 Nos.	Rs. 16,39,219.00
Total Hindi Publications	57 Nos.	Rs. 31,64,888.00
Total Urdu Publications	3 Nos.	Rs. 79,700.00
Total Others Indian Languages publications.	16 Nos.	Rs. 3,14,660.00
Total Publications	96	Rs. 51,98,467.00

*[English]***Satellite Communication Facility in Hilly Remote Areas**

5271. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide a net-work of communication facilities/telephone through satellite in the hilly and remote areas;
- (b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;
- (c) the areas likely to be covered in this regard on

priority basis; and

(d) the total amount likely to be spent on providing telephone facility through satellite?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Government is already providing communication facilities to remote and hilly areas through Satellite Communication where conventional medium is not possible. A number of MCPC VSAT (Multi Channel Per Carrier, Very Small Aperture Satellite Terminal) have been deployed in the Country. Govt. is also considering to deploy VPTs on Satellite based technology for such remote and inaccessible hilly areas.

(c) Remote and hilly areas of J&K, H.P. U.P. (W), M.P., N.E. States, A&N Islands, etc. being covered under Statellite communication.

(d) One MCPC VSAT terminal costs about Rs. 15 lacs and it is possible to give seven Voice Channels pr MCPC. About Rs. 20 crores have been set aside for this purpose during this financial year.

BALCO

5272. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide adequate funds to Bidhanbag unit of BALCO for production of marketable Properzi Rods at Properzi Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) had commissioned a small Properzi unit at the Bidhanbag Unit (BBU) but found it to be technically and economically unvlabile to operate. The Company has, therefore, stopped producing properzi rods at BBU. The Government have no proposal to provide any funds to BALCO for this purpose.

Air India Plans Route Sharing with Major Airlines

5273. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Air India Plans route sharing with major airlines" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated April 24, 1997;

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

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the gains likely to be accrued to Air India by

this alliance agreement in the short-run as well as long run?

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

(b) to (d) Air India has entered into Co-operative Services arrangements with various foreign airlines such as United Airlines, Scandinavian Airways System, Air Mauritius, Malaysian Airlines, Kuwait Airways and Gulf Air. Broad based alliances are also being explored with Air France, United Airlines, Continental Airlines and Singapore Airlines. These arrangements help Air India to expand its network and market reach without heavy investments. In the short run it also serves as a bridge mechanism to meet Air India's expansion objectives till it is able to augment its own fleet.

Discovery Channel

5274. SHRI. SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Discovery Channel will not be converted into a 'Pay Channel' atleast till January 1, 1999 and reported in observer of Business and Politics, New Delhi dated February 6, 1997;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the rationale behind this; and

(e) the utility of the Discovery Channel and whether it will be Indianised so far its audio-feed programmes are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI. S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) Discovery channel is being operated by a private entrepreneur disseminating programmes from abroad through a foreign satellite. The Government therefore, currently does not have any information relating to the rationale behind this channel, its utility and whether it will be Indianised etc.

[*Translation*]

Recruitment of Class IV Employees

5275. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large number of class IV vacancies in reserved category for SC/ST and other backward classes for a long time in Northern Railway Headquarters, Baroda House, New Delhi;

(b) whether the candidates sponsored by the Employment exchange have been waiting for their interview for a long time; and

(c) if so, the time by which all the formalities regarding selection of candidates are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Selective Eviction from SCR Quarters

5276. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards news-item captioned "Selective eviction from SCR quarters" appearing in 'Deccan Chronicle', dated January 4, 1997.

(b) if so, out of about 3,000 railway quarters how many quarters have been illegally let out/leased to non-railway employees or outsiders and how many have been evicted;

(c) the reasons for serving eviction notices concentrated in places like Chikalguda and Bhoiguda only and higher type of quarters are selectively left out;

(d) the action being taken to see that illegally let out/leased out higher type of quarters are evicted and genuine claimants are given the quarters;

(e) whether any special cell has been constituted to take up and monitor the progress of work on a time-bound basis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Investigations were carried out which revealed 45 cases of subletting of Railway Quarters. Whenever there is a case of subletting, action is taken as per extant rules viz. serving notices for eviction of the outsiders residing in the railway quarters and initiating Disciplinary Proceedings against the staff responsible for subletting. In this case also similar action has been initiated and there has been no case of selective serving of eviction notices.

(e) and (f) Colony Committee set up are to identify the cases of un-authorised occupation/subletting of quarters and carry out necessary investigations and the position is monitored by the Estate Officer.

Laying of Railway Lines in HP

5277. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway routes proposed for laying railway lines during 1997-98 in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced; and

(c) the funds provided for this purpose during the current Financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The work would be progressed on Nangal Dam-Talwara new line in Himachal Pradesh during 1997-98.

(b) As soon as land is made available by Himachal Pradesh Government.

(c) Rs. 5.00 crores.

[Translation]

Village Panchayats without Postal Facilities

5278. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village Panchayat in Bihar, which have not been provided with the facilities of post and telegraph, district-wise; and

(b) the number of Panchayat Sanchar Seva and Telegraph offices set up likely to be set up by the Government in Bihar during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98, District-wise; and

(c) the details of the time bound programmes prepared by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of village Panchayats in Bihar which do not have post and telegraph facilities is 3207 and 8398 respectively. The district-wise details are given in attached statement I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) The district-wise number of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras set up in Bihar during 1996-97 has been shown in attached statement-III. There is no proposal at this stage for any Sanchar Sewa Kendra in 1997-98.

Post Offices are opened as Plan activity under Annual Plan Scheme subject to availability of resources and norm based justification. During the Annual Plan 1997-98 it is proposed to open 40 Extra-departmental Branch Post Offices and 5 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Bihar.

No telegraph office was set up in Bihar during the year 1996-97. There is no policy to provide telegraph facility in every village Panchayat as it is provided on the basis of demand and justification of volume of traffic.

Statement-I

District-wise number of Village Panchayat in Bihar which do not have Postal facilities

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total number of village Panchayat where postal facilities have not been provided
1	2	3
1.	Saran	38
2.	Vaishali	105
3.	Bhojpur	40
4.	Buxar	16
5.	Gaya	129
6.	Nawada	33
7.	Jehanabad	42
8.	Nalanda	26
9.	Bhagalpur	56
10.	Banka	46
11.	Patna	103
12.	Begusarai	36
13.	Khagaria	16
14.	Darbhanga	69
15.	East Champaran	130
16.	West Champaran	42
17.	Madhubani	69
18.	Munger	55
19.	Lakhisarai	16
20.	Sheikhpura	17
21.	Jamui	44
22.	Muzaffarpur	53
23.	Araria	49
24.	Katihar	51
25.	Kishanganj	33
26.	Purnea	71
27.	Saharsa	25
28.	Madhepura	25
29.	Supaul	24
30.	Siwan	18
31.	Gopalganj	60
32.	Sitamarhi	40
33.	Sheohar	13
34.	Samastipur	44
35.	Dumka	90
36.	Pakur	25
37.	B. Deoghar	74
38.	Godda	74

1	2	3
39.	Sahebganj	125
40.	Aurangabad	81
41.	Palamu	123
42.	Garhwa	36
43.	Hazaribagh	82
44.	Kodarma	11
45.	Chatra	20
46.	Giridih	66
47.	W. Singhbhum	147
48.	E. Singhbhum	42
49.	Ranchi	125
50.	Gumla	82
51.	Lohardaga	32
52.	Dhanbad	69
53.	Bokaro	82
54.	Rohtas	107
55.	Babhua	80
Total		3207

Statement-II

District-wise number of Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras set up in Bihar during the year 1996-97

S No.	Name of District	Number of Sanchar Seva Kendra set up during 1996-97
1.	Muzaffarpur	1
2.	Jamui	1
3.	Lakhisarai	2
4.	Bhagalpur	1
5.	Saran	1
6.	Darbhanga	1
7.	E. Motihari	1
8.	Vaishali	1
9.	Patna	1
10.	Samastipur	3
Total		13

Statement-III

Number of Village Panchayats, which have not been provided with Telegraph facility in Bihar, district-wise:-

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Panchayats not having telegraph facility
1	2	3
1.	West Singhbhum	245
2.	East Singhbhum	174
3.	Gumla	244
4.	Lohardaga	39
5.	Ranchi	266
6.	Hazaribagh	133
7.	Koderma	61
8.	Chatra	73
9.	Giridih	244
10.	Dhanbad	143
11.	Bokaro	34
12.	Palamau	137
13.	Garhwa	145
14.	Aurangabad	175
15.	Gaya	281
16.	Nawadah	129
17.	Jahanabad	123
18.	Bhojpur	202
19.	Buxar	112
20.	Rohtas	209
21.	Kamur (Bhabhua)	122
22.	Nalanda	174
23.	Bhagalpur	193
24.	Banka	110
25.	Khagaria	76
26.	Monghyr	22
27.	Lakhisarai	57
28.	Shekhpura	48
29.	Jamul	118
30.	Begusarai	126
31.	Deoghar	115
32.	Dumka	154
33.	Sahebganj	202
34.	Godda	120

1	2	3
35.	Pakur	48
36.	Purnia	186
37.	Kishanganj	73
38.	Araria	129
39.	Katihar	153
40.	Saharsa	136
41.	Madhopura	110
42.	Supaul	41
43.	Samastipur	208
44.	Darbhanga	260
45.	Madhubani	304
46.	Sitamarhi	63
47.	Shivhar	67
48.	West Champaran	285
49.	East Champaran	296
50.	Muzaffarpur	247
51.	Vaishali	98
52.	Sagan	257
53.	Siwan	198
54.	Gopalganj	146
55.	Patna	287
Total		8398

Extension of Telephone Services in Metro Cities

5279. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had prepared a plan for extension of telephone services in the metropolitan cities during the Eighth Five Year;

(b) if so, the details of the telephone services provided during the 8th Plan, metro-wise;

(c) whether any target was also fixed for providing telephone services in these metropolitan cities;

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

(e) whether it has been achieved; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (f) No separate plan had been prepared for metropolitan cities during the Eighth Plan.

However, a target of providing 75 Lakh telephone connections in the country, including 19.2 lakhs by the MTNLs of Mumbai and Delhi, was set in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Details of telephone connections provided during Eighth Plan metro-wise is given below;

Metro city	No. of connections provided from 1992-97
Delhi	7.65 Lakhs
Mumbai	8.51 Lakhs
Calcutta	2.46 Lakhs
Chennai	2.36 Lakhs

As against a target of providing 75 Lakh lines in the country, the achievement was 87.73 Lakhs lines. However, the target of 19.2 lakhs lines for the MTNLs could not be fully achieved due to declining demand for telephones in Mumbai and Delhi.

Loss of Foreign Exchange

5280. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether loss of foreign exchange is being suffered due to non-availability of necessary tourism facilities in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to develop necessary tourism facilities and places of tourist interests in these States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) The foreign exchange earning from Tourism during 1996 increased by 16.5% over the previous year.

(b) and (c) The identification of tourist spots and its development is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them, on inter-ee priorities and availability of funds. During 1996-97, the Department of Tourism has sanctioned 14 projects amounting to Rs. 237.78 lakhs to Uttar Pradesh and 4 projects amounting to Rs. 41 lakhs to Bihar for the development of tourist infrastructure. In addition, for the developments of infrastructure in Buddhist Circuit covering Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OEFC) has provided assistance to the tune of approx. Rs. 249 crores.

Foreign Companies in Broadcasting Sector

5281. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign companies which have recently been given permission to telecast the programmes in India;

(b) the terms and conditions under which these companies have been given such permission;

(c) the details of the companies out of them which are telecasting the programmes in the Indian languages and the position in regard to programmes being telecast in English language by them;

(d) the duration of telecasting the channel-wise programmes by these companies daily; and

(e) whether any amount or royalty is being given to the Government by these companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No such permission has been given by the Government.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Free/Concessional Air Tickets for Employees of IA

5282. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Indian Airlines are provided with free/concessional air tickets in-service and after retirement as well;

(b) whether they are provided with inter-line tickets for being the employees of Airlines;

(c) if so, the reasons for not providing them with inter-line tickets after retirement;

(d) whether any scheme to provide this facility to these employees is under consideration; and

(e) the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Granting of inter-line tickets to serving and retired employees is at the discretion of the airlines, to whom the application is sent under IATA Resolution 788. There is no bar on grant of inter-line tickets to retired employees.

(d) and (e) In view of the reply given to 'C' above, do not arise.

[English]

Airport used in 2nd World War

5283. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the airport which was used in 2nd world war, now lying vacant by the side of the G.T. Road towards north in between Durgapur and Andal in West Bengal is proposed to be renovated; and

(b) if so, the time by which the renovation work is likely to be completed and the air port commissioned?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Loan Provide to Private Air Operators by RBI

5284. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI:SI:

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has reviewed the guidelines for amending term loan to provide funds to private air operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultation were held by him with the Finance Ministry and Air Taxi Operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and also the details of the new guidelines issued?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) On 12th March, 1997 a meeting was held with the representatives of the Department of Banking, leading financial institutions, commercial banks and scheduled airlines to discuss financing policy for private airlines operating in the domestic sector, with a view to facilitating arrangements to meet their long-term requirements. Follow-up action by R.B.I. in this regard is in progress. In the meeting held by R.B.I., Airlines operators have agreed that existing R.B.I. guidelines cover their cases also. In view of this consensus, a review of the R.B.I. guidelines on credit dispensation is not required at this stage. However, R.B.I. intends continuing regular meetings to assess and review the position regarding financing of airline industry.

Standard of New Services

5285. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government media in projecting the national and interna-

tional news and its performance as compared to international standards and other news agencies like BBC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated by the Government to bring professionalism in the media and to raise the standard of the news services?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Even though no specific study has been undertaken in the recent past, from time to time steps have been taken to improve the news gathering and editing capability of the news media so that it can come up to international standards. Review of the capability of the Government media in projecting national and international news is a continuous process and suitable steps are taken periodically to bring professionalism in the news media subject to availability of funds, personnel and inter-se priorities within two electronic media. Acquisition of latest hardware, training of news personnel, more visual inputs, improvement in the style of presentation are some of the measures being contemplated.

Central Assistance for Tourism Projects in Mysore

5286. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had sanctioned Central assistance for tourism projects in Mysore during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount released out of the sanctioned amount;

(c) whether the Union Government are aware that Hogenkal falls and Mahadeshwara Hills in Mysore are places of tourist attractions;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to develop the said places during 1997-98; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 3.90 lakhs and released Rs. 1.80 lakh to construct Sulabh Shouchalaya Complex at the premises of Maharaja's Palace in Mysore during the year 1996-97.

(c) to (e) Central financial assistance for tourism development is provided to State/UT Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments and availability of funds. The prioritisation of projects for the central financial assistance during 1997-98 is scheduled in the first quarter.

[Translation]

Completion of Guna-Itawa Railway Line

5287. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had announced in Gwalior on December, 1996 to speed-up the work on Guna-Itawa rail line;

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

(c) the length in kilometre of above line completed so far;

(d) the funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred on the above project;

(e) the time by which the entire project is likely to be completed;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to link Bhind district Headquarter with Gwalior; and

(g) the time by which the approval is likely to be given for construction of bridges over the river between Bhind and Itawa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work is being progressed speedily. The outlay in 1996-97 was increased from Rs. 22 crores to Rs. 37 crores.

(c) 169 kms. of the line has been commissioned so far.

(d) The present sanctioned cost of this project is Rs. 256 crores and the expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 170.29 crores.

(e) By the end of the 9th Five Year Plan.

(f) The gauge conversion of Nonera-Bhind section, a part of this work, is targetted for completion in 1998-99.

(g) The construction of bridges over the rivers between Bhind and Etawah is a part of the sanctioned project and would be taken up and completed within the 9th Five Year Plan.

[English]

Running of Trains between Bangalore-Thiruvananthapuram

5288. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains running daily between Bangalore and Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) whether there is a demand for introduction of an additional fast train on the said route; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) At present one

pair of express train viz. 6525/6526 Kanniyakumari-Bangalore Express provides daily service between Thiruvananthapuram and Bangalore besides 6335/6336 Nagarcoil-Gandhidham Express (weekly) between Thiruvananthapuram and Bangalore.

(b) and (c) Some representations from MPs/MLAs, including from travelling public, have been received in this regard. These demands have been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[*Translation*]

Reservation Facility at Nalanda Railway Station

5289. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation facility is available at Nalanda Railway Station for the trains starting from Patna Junction to Delhi, Howrah, Bombay etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide reservation facility at this station with a view of facilitate the passengers;

(e) if so, the total number of seats for which reservation facility is likely to be provided at this station; and

(f) the time by which adequate reservation facility is likely to be provided from this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The sale of tickets is too meagre to justify allotment of reservation quota.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Transmitter Network on Border Areas of Jammu and Kashmir

5290. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a network of high and low power transmitters on the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir with a view to educate and entertain the people of the area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) With a view to further augment TV service in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the border areas, two HPTs, 3 LPTs, 10 VLPTs and one transposer

are presently under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the State.

[*English*]

Non AC-II Class Compartments in Shatabdi Express

5291. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non AC-II Class compartments in Shatabdi Express plying between Mysore and Chennai;

(b) whether the Government are considering to introduce few non AC-II Class compartments to help ordinary passengers travelling from Mysore directly to and from Madras; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) None.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Survey for Laying Down Bijnore-Muzaffarnagar Rail Line

5292. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to conduct survey for laying down railway line from Bijnore to Muzaffarnagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Employment on Compassionate Grounds

5293. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme in the Telecom Department which provides for employment of compassionate grounds to the next of the kin of the employees who die in harness;

(b) if so, the duration by which the department provides such employment to the family members of the deceased employees; and

(c) the details in this regards?

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

(b) and (c) Such cases are processed on the basis

of guidelines issued by the DOP & T from time to time. The cases are finalised soon after the submission of requisite information/documents by the family of the deceased employee. The employment to the family member is provided if the family is in indigent condition.

The cases where there are earning members in the family or where death took place more than five years ago are dealt at Telecom Head Quarter. In the rest of the cases the Heads of Telecom Circles have been delegated powers to deal with such cases.

[English]

Survey in Kerala

5294. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the surveys conducted in Kerala for laying railway lines during the last two years and the current year, so far:

(b) the total amount spent on them, so far; and

(c) the names of lines which are likely to be taken up for construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Survey	Expenditure
1.	Preliminary Techno Economic Survey for Thakazhy-Thiruvalla-Pathanamthitta Railway line (100 kms.)	6.00
2.	Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic survey for Kayankulam-Trivandrum new line via Adoor-Kottarakara (14.5 kms.)	10.00
3.	Traffic survey for a new line from Guruvayur to Eddapalli	2.00
4.	Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic survey for Gauge Conversion of Quilon to Virudunagar/Tirunelveli-Trichendur (357 kms.)	14.31
5.	Reconnaissance Engg.-cum-Traffic survey for new BG line between Nanjangod and Badagara via Vytiri-Poozhithod	7.42
(c) New Lines to be taken up for construction		
1.	Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor new line	
2.	Angamali-Sabarimala new line	

Doordarshan Resources

5295. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has a programme to raise its resources;

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

(c) the aims and objectives for raising resources of Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Rationalisation of advertising tariff structure, opening up of additional Commercial Kendras, incentives to advertisers and telecast of quality programmes so as to attract maximum number of viewers to make Doordarshan channels a cost effective medium for the advertisers are major steps to increase commercial revenue. The target for commercial revenue collection for 1997-98 is Rs. 625 crores.

(c) Doordarshan generates internal resources in order to fund a substantial portion of its development activities.

Performance of Copper Mines

5296. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of MINIES be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of each copper mine in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether some copper mines are on the verge of closure;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revive these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The production performance of all the copper mines of Hindustan Copper Limited and Sikkim Mining Corporation during the last three financial years are as under:

	(Production of ore in MT)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	1	2	3
Indian Copper Complex (Bihar)			
Mosaboni	405309	318885	289260
Pathargora	115175	126582	127464
Surda	308464	327096	318517
Kendadih	49645	56257	46960
Rakha	250335	230137	239676
Total	1128928	1058957	1021877

	1	2	3
Khetri Copper Complex (Rajasthan)			
Khetri	972637	980115	754027
Kolihan	527524	549373	456928
Chandmari	156482	74443	21361
Total	1656643	1603931	1232316
Malanjkhand Copper Project (M.P.)			
Sikkim Mining Corporation			
Bhotang Mine	15114	11026	9426
		(upto Feb., 1997)	

(b) to (d) The mining operation at Mosaboni mines are highly uneconomical and as Hindustan Copper Limited is incurring heavy losses in operating these mines, the Board of Directors of HCL has in principle approved the proposal for closure of Mosaboni mines and the Company has sought permission from the Government for closure under section 25(c) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Company has been asked to work out the scheme for rehabilitation relocation of the workers who would be affected in the event of the closure of the Mosaboni mines.

Pay Scale of Junior Engineers

5297. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pay scales of Junior Engineers of different disciplinaries in his Ministry (viz. Civil, Electrical, Telecommunications) are same;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether suggestions have been received for bringing them at par; and

(d) the actions being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. Further there is no cadre of Junior Engineer (JEs) in Telecom discipline. It is known as Junior Telecom Officer (JTO).

(b) The qualification for recruitment to the cadre of Junior Engineer in Civil and Electrical disciplines is Diploma in Engineering whereas the qualification for recruitment to Junior Telecom Officer cadre is Graduate in Engineering or B.Sc. Their duties are also different.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Pay Scales for Central Government Employees are decided based on the recommendation of Pay Commission. Fifth Pay Commission, which has recently submitted its recommendation, has also recommended different Pay Scales for JTOs and JEs in Civil Electrical disciplines.

Passenger Amenities in Superfast Trains

5298. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons as to why drinking water and food is not being made available in superfast trains like Puri Express, Neelanchal Express and Purusottam Express despite lodging Complaints at various junctions;

(b) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure adequate drinking water, toilet water supply, proper hygienic food and hygienic condition as well as security in those trains particularly during the current summer/LTC rush period; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent RPF personnel in Bihar who harass passengers in one pretext or the other rather than providing security in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Drinking water arrangements are provided at the stations. These arrangements are strengthened during the summer period by engaging hot weather watermen and also augmenting the existing arrangements. Instructions have, however, been issued to the railways for strengthening the drinking water arrangements at all important stations where superfast trains are scheduled to stop. Steps taken include provision of water trolleys, engaging of hot weather watermen, taking assistance of voluntary organisations, availability of drinking water in trains through pantry cars. The food requirements of the passengers of these trains are met with satisfactorily from the static units and the pantry cars provided on these trains.

Provisions already exist for ensuring availability of water in the toilets of coaches on all long-distance trains. The water in over-head tanks is regularly replenished at originating stations as well as nominated stations enroute.

According to the Constitution of India, 'Policing' is a State subject and, therefore, maintenance of law and order and control of crime on railway premises, including railway stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned which they discharge through Government Railway Police. However, the railways on their part maintained close co-ordination with GRP. Important trains are being escorted by GRP during night time.

(c) Stringent action is taken against the RPF personnel found harassing passengers whenever brought to the notice of the Railway Administration. No specific complaint has, however, been received (for Bihar) on this account. However, Railway staff including RPF have been advised to be courteous and helpful to the travelling passengers. Officers have also been instructed to closely monitor and supervise the work and conduct of personnel performing duties in passenger trains.

**Shortage of Cheap Hotels for
Middle Class Domestic**

5299. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of hotels for the middle-class domestic tourists in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the locations of these hotels for middle-class tourists and their minimum and maximum charges?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is shortage of hotels for the middle class domestic tourists at some of the selected tourist centres in the country. This is primarily due to the non-availability of land at reasonable cost.

- (c) Does not arise.

Poor Safety Records of IA

5300. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of poor safety records of Indian Airlines, the Ministry of Finance has in 1994-95 advised the IA to initiate steps in consultation with General Insurance Corporation to reduce hazards, achieve better results from the view point of accidents and improve safety to win the confidence of the insurers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the insurance paid by IA increased from \$ 3.8 million in 1989-90 to \$ 43.5 million in 1994-95 and whether it was attributable to high frequency of accidents; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps have since been taken to improve the safety records of IA and what improvements have since been made therein so far?

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

(b) The insurance premium of Indian Airlines in respect of Hull, Spares and Liability for the year 1994-95 increased to US \$ 42.5 million, which was mainly due to the high claim ratio of Indian Airlines and hardening of the insurance market.

(c) The maintenance and operations of the aircraft in Indian Airlines is done strictly in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the manufacturers of the aircraft and approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation. As a result of the steps taken by Indian Airlines, its safety record has considerably improved. Consequently, the rate of insurance premium in respect of Indian Airlines aircraft has substantially reduced from US \$ 42.5 million in the year 1994-95 to US \$ 25.6 million in 1996-97.

[Translation]

Allotment of STD/PCO Booths

5301. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government allots STD/PCO booths on the priority basis to the blind and handicapped persons;
- (b) if so, the number of STD/PCO booths allotted to such people in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;
- (c) the number of blind and handicapped persons enlisted in the waiting list for STD/PCO booths as on 31st December, 1996; and
- (d) the time by which they are likely to be allotted STD/PCO booths?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Sir, preference in allotment is given to blind and handicapped persons by the STD PCO allotment committee while allotting the available number of STD/PCO lines.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

[English]

**Electrification of Mughalsarai-Patna-Howrah
Rail Section**

5302. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mughalsarai-Patna-Howrah railway line have not been electrified as yet, resulting in the late running of Rajdhani Express and other superfast trains on this route and the passengers have to face a great inconvenience due to it;

(b) if so, whether there is any concrete proposal for the electrification of this rail route;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above rail route is likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Electrification work on Mughalsarai-Patna-Sitarampur section has been taken up and section Sitarampur to Howrah is already electrified. However, passenger trains including Rajdhani and Superfast trains are running satisfactorily on diesel traction.

(b) to (d) The section from Sitarampur to Jasidih has been energised. The entire Sitarampur-Patna-Mughalsarai section is targetted for completion by December 1999.

Revised Offer on Basic Telecom

5303. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Telecommunication Union has urged India to place its revised offer on basic telecom services to the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Production of Large Digital Exchange

5304. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether C-DOT has made a significant breakthrough in production of first ever larger digital exchange Main Auto Exchange MAX (XL) with indigenous technology to replace requirements of trunk automatic exchanges (tax);

(b) if so, the details of the plans of production of MAX (XL) during 1997-98;

(c) the details of expenditure on import of such exchanges during the last three years and details of plans for manufacturing the exchanges indigenously—order of investment during 1997-98; and

(d) the requirement of such exchanges over the next 5 years plans to meet the requirement through indigenous technology?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The orders to supply 107.5 KL C DOT MAX-XL equipment has been placed on ITI for supply during 97-98.

(c) Expenditure on import—Nil.

For indigenous order, kindly see para above.

(d) The requirement for large exchanges for 9th Five Year Plan is expected to be 17 million lines.

Diamond Mines

5305. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Diamond mines in the country; State-wise;

(b) the extent of diamond reserves in those mines, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for exploration of Diamond mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per

information available, there are two diamond mines in the Country and both of them are in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) As per information available, recoverable reserves of diamond as on 1.4.1994 are 1065,000 carats of which 929,000 carats fall in proved category and 1,36,000 carats fall in possible category.

(c) The Geological Survey of India has given main thrust during the 9th Five Year Plan for mineral exploration with special emphasis on deficient commodities including diamond. Presently GSI is carrying out exploration for diamond in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Bihar. In line with National Mineral Policy, 1993, thirteen minerals including diamond, hitherto reserved for exploitation under the public sector, have been thrown open for exploration and exploitation under private sector. The policy prescription envisages induction of foreign technology and foreign participation in exploration and mining for high value and scarce minerals. The Policy prescription also envisages foreign equity participation in joint ventures in mining promotion by Indian companies to be encouraged. While the foreign investment in equity would normally be limited to 50%, this limitation would not apply to the captive mines of any mineral processing industry. Enhanced equity participation can also be considered on case to case basis. Further, the Govt. has also issued guidelines for grant of large areas for aerial prospecting with a view to facilitate larger investments in exploration.

Arrangement to Carry Dead Bodies

5306. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are requests/appeals from Indian Community living in the Gulf Countries to arrange to carry the dead Bodies of Indian Nationals from these countries to India by Indian Airlines flights free of cost; and

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

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

(b) Indian Airlines has been advised to provide free carriage of dead bodies of Indian nationals dying in UAE, in cases of extreme compassion.

Modernisation of BALCO

5307. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for revamping/modernisation of Foil Plant at Bidhanbag Unit of BALCO; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing Company and the

decisions to revamp/modernise any plant are taken by the Company keeping in view commercial and technical viability of the project. However, Company has informed about a proposal to revamp the Roughing Mill at the Foil Plant of Bidhanbag Unit (BBU) as the first phase of modernisation of the Foil Plant, in consultation with M/s Dastur & Co., their consultant.

Manned and Unmanned Railway Crossings in Tamil Nadu

5308. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents occurred at the manned

and unmanned railway crossings in Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years;

(b) the loss of life and property as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Statistics regarding train accidents and related information are maintained Railway Zone-wise and not State-wise. Relevant information for Southern Railway is as under:-

	Manned Level Crossing Accidents			Unmanned Level Crossing Accidents		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
No. of accidents	6	2	1	21	12	10
No. of persons killed	6	11	1	24	12	46
No. of persons injured	12	1	3	31	13	13
Cost of damage to Railway property (Rs. in lakhs)	0.96	-	-	0.16	1.31	3.18

(c) Some of the steps taken to prevent accidents at level crossings are as under :—

(1) Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on the approaches to unmanned level crossings so that the road vehicles may reduce their speed.

(2) Whistle boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach of level crossings to enable the train driver to whistle to warn the road users about the approaching train. Periodic drives are launched to check whether the drivers are whistling from such whistle boards.

(3) To educate the road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio and newspaper advertisements and street plays.

(4) Joint Ambush Checks with civil authorities to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.

(5) Telephones and gate signals have been provided at busy level crossing gates.

(6) Surprise checks are conducted to check alertness of gatemen.

(7) Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licences, specially to drivers of trucks, buses

and other heavy vehicles. Road users have still not used to the faster speeds of Mail/Express trains. A train travelling at 90 kmph covers 25 m/sec. Thus, although to the road user, it appears to be 200 metres away, in terms of time, it is only 8 seconds away.

(8) Involvement of village Panchayats in their public awareness programmes.

Users Charge at Calicut Airport

5309. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected at Calicut Airport during 1996-97 by way of users charge;

(b) whether such a practice exists at any other Airport in the Country;

(c) whether any assurance was given to the passengers bound foreign countries by the authorities that such a practice would be abolished without further delay; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government have taken to do away with this practice?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) An amount of Rs. 6.42 crores has been collected during 1996-97 towards Users' Development Additional Fee at Calicut airport.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However, the question of abolition of User Service Charge is under consideration.

*[Translation]***Travelling by Unauthorised Persons in Sleeper Coaches**

5310. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has issued directives in regard to stopping unauthorised persons travelling without sleeper class tickets in sleeper coaches of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to ensure that these persons do not travel in sleeper coaches; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken against those employees of the Railways who intentionally allow the unauthorised persons to travel in the sleeper coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) While deciding a petition, National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission had ordered that the Railways should see that in respect of sleeper compartments which are non-vestibuled there will be one TTE/Conductor in each compartment so as to ensure that no persons other than passengers holding 2nd class sleeper ticket valid for travel are permitted to enter to remain inside the compartment.

(b) Instructions were issued to the railways to ensure availability of TTEs in sleeper class coaches as per the prescribed yardstick. After November '94, Instant Action Groups have been introduced on 30 pairs of trains to prevent the entry of unauthorised passengers in the reserved coaches. Train Superintendents are also being provided in important long distance Mail/Express trains. Besides, the following steps have been taken to prevent unauthorised entry:—

(i) Short distance passengers including MST holders have been debarred from travelling in reserved coaches of long distance Mail/Express trains.

(ii) Surprise checks are conducted with the help of GRP/RPF and action is taken against the unauthorised passengers who are detained and fined under the provisions of the Railway Act.

(iii) The vacancies of ticket checking staff are being filled up to improve manning of reserved coaches.

(iv) Passengers holding 2nd class tickets found travelling in sleeper class are treated travelling in higher class and are subjected to penalties as prescribed.

(c) Disciplinary action is taken against the staff in proven cases of connivance.

Revenue Earned by the Union Government in Maharashtra

5311. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total revenue earned by the Union Government in the field of tourism in Maharashtra;

(b) whether any discriminatory attitude has been adopted by the Union Government regarding the development of tourist places in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The tax revenue earned by the Central Government by way of expenditure tax from tourists in the State of Maharashtra during the current financial year is Rs. 109.45 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Survey for Introduction of Circular Train between Kanhan and Hingna Defence**

5312. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to introduce Circular train between Kanhan and Hingna Defence in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The proposal to introduce train services between Kanhan and Hingna has been examined but not found feasible due to technical constraints.

Doordarshan Kendras, Dibrugarh

5313. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for lowering the height of Dibrugarh TV tower to the present 75 metre from the original plan of 150 metre;

(b) the reasons for reducing this kendra to an Agricultural based station from the original plan as commercial station;

(c) the present area of operation and coverage and future plan of action for strengthening and modernising this kendra;

(d) whether unwanted foreign TV signals from

neighbouring China and Myanmar hamper the existing telecast;

- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) the details of the rural areas now being covered by DDK, Dibrugarh alongwith footprint areas; and
- (g) the reasons for not uplinking Satellite facilities/ Microwave link for feeding news clippings to DDK, Guwahati?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The High Power (10 KW) TV Transmitter at Dibrugarh is operating from a tower with a reduced height i.e. 75 meters due to non-availability of clearance from the National Airport Authority of India for a height of 150 metres as envisaged earlier.

(b) There has been no change in the social objective of Dibrugarh DDK and it continues to cater to the agricultural programme requirements in addition to the production of programmes of social and other cultural interests. DDK, Dibrugarh has never been a commercial Kendra.

(c) The coverage range of HPT, Dibrugarh is about 45 km. subject to local terrain conditions. With a view to extend metro (DD-II) service in the area, a Low Power TV Transmitter for relaying DD-II service is under implementation at Dibrugarh.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) All rural areas falling within a radial distance of 45 km. from the High Power Transmitter, Dibrugarh receive TV service from the transmitter, subject to terrain conditons.

(g) At present, the facility for satellite uplinking is only available at Guwahati. A proposal is under implementation for setting up of uplinking terminals initially at all the State Capitals of North-Eastern States. Though, there is no proposal at present to set up uplinking terminals at any other locations in the North-Eastern States, the same will however, depend upon availability of resources required for the purpose in the future plans of Doordarshan.

Present Policy of Tourism

5314. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) the present policy of tourism;
- (b) whether the tourism development programme have been given priority in the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) The present policy of the Government is to develop

tourism as an instrument for sustainable human development. The Ninth Plan proposals for the development of tourism in the country include integrated development of infrastructure, development of Special Tourism Areas, enhancement of facilitation services, provision of incentives for attracting Private Sector Investment, Human Resources Development, strengthening of Publicity and Marketing, Research and Computerisation, etc.

AI Hostesses Festival of India at Laos, Cambodia

5315. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Air India hostesses, who were selected to represent the Air India at the Festival of India at Laos, Cambodia, have complained that they were forced to model for a private designer wearing transparent and revealing clothes and entertain local dignitaries;

(b) if so, the details, thereof;

(c) whether the said complaint of Air India hostesses has since been investigated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Two Air hostesses were deputed to Laos to participate in the Indian Cultural Festival. They complained that they were made to wear dresses designed by a private designer, perform like models on the ramp. Some of the dresses were transparent and objectionable, and they were also required to model of the hotel cafeteria.

(c) and (d) The report submitted by the management of Air India is under examination.

Posts included in Safety Category

5316. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the categories of posts which have been included in the Safety Category and kept outside the purview of the reservations for SC/ST;

(b) whether any review of such posts was undertaken;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) the reasons for including the post of Driver in Railways in the Safety Category just to deprive SC/ST of reservation benefits while the post of Pilot in Indian Airlines has not been included in Safety Category and same are reserved for SC/ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The list of posts classified as Safety Categories has been reviewed from time to time and the current list is given in the statement enclosed. The rules of reservation for SC/ST apply to safety category posts also but no relaxation is

allowed to SC/ST candidates in the prescribed qualifications and criteria for promotion to these posts.

(d) The staff who are directly connected with safety in train operation are classified as holders of 'Safety Category' posts on the Railways. Drivers being directly connected with the movement of trains, have been included in the list of safety category.

Statement

The Posts included in safety category

Operating Department :

1. Transportation Inspectors.
2. ASMs/Cabin ASMs/Station Suptd. (Non-gazetted) SMs/ Dy. SSs.
3. Guards.
4. Yard Masters/AYMs/Yard Foreman.
5. Switchmen and Shunting Jamadars.
6. Section Controllers/Dy. Chief Controllers/Chief Controllers.
7. Safety Counsellors/Safety Inspectors.

Civil Engineering Department :

8. Bridge Inspectors.
9. Permanent Way Inspectors.
10. Asstt. Foreman-cum-Operator (Plassermatic Tie Tamping).
11. Operator-cum-Chargeman (Tie Tamping).
12. Section Mate, Keyman and P. Way Minstry.
13. Asstt. Shop Suptd. (Bridge Workshops).

Signal and Telecommunication Department :

14. Signal Inspectors.
15. Elec. Signal Maintainer and Mechanical Signal Maintainers.
16. Asstt. Shop Superintendent (Axle Counter Production and Inspection, Production and Overhauling of Relays, Tokenless Block Instrument Testing).
17. Relay Inspectors.
18. Telecommunication Inspectors.
19. Telecommunication Maintainers.
20. Wireless Telecommunication Maintainer.

Mechanical/Electrical Departments :

21. Driver/Assistant Driver/Diesel Assistant/Motorman/Tower Wagon Driver/Motor Trolley Driver.

22. Loco Foreman/Asstt. Loco Foreman/Electric Foreman/Asstt. Shop Suptd./Chargeman (OHE Substation/Remote Control/Loco Train lighting, Air Conditioning (Coach), Mech. Foreman/Asstt. Mech. Foreman, Chargeman (Loco)/E.M.U. Running Sheds).
23. Carriage Foreman/Wagon Foreman.
24. Loco Inspectors/Driving Instructors.
25. Train Examiner (Mech/Elec./EMU/Loco).
26. Shunter.
27. Carriage and Wagon Inspector.
28. Power Controller/Traction Loco Controller/Traction Power Controller/Traction Sub-Station Operator.
29. Traction Foreman/Traction Foreman (Running).
30. Engine Examiner/Lubricating Supervisor.
31. Boiler Inspector, Boiler Foreman/Asstt. Boiler Foreman, Boiler-maker Chargeman.
32. Asstt. Shop Suptd. concerned with Train Lighting & Air Conditioning only.
33. Safety Inspectors.
34. Laboratory Suptd./Chemical & Met. Asstt.
35. Loco Fitters/C&W Fitters/Wheel Tapers/Fitters in Diesel Sheds and E.M.U. and Elec. Sheds/Milwright Fitters/Welders of all Departments, Train Lighting and Air Condition (Coach) Fitters.
36. Design Asstts. of all Departments.
37. Auto Drivers/Fork Lift Drivers/Crane Drivers (Mobile or EOT Cranes/Traverser Drivers/Sligners and Gunners.
38. Shop Superintendent (Mech./Elec.)/Asstt. shop Superintendent (Mech. & Elec.)/Lab. Superintendent/Chemical and Metallurgical Assistants.
39. Senior Electrical Foreman/Chargeman/Sub-Station Operator for general services including power houses.
40. Leading Fireman (Steam Loco).

Introduction of New Trains in Uttar Pradesh

5317. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce new trains in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Introduction of trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility and resource availability. The train services planned during the

year 1997-98 which would also serve Uttar Pradesh includes the following Express trains :

1. Secunderabad-Nizamuddin Weekly Rajdhani
2. Bangalore-Nizamuddin Weekly Express via Hubli
3. Ranchi-Delhi biweekly Express
4. Vishakhapatnam-Nizamuddin biweekly Express
5. Gorakhpur-Dehradun biweekly Express
6. Nizamuddin-Ernakulam Weekly Express
7. Delhi-Faizabad/Muzaffarpur Weekly Express
8. Surat-Patna Weekly Express
9. Pune-Nizamuddin Weekly Express.

New Railway Line

5318. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total mileage of new railway lines laid down in various parts of the country during the last three years till date;

(b) the total mileage out of that laid down in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for laying new railway lines in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) 217 kms. new line have been laid during last 3 years.

(b) Nil.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are as under :—

(i) *Kapadvanj-Modasa line* is already under construction. State Govt. has requested for higher allocation to speed up the work. Accordingly, budget allotment of Rs. 5 crs. would be raised to Rs. 10 crs. after the additional budgetary support is received.

(ii) *Extension of railway line from Veraval to Kodinar*—Survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be taken up once the survey report becomes available.

(iii) *Construction of a coastal line from Veraval to Bhavnagar via Pipavav and Alang*—survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be taken up once the survey report becomes available.

(iv) *Extension of line from Mahuva to Pipavav*—This has already been included in scope of project of gauge

conversion of Surendernagar-Bhavnagar-Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension upto Pipavav.

[*Translation*]

Strike By MTNL Employees

5319. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in protest against the murder of an employee of this nigan are on strike since 21-4-1997;

(b) if so, the details of the demands of these employees;

(c) the action taken against the officers and employees found guilty;

(d) the amount of loss of revenue incurred by the Nigam during this strike; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty officials for not handling the situation properly?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Some staff members staged lunch hour demonstrations at Khurshid Lai Bhavan from 21.4.97 to 25.4.97.

(b) The demands were :

1. Hand over the case to CBI for investigation.

2. Arrest of Sh. D.K. Aggarwal, D.E. (Outdoor), Kidwai Bhavan.

3. Immediate financial assistance of Rs. 5/6 lacs to the mother of deceased.

(c) The matter is still under investigation by the Delhi Police.

(d) The agitation by the employees was restricted to lunch time and therefore there was no loss of productivity and revenue.

(e) The matter is still under investigation by the Delhi Police and the action would be taken after the receipt of the Police report.

Minerals in Gujarat

5320. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of Mines be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are adequate and large number of mineral deposits in some States including Gujarat especially in the tribal areas;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to explore the minerals or to nationalise the mines in Gujarat;

(d) Whether the Government have received any proposals regarding the nationalisation of mines from some

other States during the last three years; and

(e) If so, the State-wise details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) India has adequate reserves in respect of several minerals. While Comprehensive data on mineral deposits are maintained under the National Mineral Inventory, mineral wise Statewise information on important mineral deposits is indicated in the statement attached. Further, separate information for mineral deposits in tribal areas is not maintained.

(c) to (e) Exploration and exploitation of minerals in the country is governed by the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. In the context of overall liberalisation of the economy, the Government does not contemplate nationalisation of mines and in fact as per the policy prescription under National Mineral Policy, 1993, private sector investment for exploration and exploitation of minerals has to be encouraged. In this context, the Government dereserved 13 minerals hitherto reserved for exclusive exploitation by the public sector. The Government has further taken a series of steps under the National Mineral Policy besides amendments to the MM (R&D) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder with a view to encourage private sector investment including foreign investment in the mineral sector.

Statement

Metallogenic belts in India

(a) Copper-Lead-Zinc

Khetri (Rajasthan), Mosabani (Bihar), Malanjkhand (Madhya Pradesh), Sargipalli (Orissa), Kalyadi (Karnataka), Agnigundala (Andhra Pradesh), Zawar-Rajpura-Dariba-Barnikalan-Rampura-Agucha Belt (Rajasthan).

(b) Gold

The green stone belts of South India, including the Kolar, Hutti Gadag and Chitradurga schist belts, are the primary source of gold deposits. The Maruda deposits in Kerala, the Himalayan foothill regions in Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan, are important for alluvial and placer deposits.

(c) Diamond

Panna is a centre for Kimberlite mining in Madhya Pradesh. New ideas for Kimberlite have been recently been reported by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) near Raipur; Ramkheria-Hirappur conglomerate belt in Madhya Pradesh; and the Vajrakarur Kimberlite belt in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Iron Ore

Goa, Bellary-Hospet belt (Karnataka), Bailadila (Madhya

Pradesh), Rawghat-Dalli-Rajhara in Madhya Pradesh, Chiria-Manoharpur in Bihar, Bonai-Keonjhar belt in Orissa, Badampahar-Gorumahisant belt in Orissa, Kudermukh Magnesite belt in Karnataka, Chitradurga (Karnataka).

(e) Manganese

Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra belt, Bonai-Keonjhar belt (Orissa), Visage (Andhra Pradesh), North Kanara and Sandur belts in Karnataka, Adilabad belt in Andhra Pradesh and Goa.

(f) Chromite

Sukunda-Nuasahi chromite belt in Orissa and Byrapur belt in Karnataka.

(g) Bauxite

Kutch-Jamnagar belt in Gujarat, Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, East-coast Bauxite belt covering Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, Madhya Pradesh Bauxite belt covering Amarkantak-Phutkapahar, Jamirapat-Mainpat etc. Satna-Rewa belt (Madhya Pradesh), Netarhat plateau and adjoining areas in Gumla and Lohardaga district of Bihar.

(h) Limestone & Dolomite

Rich deposits are widespread across many states of India particularly, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Orissa, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

(i) Soapstone

Major concentrations are found in the Udaipur-Dungarpur belt of Rajasthan, and Dagota-Jharna and adjoining deposits near Jaipur.

Construction of Damaged Building at Palam

5321. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the buildings damaged by fire at Palam Air Port are proposed to be constructed/ repaired; and

(b) the cost likely to be incurred on the above construction work?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Reconstruction of Terminal 1A at Indra Gandhi International Airport is expected to be completed by December, 1997 at an estimated cost of Rs. 26 crores.

Distribution of Dak by Women in Raipur

5322. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether letters are being distributed by the women carrying 14-16 kg. of letters in a basket in Raipur District for the last thirty years;

(b) if so, the details of their pay, facilities and

service conditions;

(c) whether the Government proposed to stop such practice; and

(d) the reasons for not regularising their services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In Raipur district, letters are not distributed by women carrying letters in a basket. Throughout the district, delivery of mail is performed by Postmen only. However, in case of heavy mails, the Postmen may engage coolies (men/women) on daily wage basis for carrying parcels etc. on days when their quantum is more. Coolie charges are reimbursed according to the weight of the parcels on the basis of the rate fixed by the local Collector for unskilled labour.

(d) These workers are engaged by postman on need basis. They are neither hired by the Department, nor are they employees of the department. The question of their regularisation, therefore, does not arise.

[English]

MTNL Customer Harassment

5323. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Customer harassment MTNL-style' appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 21.4.1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action the Government propose to make the MTNL working transparent and responsive ?

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

(b) and (c) Since its formation, MTNL has been striving hard for rapid modernisation, accelerated growth of network, provisioning of new services and improvement in the services.

MTNL has given top priority to customer satisfaction. All out efforts are being made for provisioning of new telephone connections and shifting of existing ones within the stipulated norms. Some of the cases are delayed mainly due to non-availability of underground cable pairs. Delay in rectification however occurs in cases of cable break-downs and thefts. Monitoring of fault rectification process is done upto the highest level.

It is a fact that new edition of directory after 1994 has not been brought out due to contractual problems with the contractors. New edition of directory is expected to be issued shortly.

Constant efforts are being made to provide upto date local directory enquiry service '197' to the customers. This service has been decentralised for giving prompt and accurate information to the customers in many areas.

In the recent past the cable theft took place in different parts of Delhi disrupting the telephone services of a number of subscribers. To avoid the occurrences of such thefts in future, patrolling of vulnerable routes have been intensified and coordination at highest level with local police authorities has been undertaken and regular meetings are being conducted by GM (Transmission) with Addl. Commissioner of Police to curb the activities related to cable thefts.

Inspections of Local/STD PCOs sanctioned to private operators are done by field staff in MTNL, Delhi. In addition surprise checks are also made by Vigilance squad of MTNL, Delhi to check over-charging for the calls made by the public from such PCOs. During 1996, 13 PCOs were recommended for disconnection and 84 officials were punished for the mal-practices.

In a large complex network, there may be some complaints that have not received adequate attention to the satisfaction of the customers. However, we have different forums to attend to these individual cases and other grievances. There are 8 areas in MTNL, Delhi and in all areas as well as at HQ, Public Grievance Cells are functioning where single window concept for dealing with the public grievances is followed. All types of complaints received are registered, scrutinised and disposed of expeditiously. In order to enhance effectiveness of these cells, regular monitoring and progress of disposal of grievances even at senior level is being carried out. In addition there are also Customer Service Centres which act as a single window so that as far as possible visitors are attended to in these Centres and there is minimal need for them to go to individual officers.

Telephone Adalats are also held regularly at an interval of 3 months to provide on the spot redressal to long pending customers grievances. In 39 Adalats held up to April, 1997, 26700 cases have been finally settled.

Frequent customer open house sessions are held to obtain first hand problems of the customers regarding the telephone service and allied matters.

(d) The following steps have been taken by MTNL, Delhi to make its working transparent and responsive to the individual complaints of the subscribers:

Customer service centres (CSC) at area level and Divisional level have been opened in each area which provides single window working for the subscriber so that as far as possible customers problems are attended to in these CSCs and there is minimal need for the customer to visit individual office for their work.

Till date 40 exchange Fault Repair Service (FRSs) have been computerised which include 18 major exchanges.

To improve the services further, efforts are being made to introduce a Computerised Customer Service Management System (CSMS) in MTNL, Delhi during this year which will be a great help to achieve our goal of total customer satisfaction through on-line up-dating of the subscriber data such as bill payment details and monitoring of OBs.

Auto-manual services such as 198/2198 and 199 are being supplemented by computerised Interactive Voice Response Systems (IVRS) to reduce the human factor involved in customer services.

[*Translation*]

Daily Running of Express Train from Ayodhya to Delhi

5324. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposed to run an Express train daily from Ayodhya to Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) It is proposed to introduce a weekly express train between Delhi and Muzaffarpur via Faizabad, Ayodhya during 1997-98. However, introduction of a daily train from Ayodhya to Delhi is presently not feasible due to resource constraints and operational difficulties, including lack of terminal/maintenance facilities at Ayodhya.

[*English*]

Setting up of Sub Station of AIR, Orissa

5325. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had sanctioned several years ago the setting up of four All India Radio sub-stations at Udala, Pancpir, Bishoi and Rairangpur in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether none of four stations have been started;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) A scheme for setting up of Local Radio Station with 1 KW MW Transmitter, MP Studios and Staff quarters at Rairangpur was approved in December, 1994.

The work regarding setting up of All India Radio station at Rairangpur has already been started. Site for the station

has been identified. The telephone lines and power supply lines passing over the site are required to be shifted. The State Government authorities have been requested to divert the power supply lines and telephone lines passing through the site.

There is no approved scheme to set up a Radio Station at Udala, Pancpir and Bishoi in the State of Orissa.

[*Translation*]

Attachment of Unreserved Coaches with Long Distance Trains

5326. DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of unreserved coaches attached with the long distance trains during the past one year till March 1997, to make the rail travel comfortable for the ordinary rail passengers;
- (b) the steps taken during the past one year to provide pure drinking water, and catering facilities;
- (c) the total number of Diesel locomotives and passenger coaches demanded for the metre gauge rail service in the Ratlam Railway Division for the year 1996-97; and
- (d) the time by which these are likely to be supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Drinking water arrangements are provided at the stations and these arrangements are strengthened during the summer period. Arrangements are also made to provide satisfactory catering facilities enroute. Instructions have been issued to the railways for strengthening the drinking water arrangement at all important stations. Steps taken include provision of water trollies, engaging of hot weather watermen, taking assistance of voluntary organisations, availability of drinking water in trains through pantry car etc.

(c) and (d) Railways have not manufactured and supplied any M.G. Diesel loco/coaches to Zonal Railways during last 3 years. However, due to gauge conversion, M.G. locos and coaches have been transferred from one Railway to another Railway depending upon the availability of such surplus stock on account of gauge conversion.

[*English*]

Accumulation of Dirty Water at Platform

5327. DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a large

accumulation of dirty water at Railway station platform number three of Bahadurgarh Railway Station, district Rohtak, Haryana, near National Capital Region for the last many years due to which dirtiness is spreading on the Railway Station and its nearby areas and has become matter of concern for the health of travellers; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government for the drainage of this dirty water and to check the accumulation of water near the platform in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Dirty water is not accumulated on platform number three, but in the low lying areas near Bahadurgarh railway station. Since this water is discharged by the private colonies in the area, preventive measures are to be taken by the local authorities by providing proper drainage.

Introduction of Pairs of Trains

5328. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have introduced some pairs of new trains and increased capacity of certain existing trains to meet the summer rush during the months of April, May and June;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to ensure the supply of food, water and security of the passengers in these special trains;

(d) whether any special train is being introduced on the New Delhi-Trivandrum route in which there is excessive rush during summer days; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Railway are running about 1242 Summer Specials on as many as 25 routes in the country to clear Summer Rush. In addition loads of about 50 pairs of trains have also been augmented.

(c) Drinking water arrangements are provided at Stations and these arrangements are strengthened during the summer period. Instructions have been issued to the railways for strengthening the drinking water arrangements at all important stations. Steps taken include provision of water trollies, engaging hot weather watermen, taking assistance of voluntary organisation; availability of drinking water on train through Pantry cars and to ensure satisfactory catering arrangements from the static units enroute.

'Policing' is a State subject and therefore maintenance of Law and order and control of crime on railway premises, including railway stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, which they discharge through Government Railway Police. However, the Railways on their part maintain close coordination with GRP. Important trains are being escorted by the GRP during night time.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Due to lack of traffic justification, however load of Kerala Express will be augmented to the extent justified and feasible.

Passengers Amenities at Trivandrum Airport

5329. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the passenger amenities at Trivandrum International Airport are very poor;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any steps for improving passenger amenities at the said Airport; and

(c) if so, the details of measures which have to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Trivandrum International Airport is well equipped with passenger amenities adequate to cater to the needs of the travelling public. These amenities are at par with those of other international airports. Modification to the International Terminal Building at a cost of Rs. 2.02 crores is expected to be completed by December, 1997. With this, the peak hour capacity will increase from 400 to 550 passengers.

[Translation]

Out of order Telephone Lines in Kanpur

5330. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone lines of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh remain out of order for several hours and engage tunes are often heard as telephones and there are also complaints of non-materialisation of calls; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to improve and streamline the telephone system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. The telephone system at Kanpur is working satisfactorily. However, some faults do occur in exchanges and in external plant due to which services of some of the subscribers get affected some times. These faults are attended to within shortest possible time.

(b) A massive expansion and computerisation drive is launched which will further improve services in Kanpur telecom system.

Proposal to Run More Trains between Chandigarh and Delhi

5331. SHRI SATYA.PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run one

more Shatabdi Express or a few more superfast trains between Chandigarh and Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Running of Trains on Un-economic Routes

5332. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the trains are being run on the un-economic routes in the different regions of the country.

(b) if so, the norms of economic and un-economic routes;

(c) whether there is any policy for running of trains on economic and un-economic routes in the country in the same ratio; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Trains are run on demand irrespective of the fact whether the route is economic or un-economic.

(b) The railway lines whose gross earnings are less than the total working expenses calculated on the marginal cost principle or whose net earnings (arrived at after meeting the working expenses are not sufficient to meet the prescribed dividend liability on the capital invested on them are treated as uneconomic and the remaining lines are treated as economic.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Survey for Edathua-Thiruvalla Rail Line

5333. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated funds for conducting survey for Thakazhy-Edathua-Thiruvalla Railway line during last year's Railway Budget;

(b) if so, whether despite allocations for the above survey, nothing has been done by his Ministry;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct survey of the said railway line; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be

conducted and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Rs.3 lakhs had been provided in 1996-97 out of the total cost of Rs. 6 lakhs.

(b) to (d) The balance allocation have been made in 1997-98 and the survey would be completed in the current financial year.

[Translation]

Introduction of Train between Bulandshehar and Lucknow

5334. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run a train from Bulandshehar to Lucknow;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any the request in this regard during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Some representations have been received in this regard including from Shri S. P. Gautam, Shri Naunihal Singh, Shri Chhatrapal Singh and Shri Ashok Pradhan, MPs.

(d) Examined, but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Pending Projects

5335. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the projects of National Capital Territory of Delhi relating his Ministry are pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and since when these are pending/under consideration;

(c) the estimated cost thereof;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be sanctioned;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) At present no project of National Capital Territory of Delhi is pending for approval of this Ministry.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

*[English]***Local Loop Proposal**

5336. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the newsitem "DoT's experts doubt local proposal" appeared in the 'Times of India' dated March, 19, 1997;

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

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to get the appropriate returns from the projects of over Rs. 300 crore for wireless in local loop?

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

(b) and (c) A proposal for providing Wireless in Local Loop in 18 cities was considered. From the available figures the cost per line of Wireless in Local Loop was found to be marginally higher compared to the cost of wired line of 3.5 kms. In view of the fact that the prices of Wireless in Local Loop are coming down and considering its cost effectiveness for longer distances and technological advantages such as speed of provision, reliability etc. the proposal to invite tenders for procurement has been approved.

Cosmopolitan

5337. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a foreign monthly magazine cosmopolitan published by New Delhi—based Living Media Group as appeared in the 'Observer of Business and Politics', New Delhi dated January 13, 1997;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the follow-up action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) A magazine by the title 'Cosmopolitan' is published by M/s Living Media India Limited, New Delhi.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Finance has reported that they have given their concurrence for payment of royalty by M/s Living Media India Limited at the prescribed rate of 15% (inclusive of guarantees) on the Indian published price for reprinting of the magazine 'Cosmopolitan' of M/s Hearst Corporation of USA. The matter is being further examined by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in consultation with concerned authorities.

Abolition of Post of Ticket Collectors

5338. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to abolish the post of Ticket Collectors;

(b) if so, when such a decision was taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not filling up these posts in Howrah, Sealdah, Asansol, Kharagpur and Adra Divisions of Indian Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken to fill up the vacancies include identification and use of surplus staff of other categories, promotion of eligible departmental staff and recruitment through Railway Recruitment Boards, etc. Filling of vacant posts is a continuous process.

Setting up of Wagon Manufacturing Plant at Barauni

5339. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level railway team visited Barauni in September 1996 for setting up of Wagon manufacturing plant;

(b) if so, whether the final decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the total amount required to complete the project; and

(d) the annual expected production of wagons from the above plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided not to set up a wagon manufacturing unit in view of the capacities already available in the Private/public sector and some Railway workshops. However, a work for "Setting up facilities for ROH of Airbrake wagons at Barauni" as been approved in the Budget 1997-98.

(c) The anticipated cost of the approved work for the airbrake wagon ROH depot is Rs. 25.00 crores.

(d) Nil as manufacturing facility is not being set up.

*[Translation]***Waiting List for Telephones in Bihar**

5340. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of subscribers registered in the waiting-list for getting telephone connections in Bihar till date, District-wise;

(b) the number of subscribers who have been given telephone connections so far;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide the telephone connections to the

subscribers as early as possible; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The waiting list and the number of telephones given as on 1.4.97 in Bihar District-wise are as per the statement attached.

(c) Yes, Sir. The waiting list of 51445 is proposed to be cleared progressively by March, 1998.

(d) A target of providing 60000 telephone connections during 1997-98 has been fixed for Bihar Telecom Circle.

Statement*District-wise telephone connections provided and waiting list in Bihar State*

S. No.	Name of SSA	Name of District included	Waiting List as on 1.4.97	No. of Telephones given as on 1.4.97 (Direct Exch. lines)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arrah	Bhojpur Buxar	1178	6621
2.	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur Banka	1336	11801
3.	Chhapra	Chhapra Siwan Gopalganj	3717	11098
4.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga Samastipur Madhubani Begusarai Khagaria	6957	23486
5.	Dhanbad	Dhanbad Bokaro	2602	26460
6.	Dumka	Dumka Deoghar Sahabganj Pakur Godda	1103	8279
7.	Gaya	Gaya Aurangabad Jehanabad Nawadah	1551	17459
8.	Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh Kodarma Chatra Girdih	1339	13724

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jamshedpur	East Singhbhum West Singhbhum	7801	26512
10.	Katihar	Katihar Kishanganj Purnea	1728	12682
11.	Motihari	Araria East Champaran West Champaran	2110	11710
12.	Monghyr	Monghyr Sheikhpura Lakhisarai	2296	6593
13.	Muzaffarpur	Jamui Muzaffarpur Vaishali Sitamarhi Sheohar	5312	22547
14.	Patna	Patna Nalanda	9772	76270
15.	Ranchi	Ranchi Gumla Lohardaga	763	39208
16.	Saharsa	Saharsa Supaul Madhepura	458	7395
17.	Sasaram	Rohtas Bhabhua Palamau Garhwa	1422	10964
Total			51445	332799

Programmes of Film Stars Engaged in Politics

5341. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

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

(a) whether the Government have received any instructions from the Election Commission regarding imposing restrictions on telecasting programmes of those film stars who are active in politics or any other such matter which may earn them political mileage; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued by the Election Commission of India which inter-alia provide that Doordarshan during the Election process will not telecast films projecting the image of cine actors and actresses who have joined politics.

Outdated Govt. Planes

5342. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV :

SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO :

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines and Air India are out dated;

(b) if so, the details thereof upto 31st March, 1997 alongwith the reasons for keeping such aircrafts;

(c) whether the Government propose to replace these aircrafts;

(d) if so, the difficulties being faced by the Government in solving this problem;

(e) the sources from where the new aircrafts are proposed to be purchased and the cost estimated for the renewal programme alongwith the time by which new aircrafts are likely to be inducted by IA and AI;

(f) the number of aircrafts replaced during the last three years;

(g) the profit/loss to these airlines during the said period;

(h) the future plans to reduce the losses; and

(i) the number of planes added to fleets by these airlines and also grounded during the period from 1st April, 1996 to December 31, 1996 ?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) Air India and Indian Airlines have not replaced any aircraft during last 3 years.

(g) Details of profit/loss of Air India and Indian Airlines during last 3 years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Air India Profit/(Loss)	Indian Airlines Profit/(Loss)
1994-95	40.80	(188.73)
1995-96	(271.84)	(109.98)
1996-97*	(280.00)	(24.00)

Provisional

(h) Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

(i) Two B-747-400 aircraft have been added to the fleet of Air India during April to December 1996, whereas no aircraft added to the fleet of Indian Airlines during this period.

Security to TV Towers

5343. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make security arrangements for the maintenance of T.V. Towers established or proposed to be established in the country particularly in hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Security coverage is given to all studios, High Power Transmitters and Low Power Transmitters which have perceivable security threat. This policy is uniformly adopted throughout the country irrespective of location of the installation. The security cover provided by the state armed police varies depending on the prevailing law and order situation in the district in which the installation is located. Very Low Power Transmitters are unmanned and no security coverage is provided to these.

[English]

Modernisation of Air Traffic Service at Mumbai/Delhi

5344. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had sanctioned a project called Modernisation of Air Traffic Service at Mumbai and Delhi (MATS-BD) in 1990;

(b) if so, whether this project has not been completed so far;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have asked the civil aviation authorities to probe the delay in the project;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the safety committee headed by Air Marshal J.K. Seth has given some recommendations regarding Air Traffic Control System at Bombay; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(c) The main reasons were initial delay due to litigation, delayed acquisition of land for execution of civil and electrical works, change in scope of work for inclusion of Future Air Navigation System, failure of some components supplied by the turnkey contractor, disruption due to heavy monsoons in 1994 etc.

(d) and (e) Director General of Civil Aviation attributed the same reasons for the delay in the implementation of the project. Necessary approvals have been obtained for the revised cost estimates. The project is being monitored on a weekly basis. The Delhi Project will be completed in May, 1997 and Mumbai Project by the end of June, 1997.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. However, the Committee headed by Air Marshal Seth have given some recommendations on the location of Control Tower and Technical Building. A Task Force has been appointed to implement the recommendations of this Committee.

[Translation]

UDC Cadres in DOT

5345. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether UDC cadres in Department of Telecommunication are being adversely affected in the present setup;

(b) whether any remedial measures have been taken in Department of Post to protect UDC's;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Department of Communications to protect UDC's cadre?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Department of Personnel and Training is the nodal Department controlling the cadres of UDCs in all Ministries/Departments participating in the Central Secretariat Clerical Service. The interest of UDCs in all Ministries/Departments, including the Departments of Telecommunications and Posts is watched in accordance with the instructions issued from time to time by the said nodal Department.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Broadcasting Range of Doordarshan/AIR in Madhya Pradesh

5346. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the transmission of Doordarshan and Akashvani Centres are not received in some parts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to increase the transmitters during the current year and the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set up some Doordarshan relay centres in the State; and

(d) if so, the location-wise details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be setup ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to target hitherto uncovered areas in the State. During the 8th Plan, new radio stations were commissioned at Guna and Sagar and transmitters at Bhopal, Gwalior and Jagdalpur have been replaced by new high power transmitters. In addition, 3 Local Radio stations at Mandia, Saraipalli and Rajgarh with 1 KW MW Transmitters and MP studio are under implementation. As a part of its expansion plans, Doordarshan has 6 LPTs and 5 VLPTs under implementation. Although the 9th Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised, adequate measures have been taken to increase coverage in the area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are in the statement attached.

Statement

Under Implementation	Proposed (Scheme to be sanctioned)
LPTs	HPTs
Garot	Ambikapur
Bhanpura	Guna
Sitamau	Shahdol
Piparia	Sagar
Bada Malehra	
Sarangarh	
VLPTs	LPTs
Singrauli	Kharod
Koylibeda	Multai
Pandra Road	Pathalgaon
Modakpal	
Bijapur	

All the LPTs/VLPTs under implementation are expected to be completed during 1997-98 subject to availability of infrastructural facilities and sanction of staff for operation and maintenance of the projects.

Lead time involved in implementation of HPTs is about 3 to 4 years and for LPTs about one to two years after

the schemes are sanctioned by the competent authority subject to availability of resources, infrastructural facilities, staff and inter se priorities.

[*English*]

Introduction of Train between Kottur and Guntakal via Hospet and Bellary

5347. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to run a passenger train between Kottur and Guntakal via Hospet and Bellary;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the demand for running the proposed train is long pending;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to cover the sector keeping in view heavy inflow of the traffic on these lines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to technical constraints.

(c) and (d) There have been some demands for running passenger service between Kottur and Hospet.

(e) Passenger services are already available on the Hospet-Bellary-Guntakal section. However, passenger train running on Kottur-Gunda Road-Hospet section is not feasible in the near future due to various technical constraints.

Terminal at Anand Vihar Railway Station

5348. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Terminal was approved at Anand Vihar Railway Station to avoid the congestion at New Delhi Railway Station.

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A terminal is planned to be provided at Anand Vihar to handle the traffic anticipated by the end of the 9th five year plan.

(b) Land has already been acquired.

(c) The work is likely to be started in the coming years.

[*Translation*]

Export in NMDC

5349. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Minerals Development Corporation has been exporting their products;

(b) if so, the details of products and value thereof exported during the last three years; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to encourage the export ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) exports iron ore through MMTC Ltd., the canalising agency for export of Iron ore, as per the existing EXIM Policy.

(b) Quantity and value of Exports of NMDC's iron ore during the last 3 years is as follows :

Year	Quantity (in Lakh Tonnes)	Foreign Exchange (Rs. in Crores)
1993-94	64.91	392.30
1994-95	66.72	408.47
1995-96	64.11	402.79

(c) Identification and development of new markets, revival of old markets, and efforts for better unit value realisation are some steps being taken by MMTC Ltd. to increase the exports.

[*English*]

EMS in Bangalore

5350. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices accepting EMS Speed Post in Bangalore;

(b) whether the Government consider to introduce EMS in all post offices in Bangalore City; and

(c) if so, the number of post offices proposed to be covered under EMS during 1997-98 in Bangalore ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 56 Post Offices accepting EMS Speed Post in Bangalore.

(b) and (c) A Post Office is authorised to accept EMS Speed Post articles keeping in view the potential traffic of that area and operational feasibility. At present there is no proposal to cover all Post offices of Bangalore to accept EMS Speed Post articles.

Use of IA Aircraft by Alliance Air Lines

5351. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that old aircrafts of Indian Airlines have been used/being used by alliance airlines for their flights; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Alliance Air, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines is operating 12 Boeing 737 aircraft. These aircraft are maintained as per the procedure prescribed by the manufacturer and approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (D.G.C.A.). The aircraft are put into operation only under the Certificate of Airworthiness issued by the D.G.C.A.

Telephone Cabling in Darbhanga District

5352. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone cables are being laid from Bahera to Baheri in Darbhanga District of Bihar ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Behera and Baheri are about 25KM (S) apart. Behera comes under the local area of Benipur (SDCC) exchange and the telephones are being provided as per demand on the local network. Baheri has a 128 P C - DOT exchange under Derbhanga SDCC. As such there is no necessity to lay cables between Baheri and Bahera.

[Translation]

Setting up of Railway Zones

5353. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of Railway Zones and Divisions at present in the country;

(b) whether there is a proposal to set up certain new Railway Zones in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the norms fixed for setting up of these zones;

(e) the likely impact of the setting up of these zones/divisions on the functioning of the Railway;

(f) reasons for not selecting Ajmer as the Head-quarter of the newly created North-Western Railway Zone; and

(g) the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on land, building and development heads while setting up the Headquarters of the New Railway Zone in Jaipur and the over all Budget provisions made for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are 9 Railway Zones and 59 Divisions on Indian Railways at present as under :

Railway	Divisions
1	2
Central	Bhopal Bhusawal Mumbai Jabalpur Jhansi Solapur Nagpur
Eastern	Asansol Danapur Dhanbad Howrah Sealdah Mughalsarai Malda
Northern	Allahabad Ambala Bikaner Delhi Firozpur Jodhpur Lucknow Moradabad
North-Eastern	Izatnagar Lucknow Samastipur Sonpur Varanasi
Northeast Frontier	Allpurduar Katihar Lumding Tinsukia
Southern	Bangalore Chennai Madurai

1	2
South Central	Mysore
	Tiruchirappalli
	Palghat
	Trivandrum
	Guntakal
	Hubli
South Eastern	Hyderabad
	Secunderabad
	Vijaywada
	Adra
	Bilaspur
	Chakradharpur
Western	Kharagpur
	Khurda
	Waltair
	Sambalpur
	Nagpur
	Ajmer
	Bhavnagar
	Mumbai
	Jaipur
	Kota
Ratlam	
Vadodara	
Rajkot	

*Nanded being set up.

Government has decided to set up eight new Divisions at Agra, Ahmedabad, Guntur, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Rangiya and Singrauli.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to set up six new Railways Zones as under :

	HQ
(i) East-Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
(ii) North-Central Railway	Allahabad
(iii) East-Central Railway	Hajipur
(iv) North-Western Railway	Jaipur
(v) South-Western Railway	Bangalore
(vi) West-Central Railway	Jabalpur

(d) New Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(e) The formation of new Zones/Divisions is expected to provide relief to the heavily worked zones/divisions, improve accessibility and enable the administration to have an effective control over the compact zones/divisions leading to better service and customer satisfaction.

(f) The Advisors' Committee set up by the Board to examine the issue had recommended the location of the Headquarter of North-Western Zone at Jaipur.

(g) While the details of estimated cost are being worked out, the estimated cost provided in the Pink Book is Rs. 41.66 Cr. for land, Buildings and other development works, quarters etc. An amount of Rs. 5.24 Cr. has been provided for the year 1997-98

[English]

Upgradation of Posts

5354. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some posts of Assistant Officers were upgraded in 1973 and 1980 in Indian Railways to Senior Scale;

(b) whether this upgradation was done mainly to give benefit to the stagnated group 'B' officers and commitment in this regard was given to the Cabinet;

(c) if so, the number of posts upgraded;

(d) the number of Group 'B' officers regularised against these posts;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in regularising the Group 'B' officers; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to give the benefit to the Group 'B' officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) In 1973 and 1980, 220 and 382 posts, respectively, of Assistant Officers were upgraded to Senior Scale. These upgradations were inter-alia to facilitate larger induction of Group 'B' officers into Group 'A/Jr. Scale.

(d) and (e) Only Group 'A' Officers are eligible for regular promotion to Senior Scale posts. Group 'B' Officers are first inducted into Junior Scale of Group 'A', whereafter they are considered for promotion to Sr. Scale, subject to their fulfilling the eligibility conditions for such promotion.

(f) Does not arise.

Nickle Plant

5355. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been importing Nickel;

(b) whether any study has been made at various mineral belts to find out nickel ore reserve in the country;

(c) whether there is a vast nickel reserve in the Sukinda region of Orissa;

(d) whether the Government proposed to set up of a Nickel Plant in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The country has to depend totally on imports to meet the demand of Nickel in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India undertook nickel investigations in several potential sectors in Orissa, Bihar, Manipur-Nagaland, Andamans, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and in several other locations in Peninsular India where potential geological set up exists. The Sukinda Nickel Ferrous Ultramatic complex is the prime amongst them.

(c) Yes, Sir. Nickel ferrous ore exists apart from Nickel ferrous lemnites over-burden rocks in the chromite areas in Orissa. The biggest resource of nickel ore in a multi-metal complex in India occur in Sukinda area in Orissa.

(d) and (e) The Hindustan Zinc Limited has signed an MOU with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

for setting up a technology proving plant which is estimated to cost Rs. 8 crores for extraction of nickel from chromite over-burden.

Amount Allocated by Government on Promotion of Tourism

5356. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government and actual amount spent for the development of tourism in the States during each of last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(b) the details of ongoing tourism projects in the States started by the Union Government and the amount invested in these projects during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The details of amount sanctioned each year and the releases made for these projects to State/Union Territory Govts. during last three years for Tourism Projects is given in statement enclosed. The projects for which assistance was provided include: Tourist complexes, Wayside Amenities, Tourist Reception Centres, Yatri Niwases, Refurbishment of Monuments, Adventure Tourism projects, Fairs and Festivals and Publicity support to the State Governments.

Statement

Central financial assistance sanctioned and released to State/Union Territory Governments during last three years

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	174.64	73.23	13.46	9.00	125.50	20.37
Assam	52.99	27.24	70.24	23.30	153.46	29.82
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	52.26	3.00	3.00	1.50
Bihar	112.12	45.00	115.84	53.53	41.00	6.50
Goa	161.32	99.72	221.55	104.45	94.56	47.53
Gujarat	21.19	11.00	7.98	6.96	82.21	33.12
Haryana	188.96	65.98	126.91	91.29	121.38	31.75
Himachal Pradesh	356.85	140.91	485.91	238.75	200.93	54.64
Jammu & Kashmir	215.98	108.55	150.30	51.60	88.47	11.75
Karnataka	229.96	104.50	229.36	89.55	356.89	124.28
Kerala	307.05	146.00	209.94	83.95	235.59	103.00
Madhya Pradesh	9.32	5.00	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	273.46	103.92	83.64	23.90	187.69	82.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Manipur	4.00	2.00	75.81	24.20	51.90	22.00
Meghalaya	—	—	4.08	2.04	88.81	32.50
Mizoram	111.80	47.19	100.86	41.27	107.18	32.44
Nagaland	36.43	24.85	51.60	18.94	100.62	30.00
Orissa	166.31	34.82	108.86	54.00	235.72	78.48
Punjab	136.71	56.14	139.49	24.50	29.67	11.25
Rajasthan	638.40	560.49	230.75	109.95	69.71	19.00
Sikkim	49.07	12.63	29.61	16.18	63.10	9.55
Tamil Nadu	184.79	75.35	250.99	72.72	190.70	102.10
Tripura	46.61	22.40	26.19	15.50	102.85	34.10
Uttar Pradesh	223.80	144.30	31.10	25.55	237.78	87.95
West Bengal	144.01	55.49	191.10	87.20	39.00	12.50
Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	45.00	20.00	2.00	1.00
Chandigarh	64.66	19.50	17.20	10.86	7.50	5.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	23.62	12.00	—	—	84.66	27.23
Delhi	86.50	61.25	28.23	17.77	7.25	2.45
Daman & Diu	42.31	30.45	48.21	10.94	15.00	6.00
Lakshadweep	19.95	17.50	24.65	—	123.81	31.00
Pondicherry	—	—	28.12	13.10	2.00	1.00
Total	4082.81	2105.97	3198.36	1480.00	3249.94	1092.31

Accident Rate of IA

5357. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1989 dated December 5, 1996 and state :

(a) the accident rate of Indian Airlines;

(b) the comparative figures of major international Airlines and foreign domestic Airlines as available with the Government; and

(c) the reasons for higher accident rate of Indian Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The fatality rate per 100 million pax kilometer flown by Indian Airlines during the last five years is as under :-

1992	0.013
1993	0.82
1994	0.14
1995	NIL
1996	NIL

(b) The comparative figures of fatal accident rate for world wide scheduled Airlines operations versus Indian Airlines during the years 1992-96 are as under :-

Year	Total Accidents	
	World wide (Except USSR)	Indian Airlines
1992	25	1
1993	31	1
1994	24	1
1995	22	Nil
1996	N/A	Nil

(c) The accident rate of Indian Airlines was slightly higher than the world average since the flying by Indian Airlines is much less compared to cumulative flying by World Airlines. As a result even a single accident will result in shooting up of the accident rate.

[Translation]

Telephone to Gram Panchayat

5358. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by when the facility of providing one telephone in each of the Gram Sabha/Gram Panchayat in the country, is likely to be completed;

(b) the total number of Gram Panchayats in Bihar where this facility has been provided so far, under this system;

(c) if not, the time by when this facility is likely to be provided in all the gram sabhas in Bihar;

(d) whether it is necessary for the endorsement of the Member of Parliament/Gram Pradhan of the concerned area for the installation of PCOs in the Gram Sabhas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) All the Gram Sabhas/Gram Panchayats would be provided telephone by the end of Ninth Plan.

(b) A total of 9083 Nos. of Gram Panchayats have been provided telephone facility in Bihar.

(c) All the Gram Sabhas in Bihar would be provided with telephone facility by the end of Ninth Plan.

(d) and (e) Recently Guidelines have been issued that Hon'ble MPs may be consulted for location of VPT provided it conforms to the Guidelines issued by the Department on the subject matter and, in case, of unsuitability the Hon'ble MPs are to be informed accordingly.

[English]

Reservation by Tour Operators

5359. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether tour operators in Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Hyderabad arrange to get Railway Reservation even at very short notice at higher prices;

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect ordinary passengers who take more than one hours to get advance booking whereas agents submit 10 to 15 applications and take much time; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to open separate counters for agents and stop black marketing at Railway stations in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No specific instances have come to the notice.

(b) As per the extant rules, only one requisition form is accepted from one person at the reservation counter.

(c) There is no proposal to open separate counters for agents. In order to check malpractices in reservation, railways conduct frequent checks in Reservation/Booking Offices at stations and in trains. Raids are also organised on the premises of unauthorised agents from time to time. Touts found indulging in malpractices are prosecuted under Section 143 of the Railways Act, 1989. Licences of authorised agents are terminated if found indulging in such activities. Disciplinary action is taken against Railway Staff who are found to be conniving in such activities.

Reopening of Deals Made by Previous Govt.

5360. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed DOT to reopen various deals finalised during previous regime in a bid to investigate into irregularities committed;

(b) if so, furnish, details thereof;

(c) the progress and status of the investigation, deal-wise;

(d) the action taken/proposed against the persons involved in reported irregularities; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure transparency in finalisation of deals ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above questions does not arise.

(e) The following steps taken to ensure transparency:

(i) Wide publicity is given while inviting tenders, through leading newspapers.

(ii) Tenders are opened in the presence of vendors.

(iii) Tender conditions are scrupulously adhered to, while evaluating the tenders.

(iv) Tender evaluations are carried out by a duly constituted Tender Evaluation Committee.

Doordarshan/AIR Stations in Rajasthan

5361. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of All India Radio Station set up in Rajasthan so far, location-wise;

(b) the total percentage of the population covered under the AIR network till date;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to expand T.V. and AIR network in the State by upgrading the existing AIR and Doordarshan Centres and opening new Centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) At present, 16 Radio Stations located at Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Suratgarh, Kota, Alwar, Nagaur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Barmer, Sawal-madhopur, Churu, Jhalawar and Jaisalmer are functioning in the State of Rajasthan.

(b) Approx. 98.5% of population in the State of Rajasthan is covered by radio signals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Given in the statement attached,

Statement

Doordarshan		All India Radio
1	2	3
PPC	Udaipur	Mount Abu
HPT	Barmer (Pmt.) Jodhpur	Jodhpur
LPT	Hindaun	Jaipur

Name of the Unit & Location	Capacity (Lakh tpa)	Likely date of Commissioning	Remarks
1. Rajendra Steel Ltd. Raipur, M.P.	3.0	July, 1997	Part capacity commissioned.
2. Nova Steel (I) LTD. Bilaspur, M.P.	2.0	Mid 1997	—
3. Mahvika Steel Ltd. Jagdispur, U.P.	6.0	Dec., 1997	Part capacity commissioned.
4. Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Limited, Bellary, Karnataka	15.70	June, 1997 Dec., 1997 May, 1998 Sep., 1998	Plant being set up in phases/stages.
5. Southern Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. Salem, Tamil Nadu	2.20	March, 1998	
6. Ispat Industries Ltd. Raigad, Maharashtra	30.0	July, 1997 July, 1998	Plant being set up in phases/stages.

1	2	3
	Makrana	
	Tibi	
VLPT	Lalsot	
	Laxmangarh	
Legend : PPC—Programme Production Centre.		
HPT—High Power Transmitter.		
LPT—Low Power Transmitter.		
VLPT—Very Low Power Transmitter.		

Establishment of Steel Projects

5362. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether 8 new steel projects in the country are likely to go into production during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to establish more number of steel projects in different parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) According to information available from the All India Financial Institution, following steel plants are likely to be commissioned during the current financial year :—

(c) and (d) According to the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991 iron and steel industry has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted from the purview of compulsory licencing, except for certain locational restrictions. A new steel plant under the name and style of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited is being set up by MMTC Ltd., a Central PSU, jointly with IPICOL, a Government of Orissa Undertaking and MECON, a Central PSU, which is likely to be commissioned in October, 1999. The Union Government at present have no other proposal for establishment of new/green-field steel plants in the country.

Introduction of Summer Special Train

5363. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any summer special trains to Kerala from different directions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) A daily special between Chennai and Quilon and a biweekly special between Hyderabad and Cochin are running during this summer.

New Post Offices in Maharashtra

5364. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the number of proposals/recommendations received from Maharashtra to open post offices/Branch post offices; and

(b) the names of the places in Maharashtra where the Government propose to open new post offices/Branch post offices during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of proposals/recommendations received from Maharashtra to open Departmental Sub Post Offices and Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices is 18.

(b) It is proposed to open 3 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 35 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in Maharashtra during the Annual Plan, 1997-98 subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

Reduction of Quota in A.P. Express

5365. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the reservation quota for 3 Tier for Nagpur in Andhra Pradesh Express has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-con-

sider its decision to restore the Nagpur Quota in A.P. Express; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Due to provision of Secunderabad Terminal at Nagpur Reservation Office, the reservation quota available at Nagpur station in all classes by 2723 Andhra Pradesh Express has been merged with general quota available at Secunderabad PRS in order to give direct access to Nagpur Reservation Office with all the quotas on first-come-first-served basis.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Regional Language Films

5366. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any norms for telecasting Regional Language films on Doordarshan National Network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of award winning films telecast during each of the last five years; and

(d) the details of Assamese films telecast on DD network during the above period and the number of films pending clearance by DD and since when these are pending?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The eligibility criteria for telecast of Regional language films on the national network of Doordarshan is given in statement-I. The films are telecast alphabetically, language-wise by rotation. Preference is given to films which have won awards more recently.

(c) The details are given in statement-II.

(d) During the last five years, Doordarshan have telecast 20 Assamese feature films over national network and their year-wise details are given in statement-II.

At present three proposals of Assamese features films are pending with Doordarshan, and these films have tentatively been scheduled for telecast on 18/5/97, 27/7/97 and 5/10/97 respectively. All these proposals were received in Doordarshan in the year 1996.

Statement-I

Features films which fulfill any of the following criteria or have won any of the following national/state awards, as the case may be, only are considered for telecast on the national network of Doordarshan;

(i) National award for the Best or second Best

features film of the year (in all languages combined)

- (ii) Indira Gandhi Award for Best first film of a Director
- (iii) Award for best films providing popular and wholesome entertainment
- (iv) Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration
- (v) Best Film on Family Welfare
- (vi) Best film on other social issues such as prohibition, women and child welfare, anti-dowry, drug abuse etc.
- (vii) President's Award of 'Rajat Kamal' for the Best Feature Film in an Indian language/Dialect
- (viii) Films which have won the 'Certificate of Merit' in the National Film Festivals
- (ix) Entry in the Indian Panorama and Mainstream Sections of any International Film Festival of India/Filmotsav
- (x) State Government Award for the Best Feature Film
- (xi) State Government Award for Best Direction
- (xii) Films which have won any two State Government awards (other than those mentioned above)
- (xiii) Films which have celebrated Silver Jubilee (having run-continuously for 25 weeks) and carry 'U' certificate
- (xiv) Films which have won an award in any International Film Festival held abroad

Statement-II

Details of regional language films telecast over national network of Doordarshan during the period from January, 1992 to 31st December, 1996

Language of films	Number of films telecast				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Assamese	05	04	04	03	04
Bengali	25	08	08	05	04
Gujrati	04	04	04	03	05
Kannada	06	05	05	04	04
Konkani	Nil	01	Nil	01	Nil
Malayalam	08	05	03	04	05
Manipuri	04	02	01	01	02
Marathi	05	05	03	04	03
Nepali	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Oriya	05	06	04	04	02
Punjabi	05	06	01	02	01
Tamil	07	06	06	03	05
Telugu	07	03	05	06	02

Opening of Letters

5367. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the newsitems captioned "Big Brother IB is reading your foreign mail every day" and "IB's postal police violate every rule in the book" appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated March 20,21 1997 respectively;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the matter has since been taken up by him with the Ministry of Home Affairs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Depending on need, the operations relating to interception of mail are conducted by the Postal Research Centres (PRCs) for detecting Postal irregularities. The PRCs were first established during 1954-55 at some selected places with the concurrence of the Min. of Communication and the Min. of Home Affairs, as special cells of the Complaints Organisation of the DGP&T. The PRC operations are restricted to certain specific categories of mail in a few selected centres. The interception of mail is primarily in the interest of public safety and tranquility under the provisions of Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

A review of the PRC operations for the period 1992 to 1996 shows recovery of foreign currency worth approximately Rs. 58 lakhs and Indian currency amounting to Rs. 6,64,500/-; 13058 cases of seizure of pornographic/seditious material and several cases of recovery of narcotics.

Lossee by IA

5368. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Pilots who left the services of Indian Airlines during the last three years upto January 31, 1997 and the number of them who rejoined it; and

(b) whether there still exists shortage of pilots in Indian Airlines and if so, the steps taken to fill the gap?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 58 pilots left the services of Indian Airlines during the last three years upto 31st January, 1997. Out of these, 13 pilots have since rejoined the airline.

(b) No, Sir.

Modernisation/Expansion of ITI

5369. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise and expand Indian Telephone Industries Ltd;

(b) if so, the investment proposed to be made and source thereof; and

(c) the capacity proposed to be increased ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) M/s ITI Ltd. has proposed modernisation, induction of new products and some expansion during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) The proposed investment is estimated to be Rs. 325 crores. The Company has requested for budgetary support, which will be examined in consultation with other concerned departments.

(c) The Company proposes to expand the capacity of C-Dot Switching Equipment. Keeping in view the demand, the Company also proposes to add capacities for new products viz. New Terminal Equipment, Access products, new products in Microwave etc.

Mica Industry

5370. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for research and exploration work in Mica industries during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether proper utilisation of the above amount was made during the last three years of the plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof and amount spent on research and exploration work till December, 1996; and

(d) the details of the research and exploration work done for the development of Mica industries during the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) During the field seasons 1994-95 and 1995-96 (within VIII plan period) Geological Survey of India carried out regional surveys for mica pegmatite and associated mica and rare earth minerals in Nellore Schist belt north of Pennar River, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh and a total of Rs. 68,216/- (excluding salaries and allowances of the officials) was incurred.

In view of absence of new significant finds of Mica and other associated minerals, the investigation has been discontinued.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Coach Factory in Gujarat

5371. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up rail coach factory in Gujarat especially in Tribal area of Chhota Udaipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are two coach manufacturing units in Indian Railways, one at Chennai and one at Kapurthala. Each factory can manufacture about 1000 coaches per year. In addition there are two factories in the public sector that are capable of manufacturing coaches.

With the available coach manufacturing capacity in the country, there is, at present, no proposal to set up another coach manufacturing unit.

Railway Crossings in Uttar Pradesh

5372. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down unmanned Railway crossings in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the number of such Railway crossings proposed to be closed down ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 105 Nos.

[*English*]

Travel By Jawans From Jammu and Kashmir Region

5373. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of armed forces and Para-military personnel travel in trains from Jammu and Kashmir region;

(b) if so, the facilities provided by railways to them;

(c) whether these Jawans travel in unreserved coaches for 2-3 days continuously due to lackness of reservation facilities;

(d) if so, the number of places where reservation facilities are available in Jammu and Kashmir region for these Jawans;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide computerised reservation extension counters at Srinagar, Udhampur and Rajori to facilitate these Jawans;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government propose to start Army

Special Train at least twice a week to facilitate the movement of security personnel; and

(i) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be started;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Whenever there is movement of units on duty, railways run out Special Trains from Jammu as per requisition of military and para-military forces. In addition, separate reservation quota has been provided in various trains for the exclusive use of military personnel and at least one general second class compartment has been earmarked in all mail/express trains leaving Jammu Tawi Station for exclusive use of the military personnel. In addition, a monthly special train is run from Jammu to Delhi to facilitate clearance of military personnel going on leave. Some general accommodation has also been earmarked for CRPF/BSF personnel in important trains.

(c) The military personnel travel in reserved class as well as in unreserved coaches earmarked for them.

(d) to (g) Exclusive reservation quota is available for Defence personnel with MCO, Jammu. The excess demand of military personnel and the demand of paramilitary forces for reserved accommodation can be obtained by them from the Computerised Reservation Offices on First-come-first-served basis.

Computerised reservation facilities are available at Jammu Tawi Railway Station from where Jawans may make reservations. Jammu reservation office has been provided connectivity with the Systems of Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras alongwith Delhi System. Discussions are on with the Department of Posts, who is responsible for the operation of the computerised reservation office at Srinagar to accept travel vouchers tendered by the security forces. Due to lack of adequate infrastructure and staff, provision of these facilities is not being considered at Udhampur and Rajouri at present.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

5374. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post-offices proposed to be opened in Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98, district-wise;

(b) the number of post-offices out of the total number of proposed to be opened in Mohanlalganj constituency in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the details of the proposed locations ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) It is proposed to open 6 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 70 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the Annual Plan, 1997-98. The allocation of targets is done Postal Circle-wise and not district-wise. Post offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of targets and resources. The proposal is formulated whenever there is either a demand for post office or a justification for the same is felt during the course of day to day functioning. The proposal is then examined and only when it is found to be justified on the basis of the departmental norms of population, distance and Income Post Office is sanctioned subject to availability of resources.

[*English*]

Telephone Connections in Karnataka

5375. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Karnataka during the last six months;

(b) the number of telephone connections disconnected in the rural areas of Karnataka during the above period; district-wise;

(c) the details and reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide install tower type telephone connections in Karnataka particularly in Chikmagalur district; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of telephone connections provided in Karnataka during the October, 1996 to March, 1997 are as follows :—

Month	Number of Connections	
		Provided
October	1996	5871
November	1996	9984
December	1996	2234
January	1997	19478
February	1997	27959
March	1997	71598

(b) and (c) Information in this regard is being collected from the field units and the same will be placed on the table of the House.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It is proposed to provide about 200 tower type of telephone connections (Multi Access Radio Relay Sys-

tem) in Chikmagalur out of about 3000 connections proposed for Karnataka Telecom Circle for 1997-98.

Waiting List in Chikmagalur

5376. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that thousands of applicants are on the waiting list for telephone connections at various Telephone Exchanges under the Chikmagalur area district in Karnataka;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expand the exchanges and to clear the backlogs within short time?

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

(b) There are 102 exchanges in Chikmagalur Telecomm. District and the waiting list is 5046. The details are given in the statement attached.

(c) The entire Waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 98 subject to availability of resources.

Statement

Chikmagalur-Waiting List as on 31.03.97

S.No.	Name of Exchange	Type of Exchanges	Waiting List
1	2	3	4
1.	Addagadde	CDOT	50
2.	Ajjampura	CDOT	41
3.	Aldur	ECA+CDOT	190
4.	Amrulkapura	MILT	50
5.	Anoor	CDOT	61
6.	Antharagatta	MILT	23
7.	Arasinaguppe	MILT+CDOT	71
8.	Alligundi	MILT	19
9.	Avathi	MILT+CDOT	35
10.	Balahole	CDOT	40
11.	Balehonnur	NEAX	28
12.	Banakal	CDOT	114
13.	Bandigadi	CDOT	34
14.	Bararikatte	CDOT	81
15.	Begar	MILT	29
16.	Bettagere	CDOT	17
17.	Bidare	CDOT	16
18.	Birne	CDOT	12
19.	Bukkambudi	CDOT+MILT	23
20.	Chikmagalur	CDOT	600

1	2	3	4
21.	Chowlahiriyur	MILT	9
22.	Daradaballi	MILT	38
23.	Darakoppa	MILT	66
24.	Devonur	MILT	11
25.	Gadomeshwara	MILT	20
26.	Gonibeedu	CDOT	88
27.	Goodahalli	CDOT	29
28.	Gubgal	CDOT	38
29.	Gullanpe	CDOT	51
30.	Gutti	MILT	11
31.	Hanthur	CDOT	26
32.	Hariharapnra	CDOT+MILT	120
33.	Herur	MILT	49
34.	Hirabyle	CDOT	29
35.	Hirakbdige	CDOT	43
36.	Hiranallur	CDOT	9
37.	Hoorinahaklu	MILT	15
38.	Haranadu	MILT	8
39.	Hunaregatla	MILT	19
40.	Javali	CDOT	48
41.	Jayapura	CDOT	89
42.	Joldal	CDOT	47
43.	K.B. Hall	CDOT	45
44.	Kabbinahalli	CDOT	49
45.	Kachige	CDOT	63
46.	Kadna	CDOT+SBM	19
47.	Kalara	ECAx	143
48.	Kalasapura	MILT+MILT	45
49.	Kammardi	CDOT	133
50.	Kanathi	MILT	36
51.	Kelgna	CDOT	73
52.	Kemmanugundi	MILT	10
53.	Kesuvnamane	MILT	5
54.	Kigga	CDOT	41
55.	Koppa	CDOT+SBM	202
56.	Koranahalli	MILT	8
57.	Kudhir	MILT	12
58.	Kudregundi	CDOT	61
59.	Kundur	MILT	17
60.	Kunkanadu	MILT	24
61.	Lakkavalli	MILT+CDOT	10
62.	Lakya	MILT+MILT	20
63.	Lingadahalli	MILT+CDOT	30
64.	M.C. Halli	MILT	50
65.	Magundi	MILT	37

1	2	3	4
66.	Makonahalli	CDOT	20
67.	Mallondur	CDOT	68
68.	Malleswara	MILT+CDOT	112
69.	Maile	CDOT	46
70.	Mathigatta	MILT	34
71.	Melepal	MILT	24
72.	Mudigera	ILT+CDOT	79
73.	Mugularalli	MILT	26
74.	Muthinakoppa	MILT	53
75.	N.R. Pura	CDOT	128
76.	NMDC	CDOT	-
77.	Narve	CDOT	41
78.	Nemmar	CDOT	56
79.	Nidagatta	MILT	24
80.	Panahanahalli	CDOT	38
81.	Quard Hitlow	CDOT	32
82.	Pandaravalli	MILT	10
83.	Ramenahalli	MILT	31
84.	Rangenahalli	MILT+MILT	45
85.	S.G. Pat	CDOT	43
86.	Sakrayapatna	CDOT	23
87.	Sampigehatti	MILT	5
88.	Shanthigrama	CDOT	39
89.	Shanuvalli	MILT+CDOT	76
90.	Shillykoppa	CDOT	57
91.	Shivani	CDOT	50
92.	Siddaramutli	MILT	18
93.	Singatagera	MILT	41
94.	Siravare	CDOT	26
95.	Sringeri	ILT+CDOT	38
96.	Sunkasale	MILT	19
97.	Tarikera	ILT+CDOT	45
98.	Togarihankal	CDOT	12
99.	Uttameshwara	CDOT	97
100.	Vasbare	CDOT	18
101.	Yagati	CDOT	35
102.	Yellambalase	MILT	13
Total			5046

Programme Aaj Tak and Tonight

5377. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any consideration was paid to the informative and educative value of programmes like 'Aaj Tak' and 'Tonight' while squeezing out the Hindi news

programme Aaj Tak from prime time to late hours i.e. 10.00 p.m. and altogether squeezing out the English news update from the Doordarshan telecast;

(b) whether due consideration was also paid to the citizen's right to information; and

(c) if so, the reasons for shifting the Hindi news programme to late-night hours and squeezing out the English one altogether?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) The Hindi News Programme 'Aaj Tak' was shifted from the 9.30 p.m. slot to 10.00 p.m. slot keeping in view the overall programming requirement of Doordarshan including raising of more resources and countering a Hindi News Programme coming on a rival channel at the same time i.e. at 10.00 p.m. This shifting of time slot has not affected the popularity of the news programme.

Regarding the English news programme, 'The News Tonight', the producer informed Doordarshan that they had entered into an agreement with a foreign channel 'Star Plus' for producing similar news based programme. Doordarshan, therefore, had no option but to discontinue the programme.

Cellular Consortiums in India

5378. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether following the decision of Department of Telecommunications to charge upto rupees ten a minute on calls from fixed line to mobile phones from February 15, 1997, a number of foreign companies involved in a cellular consortiums in India are reviewing their involvement in this industry;

(b) if so, the details of such companies alongwith the details of disappointment expressed by them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No communication/notice has been received from any of the foreign companies in this regard.

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

[Translation]

Closure of Musabani Mines, Bihar

5379. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to close down the Musabani Mine of Chibasa district in Bihar;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of workers likely to be rendered jobless due to the closure of the mine;

(d) whether the Government propose to reopen this mine; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which production in the mine is likely to be commenced ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir:

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Postal System

5380. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to modernise the postal system so as to remove the mismanagement therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Modernisation of the postal system by induction of technology has been one of the objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan of the Department of Posts. This objective is being achieved through introduction of computer based technology in different areas of activities with specific emphasis on counter services.

The programmes of modernising the postal services are intended to provide :—

(a) More efficient and responsive counter services for the customer ;

(b) New value added services to meet the needs of identified customer groups, and

(c) Modern and clean work environment with better

ergonomics to raise employees morale and eliminate drudgery in work.

The specific programmes of mechanisation and modernisation formulated for this purpose are :—

- Introduction of computer based multi-purpose counter machines.
- Automatisation of mail processing in important large centres.
- Setting up of Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) network for speed transmission of money orders and provision of other value added services.
- Use of computers for Savings Bank, Post Life Insurance (PLI) and Speed Post Operations.
- Modernisation of the counter services and the front office through upgradation of work environment and improved customer facilities.
- Providing upgraded operational equipments in more in important offices to speed up work processes and eliminate drudgery of work.

The extent of achievements in the schemes for mechanisation and modernisation, the Plan outlay provided in the Eighth Five Year Plan for the purpose and the amounts utilised upto March, 31,1996 are indicated in statement-I, II and III respectively. During 1996-97, which is the last year of Eighth Plan Period, these programmes of modernisation were continued.

The Schemes introduced are being consolidated for wider coverage and optimal utilisation of resources in order to extend the benefit of technology to a large section of customers including those in the rural areas.

Statement-I

Physical achievement in the schemes during the first four years of the eighth plan period

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Target 8th Five Year Plan	Achievement as on 31.3.96 plan
1	2	3	4
1. Upgradation of Technology :			
a.	Installation of Multi-purpose counter machines	5000	2300
b.	Mechanisation of Mail handling	3	2
c.	Installation of VSAT network	75 (Stations)	61 (Stations)
d.	Modernisation of Post Offices	No specific Target Set	481

1	2	3	4
e.	Installation of Track and Trade system for Speed Post	-	2
f.	Electronic Franking Machine	-	40
g.	Machine made hand cancellor	25000	18000
h.	Stamp cancelling machine	No target set	255
2. Postal Life Insurance			
a.	Computerisation of PLI work in Circles	11	11
3. National Savings			
a.	Computerisation of counter operations in post offices	5 HOs	5HQOs
b.	Savings bank Control Organisation computerisation	No Target Set	107
4. Materials Management			
a.	Computerisation of Postal Store Depots	46	46

Statement-II

Plan outlay provided in the Eighth Five Year Plan 1992-97 for Mechanisation and Modernisation

Scheme	Eighth Plan Outlay (In Rs. Crores)
1. Upgradation of Technology	132.53
2. Postal Life Insurance	5.77
3. National Savings	2.50
4. Materials Management	4.90
Total	145.70

Statement-III

Funds utilised upto March 31, 1996 under various schemes of Mechanisation and Modernisation

Scheme	Expenditure upto 31.3.1996 (In Rs. Crores)
1. Upgradation of Technology	95.27
2. Postal Life Insurance	2.17
3. National Savings	0.98
4. Materials Management	1.76
Total	100.18

Schemes for Installing Telephone Facilities

5381. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had decided to launch a time-bound scheme for installing telephone facilities in all the villages of the country;

(b) if so, the targeted number of villages in which the telephone facilities have been provided during the last three years;

(c) whether the telephone facilities have been provided in the villages as per the targets fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the difference between the target fixed and target achieved during the above period and the target fixed for 1997-98 ?

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

(b) to (d) The details are given in the statement attached.

Statement

Year	Target	Achievement	Difference
1994-95	50000	47659	2341
1995-96	105000	31496	73504
1996-97	75000	56719	18281
1997-98	83000		

*[English]***Target Fixed for Rural Telephone Facility**

5382. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

Statement**Status of telephone exchanges (Trichur SSA)**

S. No.	Name of Exchange	Capacity	DELS W/L	Total	Date of Release
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Alagappanagar	3000	2596	1307	12-5-95
2.	Annamanada	1000	828	550	12-03-96
3.	Arangottukara	184	179	381	19-9-91
4.	Ayyanthola	3000	2621	747	09-10-95
5.	Chalakudy UI	3000	3390	1947	30-09-95

(a) the targets were fixed for the extension of telephone facility in the rural areas of the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the total actual number of villages which were provided telephone facility at the end of the plan; and

(c) the number of villages having telephone facility during the beginning year of the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The target fixed for the Eighth Plan period was 3.38 lakhs Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(b) Total 1.934 lakhs villages have been provided with telephone facilities during the end of Eighth Plan.

(c) Total 74,404 villages were having the Telephone facilities at the beginning of the Eighth Plan.

Waiting List for Telephones in Trichur District

5383. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the waiting lists position of the demand for new telephone connections in different exchanges in Trichur district of Kerala and the date upto which the waiting lists has been cleared in each exchange; and

(b) the steps being taken to clear the waiting lists in each of these exchanges speedily ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Waiting list position and date of clearance of waiting list of each of telephone exchange in Trichur District is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) It is proposed to expand the telephone exchanges in Trichur District by about 50,000 lines to clear the waiting list at least up to 31.3.95 in all exchanges by 31.03.98 and the remaining progressively in subsequent years subject to availability of resources.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Chalakydy Ull	2000	0	0	30-09-95
7.	Chazhoor	1000	977	671	23-12-97
8.	Chelakkara	1000	915	518	21-07-95
9.	Cherpu	3000	2804	1434	31-07-95
10.	Chowghat	3000	2875	1921	23-08-95
11.	Changanore	4500	3827	3068	18-11-92
12.	Elanad	184	135	207	02-07-92
13.	Chandiyoor	1000	964	996	12-03-93
14.	Edumapetty	384	377	917	11-08-92
15.	Guruvayur	5000	3710	1665	24-12-94
16.	Irinjalakuda	4152	3879	2950	31-12-92
17.	Kadappuram	420	380	606	30-11-92
18.	Kandassankadavu	3500	3481	1813	31-07-95
19.	Kannara	568	316	1090	25-03-90
20.	Kattakampal	1000	933	629	31-01-96
21.	Kattoor	1000	1027	2853	14-06-98
22.	Kacheri	1000	912	571	22-04-95
23.	Kodakara	1400	1341	1384	14-02-95
24.	Kondazhy	160	150	252	26-08-92
25.	Koratty	770	709	1282	18-10-90
26.	Kunnamkulam	5000	4568	2380	30-06-95
27.	Kurichikkara	344	288	290	31-08-92
28.	Mala	2500	1940	2140	20-04-95
29.	Kuzhoor	160	158	526	13-04-91
30.	Munnuthy	2500	2243	958	17-01-96
31.	Matton	200	188	833	15-08-96
32.	Moorkanad (ICR)	552	531	563	15-02-95
33.	Nelamkunnathukavu	1200	1148	1282	21-09-92
34.	Mullurkara-Panjai	160	158	498	27-01-96
35.	Nundur-Cochin	1500	1399	1083	31-12-93
36.	Ollur	4000	3667	1016	24-11-95
37.	Parappur	344	322	716	24-09-90
38.	Pariyaram	192	190	729	05-02-90
39.	Pazhayannur	192	190	445	21-03-91
40.	Perinnanam	1400	1239	3109	30-08-90
41.	Perumplavu	384	374	639	27-05-91
42.	Poovathur	3000	1318	910	08-05-96

1	2	3	4	5	6
43.	Punnayurkulam	1000	586	2650	09-08-88
44.	Seronarayanapuram	1000	904	918	30-04-93
45.	TRC-Poonkunnam	3000	2894	168	15-02-96
46.	TRC-Trichur UI	14000	11545	2479	10-03-96
47.	TRC-Trichur UII	8000	7379	276	02-12-96
48.	Tiruvilwamala	384	300	400	07-04-92
49.	Vadakkanchery CN	1416	1368	1520	15-04-93
50.	Valappad	4000	3235	771	01-07-96
51.	Vallakunnu	680	613	488	30-12-94
52.	Varandarapilly	568	519	461	10-08-92
53.	Vallangallui	684	663	2305	06-07-88
54.	Vallikulangara	720	598	648	29-06-95
55.	Valur-Cochin	160	154	591	12-03-92
56.	Vankitangu	1000	755	560	17-11-95
57.	Vattilapparu	80	71	177	11-03-93
Total		105572	90851	62283	

Target for Electronic Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh

5384. SHRI SUNDER PATWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target for installation of electronic exchanges in Madhya Pradesh has been achieved;

(b) if not, the places where the work is being delayed and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of places where the Government have decided to install electronic exchanges during 1997?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. The overall target for installation of exchanges for Madhya Pradesh has been achieved. However due to non receipt and late receipt of equipment, exchanges mentioned in the statement attached could not be completed.

(c) The names of places where electronic exchanges in Madhya Pradesh are to be installed during 1997 have not yet been finalised, sir.

Statement

List of places where major exchanges not commissioned during 1996-97 due to non receipt and late receipt of equipment

1. Raigarh
2. Itarsi

3. Ganjbasoda
4. Rajanadgaon (Expansion)
5. Chhindwara (Expansion)
6. Guna (Expansion)
7. Bilaspur
8. Ujjain

[Translation]

Delay in Distribution of Money Orders

5385. SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted an enquiry in regard to the delay caused in the distribution of money orders;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise

(c) whether the department has initiated disciplinary action against the guilty employees;

(d) if so, the out come thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Money Orders are mostly paid in time. Complaints about delay in payment of Money Orders, which constitute about 0.1% of the total Money Order traffic, are enquired into immediately.

(b) During the month of June, 1996 to August, 1996 a special drive was launched and duplicate Money Orders were issued in 90% of the cases in which Money Orders had not been paid. The details of the complaints enquired into during the year 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 are given below:

Circle	Number of complaints received and enquired into		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Assam	6003	4102	4931
Andhra	15748	13674	18700
Bihar	6833	6805	6730
Delhi	27268	26900	32437
Gujarat	10782	13482	14399
Haryana	6376	5846	5878
Himachal	1593	1646	2300
J&K	1551	1611	1030
Karnataka	15045	18512	21775
Kerala	4907	5646	5011
M.P.	14417	16202	16629
Maharashtra	36079	43592	49699
North-East	8412	8579	8689
Orissa	4432	4981	4337
Punjab	15081	14857	14500
Rajasthan	5606	5888	6618
Tamil Nadu	13332	15566	14963
U.P.	22989	32217	29276
W. Bengal	24270	26158	27450
Army Base P O	1427	978	1608
	242139	267242	286960

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 appropriate penal action was taken against 117, 210 and 185, officials respectively who were at fault.

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

Facilities to Consumers

5386. KUMARI UMA BHARATI:

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide an innovative facility to the telephone subscribers who do not have the STD facility, under which the subscribers would be able to make a call in any city or town falling within the jurisdiction of their district even without having the STD facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such telephone service is likely to be provided ?

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

(b) By dialling code "90" a subscriber without having STD facility (National Subscriber Dialling) can have access to any other subscriber within the Long Distance Charging Area (which consists of one or more revenue districts).

(c) The service shall be introduced in a phased manner after technical validation is completed.

Post Offices in Panchayat Hqrs.

5387. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether announcement of opening post offices in various Panchayat Headquarters in Giridih and Kodarma districts of Bihar was made by the Government;

(b) if so, the places where these post offices were proposed to be opened;

(c) the places in the above districts where post offices have been opened; and

(d) the time by which post offices are likely to be opened in the remaining places of the state ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) During the last three years one Extra Departmental Post Office at Ratan Bahiar in Giridih was opened.

(d) Post Offices are opened on norm based justification subject to availability of resources. The policy of department is to give preference to Gram Panchayat Headquarter villages for the purpose of opening post office. There is a target of opening 5 Departmental Sub Offices and 40 Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices in Bihar.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification Under Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 214(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 1997 making certain amendments to the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, issued under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the said Act.

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 215(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 1997 making certain amendments to the Third Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, issued under sub-section (2) of section 9A of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1895/97]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1896/97]

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1897/97]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(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 1898/97]

(5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Sponge Iron India Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1899/97]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1900/97]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1901/97]

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the MSTC Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1902/97]

(v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1903/97]

(vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1904/97]

(vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1905/97]

(viii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Manganese Ore (India) Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1906/97]

(ix) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Aluminium Company Limited and Ministry of Mines for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1907/97]

(x) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Copper Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1908/97]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 69(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 1997 directing that the powers exercisable by the Central Government in respect of minerals specified in First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 shall be exercisable by the concerned State Government with immediate effect, issued under sub-sections (2) of section 7 and 8 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1909/97]

Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the Year March, 1996 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution:-

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 1 of 1997)—for the year ended the 31st March, 1996 (Accounts of the Union Government) (Civil).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1910/97]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 9 of 1997) for the year ended the 31st March, 1996 (Railways).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1911/97]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 2 of 1997) for the year ended the 31st March, 1996 (Civil).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1912/97]

- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 3 of 1997) for the year ended the 31st March, 1996—Performance Reviews of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Civil).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1913/97]

- (v) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 4 of 1997) for the year ended the 31st March, 1996 (Other Autonomous Bodies).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1914/97]

- (2) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts (Union Government) Civil for the year 1995-96 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1915/97]

- (3) A copy of the Finance Accounts (Union Government) for the year 1995-96 (Hindi and English Versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1916/97]

- (4) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Indian Railways, for the year 1995-96, Part-I Review (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1917/97]

- (5) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Indian Railways for the year 1995-96, Part-II-Detailed Appropriation Accounts (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1918/97]

- (6) A copy of the Block Accounts (including Capital Statements comprising the Loan Accounts), Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts of Indian Government, Railways, for the year 1995-96 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1919/97]

Notifications Under Railway Protection Force Act 1957, Review and Annual Report of the Indian Finance Corporations Ltd., New Delhi for the year 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Railway Protection Force (Second Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 151(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1997, under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1920/97]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1921/97]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1922/97]

- (4) A copy of the Railway Passengers (cancellation of tickets and refund of fares) Amendment Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. (G.S.R. 201 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1997 under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1923/97]

Notification under Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 240(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/94-CE (N.T.) dated the 1st March, 1994 so as to restrict the credit of input duties on specified price administered petroleum products to the extent of the amount of duty actually passed on to the buyers, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1924/97]

12.04 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE: REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL-EXTENSION OF TIME

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCHBEHAR): I beg to move:

"That this House do extend further upto the last day of the last week of Monsoon Session, 1997, the time for presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi community in the list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Assam (excluding autonomous districts)."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do extend further upto the last day of the last week of Monsoon Session, 1997, the time for presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi commu-

nity in the list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Assam, (excluding autonomous districts)."

The motion was adopted.

—————
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of our colleagues Smt. Bhagvati Devi is sitting outside on Dharna ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody will get chance one by one. If all of you Stand simultaneously, nobody will get the chance.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody will get a chance, if you speak one by one. I have called Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of our colleagues is sitting outside on Dharna. She should be heard atleast.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you sit down, you will get chance.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (FEROZABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a notice of privilege. Hon'ble Speaker has given time for today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please tell what is this notice about.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir you have called Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is regarding privilege motion on which the hon. Member has given notice for and the notice of privilege takes precedent over other things. Therefore, I am giving him a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this house is custodian of our rights and for that purpose

there is a tradition in Lok Sabha under the procedure of law of the Constitution. As per this tradition I would like to refer my issue to Committee on Privilege.

Mr. Chairman, Sir through you, I would like to submit that on 17th Feb. my family members—my elder brother's son i.e. my nephew, a cousin of mine who is the son of my father's sister, all three persons were kidnapped. I raised the matter in a most dignified manner from 17th Feb to 4th March. I am a public servant in which capacity I can raise the issue of my family. I raised my issue in this house on 4th March. At that time Hon'ble Speaker was in the Chair. Hon'ble Speaker gave his ruling to the Parliamentary Minister, Sh. Srikant Jena and Home Minister that the detailed information in regard to the kidnapping of my family members be furnished to the house. ...*(Interruptions)*

I request my friend Sh. Ram Vilas Paswan ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions and cross-talk at all, please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir Paswanji is my friend. Earlier when he used to sit beside me he used to espouse the cause of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people anywhere on earth. Does his heart not go out in sympathy with them today or he has lost his conscience....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Is he bringing privilege motion or asking reply from me?

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hope, Hon'ble Minister will agree with me but please do allow me to say something....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Come to the main point. Do not make a prelude.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Speaker gave the ruling on 4th march but after that nothing has taken place. Thereafter I again raised the issue in the house on 12th March....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the subject matter of your privilege motion ?

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : I am coming to that. On 12th March Hon'ble Deputy Speaker was in the Chair. He gave his ruling in which he said that the situation is said to be out of the control but in the case of Uttar Pradesh and Prabhu Dayal Katheria it has become even worse.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM SAGAR (BARABANKI): You should talk of

dismissing the Uttar Pradesh Government....*(Interruption)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sit down. Something terrible has happened with the Hon'ble Member, and it should not be mocked at.

Katheriaji, you should also not deviate from the point.

[English]

Do not beat about the bush. Come to the point.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : On 12th March, when I did not get any information in this regard, with heavy heart I made a submission in the House that... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Treasury Benches may please pay attention. There should be no cross talk.

[Translation]

You are making a fun. Hon'ble member is our colleague. Three members of his family have been kidnapped and you are making a fun of it. It is really very disheartening.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : On 12th March with a heavy heart I had submitted in the house that if the Government of India do not provide information in this regard to the house within four days, I will commit suicide in the house.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please tell the subject matter of your privilege motion.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir this matter has gone to the entire country through the newspapers and television, BBC London had also broadcast it. The whole world came to know about Hindustan that has not only lowered my dignity but that of the House also. This news has gone out to the world that a Member of Parliament of India is going to commit suicide in Lok Sabha as his case has not been solved.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not give you more time. You come to your privilege motion.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Now I am coming to my privilege motion. On 20th March Hon'ble Home Minister told me that this case had been referred to CBI. I visited Home Ministry several times from 20th to 29th to know what CBI had done about my family members, whether the case has been referred or not. I must know about it. Thereafter when I met Joginder Singh, Director of CBI, he told me that the case had been registered on 29th. I have documents about it and I have attached them with my privilege notice. The CBI says that the case has been registered on 29th while the Home Minister says that the case has been referred to CBI on 20th. Is it not contempt of the House that the case of a Member of

[Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria]

Parliament has been referred to CBI after 40 days?(Interruptions) It is our allegation that there is a difference of 39 days in it. After all why is it so? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : So far as I have understood it you have submitted that on 20th Feb. Home Ministry wrote a letter to the CBI to conduct investigation about your case. Then why are you blaming the Home Ministry? So far as my knowledge goes they had referred your case on 20th.

[English]

I may be corrected if I am Wrong.

[Translation]

CBI can not take over the case until the State Government is pleased to hand it over. Until the State Government grants its permission and sends its request, the CBI can not take up the case just on the orders from the Home Ministry.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Bhandari has written to the Government of India that he is referring the case.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Has the Governor granted permission ?

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Yes, Sir, he has given permission in writing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just now Atalji said that the Governor of Uttar Pradesh had granted permission and the CBI has registered the case and initiated enquiry into it.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir how can the difference of 39 days be explained?

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a previous occasion also this matter was raised. We totally share the feelings of the hon. colleague. The hon. Speaker then said that the Government should ask for the report from the U.P. Government. That report must be brought to this House because everybody is concerned with what has happened to the hon. Member. So, this Government must get the report from the Uttar Pradesh Government and should tell the House as to how all these things have happened. It is because we were told that the Central Government would get a report from the Uttar Pradesh Government and would certainly look into the matter. The Central Government must now assure us that they would get the report from the U.P. Government and tell the House as to how all this has happened. The hon. Member is raising this matter almost everyday and we feel bad about it. How long would be continue listening to such feelings of our colleague ? So, this Government must assure us as to what is the report of the U.P. Government; the status of the whole case and how it all has happened. The House has the privilege to know about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request somebody from the

Government side to react to whatever has been said now.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Sir, let me clarify the position though I am not equipped with all the information of the case. So far as the case of the hon. Member is concerned, the Home Minister had made a statement after ascertaining the facts from the U.P. Government. A detailed statement in this regard was given in this House itself and subsequently...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you mean that the statement that Shri Rajesh Pilot has been referring to has already been presented in this House ?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Yes, Sir.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : No, no. We want to complete report of the whole case.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, a detailed statement had been made by the Home Minister and after that the case has been referred to the CBI for investigation and the CBI is already investigating the case. As has been pointed out by the hon. Member and as all of us know that nothing could be done till the case has been registered. If there is any other development in this regard, I would request the hon. Home Minister to make a statement.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : That is right.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, we are interested in protecting the hon. Member in any manner possible.

(Translation)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAEE (LUCKNOW) : Mr. Chairman, Sir the complaint of the Hon'ble Member is that despite the announcement to conduct CBI enquiry in this matter the delay has been made in taking over the case by the CBI not in receiving the report from Uttar Pradesh Government. Hon'ble Home Minister had made a statement here. As per that statement when the case was referred to CBI they have not started the enquiry as quickly as they should have and hence the Hon'ble Member is making complaint. Hon'ble Home Minister should clear the position in the House in this regard...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, it has been stated by the hon. Member that the matter was referred by the Home Minister to the CBI on the 20th and the CBI registered the case on the 29th...

MR. CHAIRMAN : But that was done on the 29th March, 1997.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, naturally only after the case was referred to the CBI and CBI took cognizance and registered the case, the investigation started. I would ascertain the facts from the Home Minister and find out as to whether the case is being investigated expeditiously or not...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (KANGRA) : Sir, there is a delay in the implementation of the direction given by the Chair. That is the point... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, all sections of the House appear to be deeply concerned about this matter and as has been suggested by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I would like to request the Government to ask the Home Minister to make a detailed statement after getting the report from the U.P. Government, as has been suggested by Shri Rajesh Pilot. In addition to that, the hon. Speaker has informed me that he is actively pursuing the case of this privilege motion. So, at present we would leave it at that.

12.15 hrs.

[English]

REGULARISATION OF OUT-OF-TURN
ALLOTMENT OF ACCOMMODATION TO
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : Sir, today I am raising a humanitarian issue with which all sections of the House are aware. A large number of Class III and IV employees of the Central Government, as also Doctors, Superintendents and other Central Government employees are under eviction order of the Supreme Court on out-of-turn allotment. Unfortunately, this particular issue has been tagged up by the hon. Supreme Court with the issue of allotment of petrol pumps and other houses to the civilians. All political Parties have taken up this issue with the Government and have requested that since these Government employees have no alternate accommodation, their allotment should be regularised and they should be allowed to stay at those particular places.

In the last two days when they held a demonstration outside the Parliament House and another demonstration was held yesterday outside the residence of the hon. Speaker This issue needs to be considered by the Government.

As per the newspaper report, in my opinion there are two alternatives. As has happened in the case of Aquaculture where we have come out with a Bill, if there is a scope for the Supreme Court to review this case, the matter should be kept pending till that petition is disposed of. They should not be evicted.

There was an all Party meeting with the then Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda and the Government agreed to introduce a Bill to regularise these allotments. Just now Shri Vajpayee has said that some other Government servants are also in queue, because if these are vacated they will get them. They are also objecting that it should not be done. Their views also should be taken into consideration and some solution should be found out. Through you I appeal to all sections of the House to take up this cause with the Government and the Government should react on it.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir you please listen my one request. Whatever decision is taken by the House, I follow that. I request that a statement in this regard should be laid on the Table of the House before its adjournment. The House should be informed about the decision taken on my privilege motion. This is my request.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government should seek report from the U.P. Government as Rajesh Pilotji has said, I do not know whether the report from U.P. has been received or not but there will be no use of making incomplete statement here. Therefore, report from the U.P. Government should be sought immediately and as soon as the same is received, the Home Minister should come out with his statement.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Report from U.P. Government has been received but I request that before the House is adjourned the Government should come out with the statement.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (SOUTH DELHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir the issue which has just been raised by Sontosh Mohan Devji in the House affects the people belonging to my Constituency the most. Therefore, I rise to voice their pains. I understand the dilemma of the Government that it is feeling helpless before the ruling of the Supreme Court but I would like to submit that the Government are not facing this type of dilemma and helplessness for the first time. In many other cases the Government have come across similar dilemma and found a way out of it. If I may cite an example, during this session itself when the Supreme Court gave its ruling regarding aqua-culture Hon'ble Law Minister is present here the issue pertained to his area, the Government found a way out and a Bill was brought forward in the House to provide relief to the affected people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir this issue started from cheating and has now become a matter of sympathy. Through you, I would like to urge the Government that it should issue directives to the effect that the instructions of the Supreme Court would be strictly complied with and if out of turn accommodation will not be allotted to any one, people who are in queue and waiting for accommodation would have a sigh of relief and injustice will not be done towards them in view of the instructions of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Chairman, Sir if the people who have already got accommodation are rendered homeless in order to provide accommodation to the needy people, we would come in the grip of another problem while finding out the solution of this problem. Therefore being a people's representative, I am presenting a mercy petition to the Government so as to prevent them from being rendered homeless. I request the Government to accept this appeal for mercy from them and issue strong directives to the effect that out of turn allotment would not be made to anyone as a result of which both parties would be benefited thereby.

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am making this appeal to the Government through you. If the Government convene the meeting of all parties leaders the representative of our party would participate in that meeting and express views of our party but I am putting this appeal for mercy to the Government, through you, on behalf of all the affected people and I not only believe but I am sure also that the Government would take appropriate action in this regard considering it as a sensitive issue. Thank you very much.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (MADHEPURA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir the question which has been raised by Sontosh Mohan Devji is related to the employees of class four, three and two who are being rendered homeless. These employees met me also. This matter is a humanitarian one. I agree with Sushmaji. Accommodation should be allotted under the rules and regulations. I fully share the feelings of both the members and I would like to submit that as the Government has found the way out by bringing forward a Bill after the judgement of the Supreme Court regarding the aquaculture, in the same way it should find a way out for these people and also streamline the law in this regard. Employees belonging to higher category will manage to get accommodations for themselves somehow or the other and will salvage their situation but the employees of lower categories who are poor and are running from pillar to post and have demonstrated here, how can people of these categories save their accommodation, is the questions facing them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir I would like to submit that matters pertaining to justice to people are not discussed in this House. The people of bird catchers' community are living in this country for thousands of years and are earning their livelihood.

The love with which pet animals and birds like ox, cow, parrot, sparrow, pigeon etc. are reared in this country cannot find a parallel anywhere in the world but some environmental activists, under the influence of European thought are trying to deprive thousands of such people from their livelihood. In this country cat, dog and other animals and birds are associated with the life of man.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have high regards for Court. I would like that it works more effectively but the present state of affairs the country is all too obvious i.e. even the Court's conduct is not beyond reproach. Recently a verdict has been given, Shri Atalji I am not saying anything which may be inimical to you. After a verdict of the court, the straw machines in the entire Uttar Pradesh have been banned ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, You should conclude now as many other Members want to speak. Please conclude now you have made your point.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Chairman Sir, Hon'ble Shri Sharad Yadav was speaking but you asked him to sit down....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not asked him to sit down. He has made his point. I had requested him to make his point and sit down, when he does not want to speak any more how can I force him to speak.....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : No, Sir, he was speaking but you asked him to sit down(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not asked him to sit down. I have only asked him to conclude as he has made his point. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This sort of bullying will not be allowed. I just requested him if he does not want to speak then how can I force him to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot hold the House to ransom.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I had made a request to him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : We shall keep standing till then....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot hold the House to ransom. I have called Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. You please sit down. Only one Member can speak.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If five Members try to speak simultaneously it won't help.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAAF FATMI (DARBHANGA) : Mr. Chairman the way you are handling the things is not proper.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. Switch off the Cameras.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you all stand up and speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAAF FATMI : The way you are handling the things is also not proper ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : What are you talking about ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sharad Yadavji, you are a very senior member. If you respect the Chair in this manner then, things will go this way only.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : What are you talking about ... (Interruptions) I am asking them to sit down, and you are provoking them ... (Interruptions)

12.26 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraaf Fatmi and some other honourable Members came and sat on the floor near the Table)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All are selfish lot and nobody cares about the poor.... (Interruptions)

12.27 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraaf Fatmi and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : Sir, thank you. Shri Sharad Yadav also asked me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not know whether Shri Sharad Yadav has asked you to speak or not. But from the Chair, I have asked you to speak.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Thank you. I also wanted to tell this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I gave him a chance. He sat down voluntarily.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : The main point is that in this melee let not the principal question be drowned. It is because not only women employees but thousands of wives of employees also are constantly coming to us.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAAF FATMI : Here issues concerning the elite are being raised and nobody is talking about the poor.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : This is not something relating to upper class people but it concerns with middle class employees or fourth class employees. Are the fourth class people Birlas and Tatas ? What are you saying?

[English]

I do not agree with that idea.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not worry about the interruptions. Kindly address the Chair. You can make your point. Do not react to the interruptions.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I will address you straight and nobody else. So, Sir, through you, I would request the Government immediately to go to the court and see to it that these people get some space because space is there. They have given us the figures. How much space is available now ? They will be on the streets without any fault of theirs.

So, let that not happen. This is all, I would like to say. I hope everyone of us will agree and the House will make this suggestion unanimously.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I want to make one request only that the issue of bird fancier is important one as thousand of people are faced with loss of their jobs on account of that therefore, you should allow at least one Member to speak on it... (Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The issue at this stage is that the Central Government.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not interrupt. This not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request the Chief Whip of the Party to control the Members.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : My second request is that

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

after this question she should also get a chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sharadji, You are an experienced Parliamentarian. At present, the issue before the House raised by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is relating to the Central Government employees.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may please speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can not speak such a thing in between. Let one issue be completed. You can not hold the House to ransom in this manner.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : My only request to you is that after this issue, that question also relates to this Government. I would not speak on it, he will speak on it. I was referring to some court cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would strictly go by the list given to me by the Hon' Speaker for allowing to raise the issue during the Zero Hour.

If there is some other important issue, I will take it up provided time is available but if you try to bulldoze me to throw away the list given to me by Hon' Speaker, I am never going to succumb to such tactics. You are free to create melee.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY) : Sir, I share the concern expressed by some of my esteemed colleagues. We are all aware of the developments leading to the verdict of the Supreme Court. There have been cases of malpractices, irregularities and serious lapses on the basis of which, the Court had to intervene.

In the past also, we have seen that the worst victims had been the people at the bottom. Here we find that the Central Government employees, particularly those belonging to the lower strata, that is, Groups C&D employees and some others have been approaching us that they are facing very very serious situation. They are being thrown to the streets as it has happened in some cases some time in the past also.

We shall appeal to the Government to judge the whole issue without taking any lenient view about the serious offences that have already taken place but to take a humanitarian view regarding the poorer sections of the people, lower, middle class people, particularly Central Government employees who are being threatened to be ousted to the streets. My appeal will be that the Government should take urgent steps to make necessary intervention at the appropriate level to provide them necessary relief.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Gentlemen, I think, all sections of the House appear to have agreed on this matter. I would request the Government to react.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the issue which has been raised, is important has been pending for months together. As many as 2,500 Government employees which means 2500 families are likely to be rendered homeless. Those employees who got Government accommodation did not do any burgling and the investigations are being conducted against those who committed irregularities in this regard. The employees got the accommodations as per the rules as the discretionary allotment was part of the rules and after the Supreme Court's verdict, this rule will be scrapped is altogether a different matter. Why are the employees being punished? As far as the issue of accommodation is concerned, I have been told that thousands of G.D.A. flats are lying vacant and have not been allotted anybody for several months. The Government may talk to the U.P. Govt. for acquiring these flats and these flats could be allotted to those employees whose claim for the accommodation is pending. The Government should act a little imaginary and should be sensitive to the issue. Mr. Chairman Sir, please ask the Law Minister to say something on this issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : In all sections of the House, there appears to be a consensus on this issue. Therefore I would request the Government to react to this.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Sir, the House knows this fact and last time also this issue came up in the House. There was an objection from one section of the House to the discretionary quota that had been exercised by the previous Government, which has now been scrapped by the Supreme Court and whether it can be possible to regularise it by another law, which can be brought in this House. The Government had an open mind to that.

If there is a consensus among all the political parties, what I would suggest is that an all party meeting can be called and formally it will be discussed threadbare. The Supreme Court has taken a decision and a direction has been given to the Government therefore, the Government is open on this issue and will call an all party meeting. Whatever will be the consensus, the Government will proceed accordingly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, if you say that there is a positive order from the Supreme Court on this issue, would the Law Minister like to react to it ?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : There is a direction from the Supreme Court to evict those employees.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How will then an all party meeting help ?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : The regularisation has to be there and the regularisation is possible by another law only.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : Last time when this was the view of all the parties, Government issued show cause notice and all that. Today, you have got the view of the House. Then why another meeting ? The Government can take appropriate action. I would request the hon. Minister not to confuse the issue any more.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Sir, we wanted to differentiate the discretionary quota for petrol pumps and other things to that of accommodation. That was the feeling of the House. I would request the Government not to mix it up. The whole confusion was there because of that. These two categories should be separated. If somebody got a petrol pump... *(Interruptions)* we are not interested in that ...*(Interruptions)* That is what we are saying. We are saying that keep petrol pumps and other allocations out of this....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rajeshji, I think this can be discussed in the all party meeting; this is the way out.

Now, I think, our friends this side are feeling very agitated on a certain point, I give them two minutes to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman Sir, thanks a lot for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

It is quite regrettable that some castes in India have been assigned a particular job for thousand of years and Nuskar is one such caste which makes their living by catching small birds but unfortunately it has been banned in and around Delhi. I would like to say that thousands of people belonging to this caste live in my constituency which are called Bahelia (birdman) in Hindi and in Urdu they are called Nuskar. One of our female Members Shrimati Bhagwati Devi who hails from a very poor family, is sitting on Dharna on the main gate of Parliament. We had told her that we shall put this issue before the Government. Thousands of people belonging to this caste live in this country. It is an issue of their livelihood. They have been sitting on Dharna at Jantar-Mantar for last one year.

Since they are poor lot, nobody is bothered about them. American and European culture is being brought into India in the name of environment and many other names.

MR. CHAIRMAN (COL. RAO RAM SINGH) : What is your suggestion ?

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAAF FATMI : My suggestion is that the law in this regard should be amended.

Even the small love birds such as Parrots-Myna which are also pet birds and means of their livelihood have also been brought into the ambit of environment. Now these people can not catch or sell these birds as a result of which these people have been rendered jobless. I would request the Government to make suitable amendments in this law to enable them to continue this job for their livelihood.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : There was unanimous approach on this issue. Through you I appeal to all the Members of this House that the lakhs of people called Bahelias who are engaged in this job of catching the birds to make both ends meet, should be allowed to earn their livelihood by making necessary amendment to the law. They are no-mads. It should be noted that their business depends on it. They are about 2-3 crores in the country. I would like to submit that environment is an essential thing. There are many birds and animals, which are our friends. We rear cows, goats, camels and oxen which are useful to our agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The views of other sections should also be heard in the House.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The profession of various people is linked with it. The woman Member of Parliament sitting outside on dharna is a stone breaker and has been pursuing this issue for the last one year. Therefore the entire House should ponder over it.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (CHANDNI CHOWK-DELHI) : The decision, which has come today regarding the Delhi Rent Control Act is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You want to speak on this issue. I am calling hon. Members to speak on a different subject. Shri Nitish Kumar.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL (KHEDA) : What is this going on, I have been raising this issue for the last three days but I am not given time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get time now.

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL (GODHRA) : When will it be given ? Everyone is being called. If I am not allowed to raise in issue related to my Constituency I am going out. I have not been given time, while my name is there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way to talk.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Then what should I do ? If you say, I will go out....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Nitish Kumarii. Nitishji, please speak.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (JHABUA) : If the leaders only speak on the issue, how others will speak. Please call others also.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : If all the friends express their

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

views on one point only then zero hour will lose its importance.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree with you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Our colleagues have given their names. I think they should be called if they had given their names.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : That is okay. You may call them afterwards.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call them.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : But I will call them strictly according to the list given by the hon. Speaker. I will not call anybody who shouts like that.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please get me the reply...*(Interruptions)*... Or ask him to give an assurance...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. There will be no reply.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (KANGRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Himachal Pradesh, we are having some floods. We are having incessant rains and the entire crop has been damaged. The fruits have been perished. There are no seed takers for potato. We are in a great agony and anguish. The whole of Himachal Pradesh is reeling under flood. Eighty-five per cent of the Himachal Pradesh region is dependent on horticulture and agriculture...*(Interruptions)* Please let me speak. Eighty-Five per cent of the agriculturists are in problem.

[Translation]

Let me speak. You are from my party...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

My request to the Central Government through you is that from the Ministry of Agriculture a team should be despatched immediately to survey the losses and immediate steps should be taken to give relief to the farmers. We are in a great trouble. We are a poor State and we

are totally in anguish and in agony. Our farmers' backbone has been broken. Sir, we request you that immediate steps should be taken.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (JADAVPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I draw the attention of the agitated Members of the House to a different problem altogether? I want to draw the attention of the House to the handling of wheat vessels which carry imported wheat from Australia, Canada and other countries through different ports of India ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : The Food Corporation of India had decided in a meeting in December 1996 the quantum of imported wheat to be handled by different ports of India. Calcutta and Haldia were allotted 60,000 metric tonnes of wheat. Calcutta Port has a Silo Plant which is unique in Asia. This plant makes unloading of bulk of wheat easy and smooth. The plant was kept in readiness in expectation.

But for some mysterious reason, not a single metric tonne of wheat arrived in Calcutta Port or in Haldia Port. The vessels were directed to other ports which are under private stevedores. This is the most vital point.

Will the Government clarify the position and explain why Calcutta and Haldia were deprived and the allocation order was not followed ?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the time of speaking on the confidence Motion the Prime Minister, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, said that both potable water and environment would be his first priority. Construction of a barrage on Yamuna in Agra was approved both by the Centre and the State Governments. The Hon. Governor during the President's Rule laid its foundation stone as well but now it is being said that the Central Government has not given its approval to the barrage till date. The reason being given by the Central Government is that it does not know about its estimated cost and how to manage the funds to be spent on it. But the planning Commission has made allocations for this and the mission, management board which has been formed at the behest of Planning Commission has also made provisions. Some objections are being raised from the point of view of environment. A ridiculous situation has been created. During the President's Rule, the Governor laid its foundation stone on behalf of the President and now the Central Government is not giving permission. The people are being made the scapegoat on very flimsy grounds. Gokul Barrage is being constructed. Its water would be stored in the Yamuna Barrage at Agra. Crores of rupees have been spent on Gokul Barrage and now it will go waste. Therefore, my submission through you is that the Yamuna barrage which is being constructed in Agra should be approved at the earliest. The Hon. Prime Minister is not present here, otherwise I would have urged him but now I would like to urge the Government that a Committee

should be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary and action be taken at the earliest.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dinsha Patel, you will get time. You cannot do bulldozing.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : I have been trying to raise the point for the last three days.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have been standing for the last ten days but you will get a chance when your turn comes and not before that.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister inaugurated the newly converted Ahmedabad-Delhi railway line and the hon. Railway Minister presided over the function. According to the rule all the hon. Members of Gujarat should have been invited. I am the member of the additional railway standing Committee. I myself had raised this motion on 2nd May because I was not invited. Many Hon. Members from Gujarat were not invited viz. Shri Jaisinh Chauhan, Shri Gopal Singh Solanki, Shri Sanat Mehta, Shri Satyajeet Singh Gaikwad, Shri P.S. Gadhi, Shri Anant Dave, Shrimati Bhavnaben Chikhli, Shri Daleep Sanghani, Shri Ratilal Verma and Shri Chitubhai Gamit. When the issue was raised in the House before the hon. Railway Minister gave me a personal invitation. The inauguration is to take place in Ahmedabad and the advertisement to this effect appears in Calcutta and 50 other newspapers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given in writing. Please be confined to that subject only.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : I am speaking on that only.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (SURENDRA NAGAR) : I never say an unfair thing.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : The Hon. Railway Minister has deliberately made an evasive statement and besides such a wrong clarification by the hon. Minister is against the established convention of the House for which he should be compelled to apologise in the House. In case he does not do so, action should be taken against him for working against the democratic decorum.

Sir, I am not extra ordinary civilized but at least I am an ordinary civilized person. I am not a VVIP but an ordinary Member of Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : At least speak on what you have given in writing.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : It is a disgrace to all of our hon. Members. Therefore ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ten hon. Members are yet to speak. You have got a chance and confine to what you have given in writing.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : It did not happen for the first time when Devegowdaji was the Prime Minister, he visited my district, at that time also we were not invited. I would like to know how is it going on. I would like to urge the

hon. Minister that whenever the hon. Prime Minister visits Gujarat or anywhere else all the hon. Members of that area should be invited. This much is my submission.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a very good point.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue. Delhi Rent Act has been passed in this House but all the political parties of Delhi have passed a resolution against it and have sent it to the Standing Committee and to the Central Government. Both the hon. Prime Minister and the concerned Minister have said that it would be amended. This issue has been raised in the House several times. Today, the High Court has ordered that this should be implemented by the Government. When the law has not yet been notified then how can the Court say that it should be implemented.

Sir, lakhs of Delhites have been affected by it and it should not be implemented. I would like to urge the Government that it should be amended and only then it should be passed other wise lakhs of people will be rendered homeless. I urge the Government, through you that it should reassure, since it has said many times. Do they want to back out of their promise?

[*English*]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I draw the attention of the Government of India as well as the Members of this House to a serious matter of West Bengal. In West Bengal, eight districts, including North and South 24 Paraganas are seriously affected by the arsenic polluted water in both rural and urban areas. The people of those districts are compelled to drink or rather swallow this arsenic polluted water as there is no other source of safe and pure drinking water available. Due to this, the people have been seriously affected and they are suffering from various kinds of serious diseases for a considerably long period. The international health organisations and the experts of different health organisations have expressed their view and also given the warning that if these things are not being checked, the people will suffer irreparable loss and injury and that will create havoc in the eight districts of West Bengal. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government of West Bengal have taken some steps.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made your point. Please take your seat.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, immediate action should be taken in this regard. Thank you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, this is a very serious problem. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should pass on this information to the Health Minister ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir,

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

thank you very much for the opportunity given to me.

I would like to invite your attention and the attention of the hon. House about a very serious situation. In Gujarat, in the districts of Kutch, Banaskantha, Mehsana and Surendra Nagar, there is an acute shortage of water. In Kutch, we are facing this situation of drought for the last two years. There is not a drop of water there. In Kutch district, about 30,000 to 40,000 cattle have died. The people are migrating. There is no drinking water facility. If they want to make any provision of drinking water in Kutch district and in all these North Gujarat districts, the only possibility of getting water is from the rivers situated in South Gujarat. We can have pipeline from Navda river or Mahi river. If this provisions is not made, I fear that in the coming years the people will be migrating from there and the cattle will perish. We have very good kind of buffaloes and precious cows which are there. They are being perished day by day.

My only humble suggestion, through your honour, to the Government is that drinking water facility requires to be made in the North Gujarat districts, particularly in Kutch and Surendra Nagar districts. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH) : You please listen about the bird catchers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All the hon. Members have said that an hon. Member would speak on a single subject and not all.

(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If they yield, I do not have any objection.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I admit that environment should be protected. The traditions of this country have never led to the disturbance of environment. The people of bird catchers' society catch sparrows and other birds and sell them. People buy them and rear them and it has been going on for centuries. Their business has never caused any harm to environment. I would like to submit that if someone's business causes harm to environment then stern action should be taken against them. There can be no two opinions in this regard. There are many insects which are eaten by animals and birds and in this way they save our life. This is called the balance of environment. If in a profession there is no loss of life, and people catch birds and sell them to others and earn their livelihood such a profession should be kept aside. The way, the discussion is going on today on environment there should be an open discussion on this topic and a complete ban should be imposed on slaughtering of animals. Non-vegetarian food should be banned. On the one hand non-vegetarian food is in the increase and the people have been exploiting all these things which have been causing an obstacle in

safeguarding environment. Man is eating everything. There should be a ban on it, but there is no such restriction.

If a member of bird catchers' society catches 10-5 birds and through that he earns his livelihood then the issue should be considered separately. We have objection to one thing. If an Hon. Member raises slogans for the other like "Menka Gandhi Hosh Mein Aao" then it is not fair. Smt. Menka Gandhi should be welcomed. Her campaign to improve environment should be respected. But so far as the bird catchers' society is concerned, I support their cause.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister through you towards the verdict of the Supreme Court given on the 19th February. The Supreme court has given a verdict on 19th February, 1997 in which it has been decided that unless the candidates belonging to SCs, STs and backward classes do not achieve minimum marks, their seats in medical and engineering should be de-reserved and filled by general candidates. This case came up before the Court in the case of Dr. Sadhna Devi Versus Uttar Pradesh Government. My submission is that the persons belonging to SCs, STs and backward classes in our country can never be doctors or engineers. I would like that the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should amend it and should enact such a law which can enable them to avail the right of reservation. There is resentment among the SCs, STs and backward classes youth. My submission is that the Government should take the initiative in this regard and they should be given their reservation quota.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members Shri Fatmi, Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Nitish Kumar have raised a very vital issue. The Government has taken note of their concern. An hon. Member Shrimati Bhagwati Devi is on dharna. I would request her to withdraw her dhama.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have called all the names but not of Nitishji. What is there ? Is there anything special?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : I have called his name.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sorry, I have not heard.

[Interruptions]

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI-NORTH) : I also support it.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : It is being supported by Ram Naikji. I would like to submit this much only that Bhagwatiji, who is staging a Dharna should withdraw it. The Government would call a meeting in this regard and would ponder over it.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI-SOUTH WEST) : You, please go there, request her and bring her to the House.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : I would myself bring her.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, although it is the time for lunch, yet it would be good if we can accommodate another four hon. Members with the proviso that they would take only two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I raised this issue earlier also. The National Front Government had announced that the loans upto Rs. 10,000 of the farmers would be waived. The Bihar Government too had announced it in the Assembly time and again that they would write off the loans of the farmers upto Rs. 10,000 but unfortunately 5-10 years have passed, loan of one thousand has accumulated to Rs. 10,000. Due to non payment of loans they are being sent to jail and are being beaten up. When they went to banks to repay the loans the bankers told them that their loans would be waived and they would not have to pay the amount. Today their interest has increased in multiples. I would like to urge the Central Government that the loans of the farmers should be waived. If their loans cannot be waived then at least their interest should be waived and they should be given six months time. In the meantime the farmers would repay the entire amount....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You speak everyday. Let the back benchers speak today.

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (TRIPURA-EAST) : Sir, I am ambush on security personnel, 18 CRPF *Jawans* and one home guard were killed by the suspected National Liberation Front of Tripura extremists. The area where this heinous incident took place is under the Disturbed Area Act and is supposed to be controlled by the Army and Assam Rifles. But enough security force is not provided by the Central Government there.

I urge upon the Government to send immediately enough Army and enough Assam Rifles people to combat these extremists. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM) : Sir, this is a very serious matter. The Army personnel have been killed in a disturbed area....*(Interruptions)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN : I am sure the Government is taking due note of this.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, this is very serious matter. Nineteen CRPF personnel have been killed ...*(Interruptions)*.

(SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, I have taken note of this....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot ask the Government to respond to every matter during Zero Hour.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, he is ready to respond. This is a very serious matter*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request you to sit down. This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want to give maximum number of Members the chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, he is ready to reply...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA (NARSARAOPET) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, God and nature have been very unkind to Andhra Pradesh. Last year successive cyclonic storms damaged the State.*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government has to take note of it. I cannot ask them to react to everything

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request you to please give a chance to other hon. Members to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. This is not the way to raise issues in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Hon. Members start making interventions because I accommodate them on every issue. No. I have called Shri Kota Sydaiah to speak and he will now speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There must be some discipline in the House. There are 25 Zero Hour points made by hon. Members. Maximum of them are to be accommodated, but if you want to the Government to respond extempore and immediately to every point, I cannot expect the Government to do it. The Government is bound to take note of every point raised by each and every hon. Member, but I do not expect the Government to react to every situation. Let the maximum number of Members have their say. There are still four or five hon. Members left and we can accommodate them if the House will kindly agree to sit for another ten minutes. But if you do not want to sit, let us adjourn for lunch. I will be quite happy to adjourn the House now.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not agree to this questions of everybody getting up and shouting. Senior Members like Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee are getting up and shouting at me. This is not proper.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This is a serious matter. The Government is ready to respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask Shri Kota Sydaiah how serious his matter is. You must know that every matter is serious.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I entirely agree with your stand that all issues are important. But sometimes the Government is willing to make a response and, in this case, the hon. Minister is standing up to respond. We want to draw your attention to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister was very reluctant in the beginning to respond, but you bulldozed him to respond. It is all right. Shri Srikant Jena will now respond.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : You have rightly observed that at the moment I can only simply respond to this issue. I have already taken note of this point. I will convey this matter to the hon. Home Minister to take appropriate and immediate action on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I hope that satisfies the hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : I will take it up with the Home Minister....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is a very serious subject. Let the hon. Minister assure us one thing that the situation is very alarming. It is not a question of our raising the matter or any other hon. Member raising the matter. The hon. Minister's saying that he will bring it to the notice of the Home Minister is no assurance. The situation in the North-East is very alarming as 19 Army *Jawans* have been killed. Let him say this.

They have been killed in Tripura. This is really the beginning of such an attack by the insurgents. So, let the Home Minister come here and give us the total picture of the North-East. What are they going to do with this ? The same condition is prevailing in Nagaland. The same condition is prevailing in Manipur. What is happening in Assam ? The ULFA is active in Assam. So, let them come out with the total picture of the North-East and tell the nation about it. This is the situation. What step is the Government going to take in this matter? The Government has started talking that it has opened a channel with those underground insurgents ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajesh Pilot, I could not agree with the hon. Members any more. That 19 soldiers of the Central Reserve Police Force were being ambushed and killed is indeed a very serious matter. Would the Home Minister like to make a statement some time ?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : If you direct the Home Minister, he will make a statement on this issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will he make the statement tomorrow ? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Sir, the God of Nature is very unkind to Andhra Pradesh. You are aware that last year, such a cyclonic storm damaged the State immensely. This year, recently, a hailstorm struck the State affecting ten districts causing damage to the crop of the tune of Rs. 50 crore. Forty-six people died due to this and thousands of houses collapsed. The State Government released rupees five crore to the aid of the farmers.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to send a Central Team to the State to study the losses incurred by the farmers there. I also request the Government to arrange to provide *pucca* houses in place of the damaged houses through the *Indira Aawas Yojana* or some other Scheme.

I thank you for having given me this opportunity.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a great agitation by the students and the staff of the Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi. This agitation is for reservation for Urdu students and for reservation for the families of the staff. There is also a legitimate demand for the restoration of the minority character of the Jamia Millia Islamia of Delhi. Even the National Minorities Commission has expressed serious concern over the developments and it has supported the demands. The National Minorities Commission, I believe, has even pleaded for the amendment to the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988. We, in this House in 1988, had moved several amendments so that such situations might not come and there is reservation for Urdu students and reservation for the families of the staff and that the minority character of the Jamia Millia Islamia is duly preserved. But at that point of time, this did not happen. Now, we have a very serious situation. The functioning of the Jamia Millia Islamia has been adversely affected. The demands are very legitimate.

I, therefore, appeal to the Minister of Human Resource Development to intervene in the matter of the legitimate demands to satisfy the students, to satisfy the staff and also to make a statement here in the House accepting these particular demands. The Government should bring forward, if necessary, the legislation for amendment of the Jamia Millia Islamia Act in order to restore the reservation for the Urdu students, the reservation for the families of the staff and in order to maintain the minority character of the Jamia Millia Islamia...*(Interruptions)*

This is an issue of great importance but it is very disappointing that the Government has not responded to it. There must be some response from the Government on this particular agitation of staff and students.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SATWINDER KAUR DHALIWAL (ROPAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Punjab State is far away from the sources of raw material. Raw material used in the State is iron, steel and coal. A large quantity of coal is supplied to Thermal Power Stations in Punjab. But due to delay in supply of coal to thermal power plants, the functioning

of the plant is disturbed and the work of power generation also suffers which causes a power crisis in the area. If the coal is supplied through a pipeline in the shape of slurry, it will reach there in time and it will also save the expenditure. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government of India to lay there pipelines for the supply of coal.

SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI (BANSGAON) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a serious issue pertaining to UP. My parliamentary constituency falls on the bank of Saryu river. River is causing extensive soil erosion in the villages Chappriya, Mujwana, Derwa, Singhedgan etc. UP Government is not paying attention towards this problem. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge the Union Government to make arrangements for checking soil erosion being caused by Saryu river immediately.

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I am raising a problem of thousands of marginal rubber growers in Kerala who produce rubber latex. There is no market for rubber latex...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (KOTTAYAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to speak on the same issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, only one can speak.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, it is a very vital issue...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, there is no market for the rubber latex ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala's name is also associated with the same thing. So, Prof. Kurien is speaking on behalf of both of them.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : No, Sir. How can it be ? I also want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has made his point very adequately in the Finance Bill.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, he has not started it. After him, give me an opportunity to make my point. I want just two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, on this issue, every MP from Kerala is concerned because it is a matter concerning 10 lakh rubber growers in Kerala, especially the marginal rubber growers who produce rubber milk of which the rubber latex is made. They cannot sell the product made of the rubber latex in the market because the Government, over the year, have reduced the import duty on foreign materials which compete with the products which our farmers produce. The import duty on such materials, e.g., synthetics has been reduced from 85 per cent to 30 per cent over the last five years. This year also, it has been reduced whereas not even a single paisa of reduction in excise duty is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, you will have to cut it short.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I will finish it in one minute.

Not a single paisa of reduction in excise duty is there for the products which our natural rubber growers are producing. Therefore, they are not able to sell their rubber in the market. It is a very serious problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am requesting you on behalf of all rubber growers of Kerala and outside Kerala also, to please direct the Government to reduce the excise duty on rubber foams which are produced by small-scale industries. I am not asking for the reduction of the import duty. Our rubber farmers are in trouble.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala, you have raised the same matter on the 7th of May. So, the only thing, I want to say is that now, Shri P.C. Thomas can speak, for two minutes.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I will take only one minute.

This is a very serious issue which is agitating the minds of thousands of rubber farmers in our country...(*Interruptions*) On the artificial chemical, polyurethane, the import duty has been reduced. That is why, the farmers are facing this problem. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and help the rubber growers by, at least, imposing some kind of a duty on the artificial kind of things so that the interests of our rubber growers can be saved.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : EXIM, Export-Import policy, is something which we are not discussing. There is also a very serious problem with regard to the Duties which are being imposed and the exemptions which are being granted. These are two aspects which are inter-linked.

As far as the issue which has been raised by my learned friend Prof. Kurien is concerned, I have also given notice on the same matter. The problem that the natural rubber is being produced in India by eight lakh small growers. These small growers are contributing a lot to the economy of our nation. Now the latex which is being produced by rubber is being used for production of foam mattresses and the same thing can also be produced by polyurethane or other imported stuff. What is being done is, for import of polyurethane the Duty is reduced and for what we are making out of our domestic produce the Excise Duty is being increased. This is double standard. This cannot be done and I would request hon. Minister Shri Chidambaram....

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, please sit down. On the question of the rubber price a number of hon. Members from Kerala are agitated. Therefore, I would request the Government to take note of it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will all support this issue about the rubber.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are getting very near the time.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : We want the Finance Minister to say something on this Issue.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON) : First of all I would like to ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : His name can also be associated with that.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Sir, this is a different issue. I would like to raise another issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you had your time. Please sit down.

(interruptions)

13.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.39 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-nine minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to Include Jaitpur and Upleta Tehsils in Rajkot District of Gujarat under Employment Assurance Scheme**

[Translation]

DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA (RAJKOT) : Employment Assurance Scheme under the IRDP has been implemented in several districts of the country. Though this scheme has been implemented in several tehsils of Rajkot district yet Jaitpur and Upleta tehsils have not been covered under this scheme. In fact, these tehsils of Rajkot districts of Gujarat have been hit by famine three years during the last five years. Even the drinking water is not available in that area. That area is also facing the problem of unemployment. People of this area have to migrate to cities or to South Gujarat to earn their livelihood. Therefore, if these two tehsils are covered under Employment Assurance Scheme under IRDP, the problem of unemployment can be solved to a great extent.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to cover these two tehsils under Employment Assurance Scheme.

- (ii) **Need to Provide Special Grant to State Government of Rajasthan to Solve the Problem of Seepage in Sri Ganganagar District**

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN (SRI GANGANAGAR): The entire area in Tibbi Rawatsar and Pitibanga of Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan is getting ruined due to seepage in the soil. The houses and lands of the farmers have been rendered uncultivable. A special grant should be given by the Union Government to the State Govern-

ment of Rajasthan in order to conserve the land and to protect the farmers of the said area.

- (iii) **Need for testing of Hydrogen Bomb for the Defence of the Country**

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (MEERUT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a serious threat has been posed to the security of the country due to the presence of atomic weapons in the neighbouring countries and one super power of the world want to disintegrate this country and is aiding and abetting the ISI of Pakistan for the terrorists activities in the entire country. Explosions are taking place at the Railway Stations, metropolitan cities, buses and other places killing innocent people on large scale. Recently, a retired Chief of the Army Staff of our country had said that India should go in for testing of hydrogen bomb for the security of the country. Union Government is, therefore, urged to immediately go in for testing of hydrogen bomb for the defence of the country.

- (iv) **Need to set up a High Power Television Transmitter at Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (NIZAMABAD) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that presently, there is a low power transmitter operating in Nizamabad that caters to only limited area and a large number of people of the district are deprived of the privilege of witnessing T.V. programmes in the State of Andhra Pradesh. In the past, several times, representations have been made to the Central Government that this low power transmitter should be replaced by a high power transmitter so that a large section of people are in a position to enjoy the television programmes. Television has become one of the important media through which all types of programmes, namely, educational, technical and various other national programmes which have become essential for people living in the backward areas are telecast. Television has also become one of the most effective means of entertainment to keep the people well versed with all the latest developments. In Nizamabad, large sections of people are deprived of all such programmes.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to instal a high power transmitter at Nizamabad which is my constituency.

- (v) **Need to provide STD Facilities at Amba and Barun in Auragabad District, Bihar**

(Translation)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD) : Sir, District Aurangabad of Bihar State is the most backward and terrorist effected district. I had requested the Government to implement a comprehensive action plan in all terrorist affected districts of Bihar as has been done in the Kashmir State. All blocks of this districts have not yet been connected with STD facility. Even police stations and police pickets have not been provided with telecome facilities due to which delay is caused in reporting the accidents. The Central Government is, therefore, requested

to provide STD facilities at Amba and Barun in Aurangabad district of Bihar immediately. Telecom Services should also be improved.

(vi) Need for early Construction of an Over-Bridge at Durgapur Railway Crossing in West Bengal

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR) : I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as the hon. Railway Minister towards a railway crossing at Durgapur in West Bengal on Bankura-Sagarbanga Muchipara Road.

The main road which is coming from Midnapur, Purulla and Bankura districts of West Bengal goes through the G.T. Road and connect Burdwan and Birbhum districts of West Bengal through that road but due to frequent closure of railway crossing, the people are not able to reach their destination in time resulting in inconvenience to those people as also wastage of petrol and diesel worth crores of rupees.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to construct an over-bridge on the railway crossing as early as possible.

(vii) Need to Improve the Condition of Approach Roads to Bandra Railway Terminus for the Safety of Passengers

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST) : Sir, the railway terminus has been established at Bandra East Mumbai for the last few years. However, the infrastructure required for free movement of the passengers to and fro the railway station have not been sufficiently provided. The approach roads to the said railway station are very narrow. A number of hawkers encroach upon these roads. The encroachment of the hutment dwellers on the railway land has caused obstacles to the traffic. The surrounding area of the railway station is unhygienic and dirty. The commuters find it difficult to reach railway station even on their feet. This has been brought to the notice of Western Railways on a number of occasions, but no corrective action has been taken so far.

I request the Union Government to look into this burning problem and clear all the approach roads, provide security and improve unhygienic conditions on war footing in the interest of railway passengers.

14.48 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 1997 - CONTD.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before we start discussion on the Finance Bill, I must caution the hon. Members that five hours were allotted for the general discussion. We have already taken three hours and thirty-five minutes and two-and-a-half hours are hardly left.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you presume that I am going to scuttle the Members' right. We will have to finish it. All the discussion should finish today itself. Therefore, I only seek cooperation of all the hon. Members. I have got a very long list of names. I will try to give the maximum time. At the same time, I seek sincere cooperation from the hon. Members. Let us take some ten minutes. The senior Members, who have already prepared, are there. They are waiting. They will get some more time. Now, I will call Shri C. Narayana Swamy. He has already taken ten minutes. And he will have to conclude with a couple of sentences.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (BANGALORE NORTH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday our hon. Minister of Finance had come out with certain proposals relating to withdrawal of levies proposed earlier. These included withdrawal in respect of increased tax on tread rubber and also concessions amounting to more than Rs. 100 crore. One important aspect to be noted here is the thrust given by the Government, especially the hon. Minister of Finance, for improving the basic infrastructural facility, especially the increased subsidy on the power sector of an amount of nearly Rs. 900 crore mainly for hydel power generation.

Now, most of the basic minimum services to be provided to the people, especially in the rural areas, will, under the present set-up, be implemented through the Panchayati Raj institutions. The Constitution provides for the establishment of local bodies which should function as autonomous and self-governing institutions. There is a stipulation and also a provision for devolution of powers and functions to these bodies.

Unfortunately, even after the Constitutional amendment, in many States of the country, with a few exceptions, the States have not devolved, through respective State enactments, sufficient powers and functions to these bodies. In many States requisite administrative powers are not given to these local bodies so that they could implement these very programmes. Even though they have the powers of planning, the States have not established Planning Committees at the district level which are mandatory under the Constitution.

I would like to call upon the Government to see that this anomaly is set right in consultation with the State Governments and that these representative bodies of people, the people at the grassroot level, are allowed to implement the programmes entrusted to them efficiently without giving any room for any anomaly.

Similarly, financial allocation and the provision for implementing various programmes relating to poverty alleviation and self-employment implies the cooperation of financial institutions including commercial banks, regional rural banks and the cooperative institutions involved in this field. There was a proposal for establishment of a national cooperative bank at the national level and that entailed some amendments to the relevant statute and the matter was pending before the Government. I would like to urge upon the Government, especially the hon. Finance Minister, to see that this issue is sorted out without any delay and also enable the cooperatives to function in a democratic

[Shri C. Narayana Swamy]

manner so that Government may also initiate steps to bring in constitutional amendments so as to incorporate co-operatives as a mandatory provision of the Constitution on the lines of the Panchayati Raj amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have to conclude now.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Sir, this is my last point. We have a vast stretch of dry land in our country. While we are giving thrust for improvement in irrigational facilities to the rural masses for development of agriculture, I feel that we are not giving equal importance that is due for development of dry land farming. This would involve increased allocation of finances and funds for rehabilitation of minor irrigation tanks, construction of ground water storage tanks and the like. The Government and the hon. Finance Minister has taken steps to streamline the fiscal aspect of governance through the Budget. He has also laid stress on the development of infrastructure. In more ways than one, the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister is a model in the country and unprecedented in many respects. I would like to congratulate him for his efforts. I am sure, the objectives set forth in the Budget would be achieved by the Government and the hon. Finance Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA (BHILWARA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. I am quoting what the hon. Finance Minister said while initiating discussion on the Finance Bill, yesterday—

[English]

"When this Budget was presented in Parliament 69 days ago, it gave a strong boost to the confidence in the India economy both in India and abroad. Let me highlight some of the gains."

[Translation]

This has been stated by the hon. Finance Minister. I am quoting what he stated further—

"The open market price of wheat which were ruling at unusually high levels at an average of Rs. 713 per quintal in Delhi in February, 1997 has since come down to the range of Rs. 510 - Rs. 525"

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Finance Bill does not mention as to what happened due to which the prices of wheat came down. It came down because it is crop season. The hon. Finance Minister says that it came down due to Budget but I did not see any such provision in the Budget due to which the prices of wheat came down. He stated in the last as to what happened to the Budget—

[English]

"In one area, industrial production data that has become available since the presentation of the Budget shows sluggishness in industrial growth".

[Translation]

In fact, this is the result of this Budget that the industrial growth is falling and the prices did not come down as a result of this budget as the hon. Finance Minister is claiming. He stated that the object of this Budget was—

[English]

"Lower tax rate, broader area and better tax administration".

[Translation]

He told these three points today, nobody likes to go to the department of revenue due to fear of officers of this department. The fact is that no tax payer wants to face the officers of the revenue department because of their behaviour. The assessing authority takes everybody to be as thieves. They behave like police officers. I am talking of my parliamentary constituency Bhilwara. The Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax of Bhilwara abuses the assessee. Once I advised him on phone to improve his behaviour but instead of listening to me, he started harassing me by reopening my cases. If this is the condition of an MP, what will happen to the common tax-payer. The hon. Finance Minister can tell better. I shall tell the hon. Finance Minister separately, in writing as to what reply did I receive when I complained to higher ups. In such a situation, one can imagine whether anybody would like to go to his department after so much of harassment. The assessment is not time bound, the first assessment is time bound but if the assessing authority commits some mistake then there is no time limit for its appeal. I had requested the hon. Finance Minister earlier also that assessment as well as appeal should be time bound so that the honest tax payers may get some relief.

The ex-Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said that rupee one released by the Centre is diminished to 15 paise when it reaches the village. Therefore, I have one suggestion to make that if anybody wants to undertake development work through Panchayat, be it for water or road, his donation should be eligible for exemption under 80 (G). Suppose, one villager donates and if he gets relief under 80 (G) then entire amount would reach the Panchayat directly, it will be used directly and the collection agency and distribution agency will not come in the way. Rebate should be given under 80 (G) to the donation to village or district Panchayats or Panchayat Samities.

15.00 hrs.

The Government has given relief in double taxation on dividend in Direct Tax Proposals. Many thanks for this act but 10 percent extra tax has been imposed on the dividend given by companies. This is improper and this must be withdrawn. If any company earns profit, it pays tax on it. It distributes its profit amongst its share holders and also pays tax on it. Thus, this dividend is subjected to double tax action. Tax should be imposed at one point. On the one hand, the Government says that it should be on lower rate but here he is imposing double tax on it.

It has been stated that profit of the sale of the retailer will be presumed at 5 percent and assessed accordingly. But no trader earns 5 percent in this age of competition. They do not earn profit more than one or two percent. Therefore, instead of 5 percent, it should be one or two percent.

Now I take up central excise. The Government has reduced the custom duty on imports but has increased the excise duty on Indian products. My colleague from Kerala was speaking on retread rubber. The type of retread rubber used in aircraft is imported. The Government has reduced custom duty on it from 30 percent to 3 percent while duty on retread rubber produced indigenously has been increased from 15 percent to 18 percent. The Government wants to destroy the local industry. When retread tyre is manufactured in India, people get employment but the Government has reduced duty on the import of retread tyre. What intention it has behind this move? The manufacturing of machinery in India is in very poor condition. Import duty as well as custom duty on the import of machinery has been increased from 25 percent to 30 percent and excise duty on local general machines has been increased from 10 percent to 14 percent. The argument behind it was that the Government wanted to fix these rates of excise duty viz. 8 percent, 13 percent and 18 percent. Previously it was 10 percent while the Government could do with 8 percent but instead of 8 percent, it fixed the duty at 13 percent. Does the Government not want a better quality of testing equipment is necessary for R & D and improving the quality. Entry duty on all the testing, measuring and analysing equipment has been increased from 10 percent to 13 percent. Even after that it decided three rates viz. 8, 13 and 18 percent. Excise duty on poor farmers has been increased in this budget while the excise duty on the goods which are used by the rich like refrigerator and air conditioner has been reduced from 40 percent to 30 percent.

[English]

Increase in the excise duty on card paper and paper board used for the manufacture of cartons for taking horticultural products.

[Translation]

Tax burden on the goods produced by the farmers has been increased. On the one hand, the Government claims that it wants to do the welfare of farmers and on the other hand, it is increasing the burden of tax on them. This is not justice. This budget is not in the interest of the poor. This budget is pro-rich since they can afford air conditioner, fridge etc. but no provision has been made for the farmers in the budget ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not be taken in by their words otherwise your time will be cut.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am taking less time, still I am aware of time constraint. I would

like to speak on two-three small points. I hail from Bhilwara a big synthetic manufacturing city and a big fabric manufacturing centre. There are several independent processors unit there. The hon. Finance Minister had started MODVAT on textile in the previous Budget. It was stated that the implementation of MODVAT will reduce the tax evasion. In this process credit is given on the basis of Input in independent processors on national basis. I want to say that there is no possibility of reduction in excise duty by implementing MODVAT because 10 per cent excise duty is imposed by assuming 50 percent MODVAT and not on the proof of duty payment while in the national context it is taken on estimated goods produced. Duty is being imposed by assuming the value of 60 percent while the input is supposed to be 70 percent. In this way the Government has increased 1.5 percent tax on the poor's cloth. Is the Government protecting the handloom sector in this way? If the Government wishes to protect the handloom sector, it should not behave in this manner because handloom sector is a source of employment in rural areas. Hanyarn is being provided duty free at present. More hand yarn handloom present in India is going duty free at present. It shows that tax is being evaded in this process.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall conclude by saying that this budget on the whole is anti-poor and anti-entrepreneurs. Wrong picture has been presented in the Finance Bill, the rate of excise duty has been reduced and custom duty has been increased. In such a situation the budget is not acceptable and hence I oppose it.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (IDUKKI): Sir, I am thankful to you for having invited me to participate in this debate. This year's Budget is coming to a happy end. I am happy that Shri Chidambaram is back in the saddle. Anyway his coming back was slightly delayed, and it also pained slightly bitter. The mother had undergone caesarean. Now, both the mother and the baby are very much safe. We thought that the body may become orphan. Ultimately the mother got back the baby and both are safe.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (SURENDRA NAGAR): I want to know whether Shri Chidambaram is the mother or the father.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Shri Chidambaram is, now, both mother and father. Sir, passing of the Finance Bill after a full-fledged discussion is the most important responsibility of this august House. Debates on each Ministry would have taken place but, unfortunately, due to various preoccupations, we have not got enough time to discuss various Ministries. I do not blame the Finance Minister for that. It is our own defect. We have approved this Finance Bill. In order to give life to the Budget proposals, this Finance Bill has to be passed today. Sir, we have guillotined a bit and we are also passing it.

Sir, the Finance Minister is extremely lucky this time because it has become a fashion in this country now to

[Shri A.C. Jos]

talk in favour of the Budget. If anybody dares to talk against it, he will become a sort of non-progressive or something like that. It is primarily because of newspaper owners, reporters, commanders of the corporation who are paying income-tax and who have got the benefit from this Budget. So, the man on the street become simply mute. He does not know what to say because everybody is praising the Budget cutting across differences. In that way, all the criticisms against the Budget have started disappeared.

I am not criticising the Budget as such. But when I look at it and analyse it, I have a serious pain because this CMP which is supposed to be Magna Carta, the Bible or the Quran of United Front—I have gone through it. In the last year's Budget also, the hon. Finance Minister has stressed it. Generation of employment is one of the paramount responsibilities of the United Front. When I go through the policy on private investment, there is no priority for abolition or eradication of unemployment in this Budget. The hon. Finance Minister's contention is, growth will eradicate unemployment. But what is the statistics? The Planning Commission estimates based on Current Weekly Status data indicate that unemployment rate in India has raised from 4.29 per cent in 1991 to 5.51 per cent in March, 1995. Privatisation is not the panacea. It will not generate employment. If I understand the report, about Rs. 35,000 crore have been invested in the private sector. But the statistics on unemployment is rising by 4.2 per cent. It is because private sector is not for generating employment; they are investing not to go to the heavens but to make money. They do not want to generate employment. So, employment generation can only be made by public investment. But for the past four or five years, we have not made any public investment. He has said, growth with equity. That also you have to look into it. Private sector is totally for making money. They do not look at this aspect. Public investment alone has to be made to take care of these things.

Now, over the past five years, our public sector units are under fire. Everybody is criticising it blindly. I see, they have faulted at some place. But can you decry it like that? What are the services they have rendered to our country? The present changes that have taken place are because of public sector. They have created employment. They have obeyed our labour laws. They have showed how the management should function. They paved the way for ideal industrial relations. They have given a status to Indian workers. The Indian worker is at par with anyone else. That has been given by the public sector. If you want to eradicate unemployment, public investment has to be there.

Regarding our growth, the report of the UNDP on Human Development says that our growth is jobless growth. Is it a healthy growth? Our country is a very vast country with multitude of problems, regional imbalances. Unless we have a growth with equity and regional balance, the principles of national integration will be denigrated. If you keep on harping on private sector, there would not be any regional balance because when you look at the

private sector, they concentrate accumulate around the metropolitan cities. They are not going out to other places.

I am coming from my State, Kerala. Our industrialisation is still in the rudiment, elementary stage. It is because private sector is not coming. It is not only because of various reasons but primarily because of geographical or longitudinal difficulties. All the Chief Ministers have gone abroad to invite the industrialists to come and invest in Kerala. Our Chief Minister has also gone. Our elder Marxist people from Bengal have got the industries. But our Chief Minister has come back with his personal precepts.

My suggestion is that the Government should come forward with public investment. Though the hon. Finance Minister has emphatically reiterated yesterday that as and when time comes, they will invest money but I do not know where he is going to find money for public investment. Unless public investment is made, generation of employment will not be there. Unless generation of employment is there, growth with equity will not be there. Ours will be jobless growth.

My submission is, the hon. Minister has to give a serious thinking about it for more and more public investments. Privatisation has become a global *mantra*. But I feel, too much emphasis on privatisation will only kill our own industry that has been repeatedly mentioned here. My submission is, in that matter, we have to emulate the examples of China. Though China have opened their doors for private investment, they are only allowing people with passes. They say, these are the places where you can start industries; these are the only industries where you have to concentrate. Such prescriptions, we need to have given. We have never thought of giving such prescriptions. We have allowed the private sector to do whatever they want. They can do whatever they like. That is a dangerous situation. We have to give incentives to a private sector unit which generates employment. We have to give priority to the private sector unit which brings foreign technology to our place. That kind of control and prescriptions are to be made for the private sector.

Another difficulty is, the private sector not only discourages small scale industry but even kills it. Many of our small scale industries are now dying. Unless the Government comes forward in a very big way to support our small industries, they will not be able to sustain the onslaught of the bigger industry. They are all large industries. They will finally strangle the chords of the small industries. Many small industries are breathing through the oxygen mask. I request that a serious thinking should be given to save our small industries and to give life to our small industries. The Government alone can do that.

In the Budget proposal itself, I am talking about the Ayurveda medicine. Ayurveda system is very popular in Kerala. Ayurveda medicines are manufactured in about 600 to 700 units. The present budget proposals bring excise duty to Ayurveda preparations. It is a very complicated one. Ayurveda medicines are prepared in a process. There is no intermediary. But the Excise Department has construed

it in such a way that the Ayurveda industry take intermediary and so it could tax the Ayurveda medicines. I would say that the Ayurveda manufacturers as such will have to be exempted from these things. You have to exempt the Ayurveda medicines totally from the excise net. That industry is a question of poor man's health also.

I request the hon. Finance Minister to give special consideration for Ayurvedic medicines.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to another item which is manufactured in the small scale industry, that is *bidi*, specially in Kerala and In Karnataka. In Kerala, we have a very successful cooperative society which manufactures Kerala Dinesh Bidi. It employs more than 50,000 persons. If you start imposing some duty on it, that industry will die. Of course, the hon. Minister has imposed duty on bigger cigarettes, so I would request him that instead of imposing duty on *bidi*, he can impose it on smaller cigarettes also. I request him to save the *bidi* industry. Unless you save the *bidi* industry, the ordinary people will be in trouble.

Many of our major industries are also in trouble. For example, Titanium Products of Trivandrum. That is one of the oldest industry which started production at the time of Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, who was *Dewan* of our State. Now the import duty on titanium dioxide has been reduced, with the result even bigger companies or multinational companies like Dupont are dumping their products. This will harm the industry in our State.

Another point that I have to mention is that Kerala has got the least public investment as compared to other States. We have 3.6 per cent of the population of the whole country but if you take the percentage of total investment in the country, it is less than 1.5 per cent. Even factories like Hindustan Paper Corporation, because of the product inventory, are on the verge of closure. FACT is finding it difficult to maintain.

My submission is, I am not against reducing import duty and bringing it on the global level, but when the Government reduces import duty, it must think for a moment which are the other industries which are going to be affected by that. That has to be taken into consideration.

Sir, I have another point to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister, apart from industry. I have gone through the Budget Proposals. The money allotted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development does not have an element or content of sports. In this country everybody is saying that we do not get any medal in sports. I would like to know what encouragement is given to sports. I overheard in the discussions that Rs. 200 crore, which has been allotted to the Human Resource Development, will be given to the Sports Department.

My submission to the hon. Finance Minister is that even if he cannot give it from his pocket, he can give some income-tax concession to the persons who are coming

forward donating money for making stadia or for making federations, etc. We have about 36 sports federations. They are all in trouble. They do not have enough money to train sportspersons. Without training, they cannot do anything. Therefore, some concession has to be given by the hon. Finance Minister, either as income-tax rebate or exemption from income to the donations made for the cause of sports. I say that even the persons who sponsor sports should also be given concessions. The hon. Minister has to make all out efforts for the sponsors of sports.

Sir, I come from a constituency which produces 70 per cent of the pepper of this country. Foreigners came to this country for purchase of pepper. That pepper is in trouble because of root, the pepper is getting deceptive, the plants are dry. There is a submission before the Government and there is a Pepper Technological Commission. It is sealed in the cold storage of the Agriculture Department. I request the hon. Minister to take it out and give a life to these pepper cultivators.

I do not have to talk about rubber now. In the morning and even yesterday, everybody had been talking about it. Rubber is our bread and butter, that is why we become very emotional, sentimental about it. I agree that the hon. Minister did nothing against the rubber this time. We are manufacturing sponges with the natural rubber latex and because of the reduction in the import duty of polyurethane artificial sponges are now made.

With the result, more than two hundred to three hundred latex factories are in trouble. Before making the rubber sheets, the agriculturists, the cultivators sell it as latex. We call it as 'milk'. And latex has become rather too much in the market because nobody wants it. That is the problem, which we have to look into.

On Polyurethane he has reduced the tax to 30 per cent. With the result, Polyurethane and Isocyanide are being imported. Unless it is controlled, latex factories will be in trouble. I agree with him that slowly the prices are coming up. I am thankful to the Minister of Finance for taking away the restrictions imposed on umbrella manufacturers and taking away the restrictions placed on tile manufacturers. These are helping. But our request is that import duty on this should not be reduced to this much.

Another thing which I have to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance is that 90 per cent of cardamom, as I said earlier, is being produced in Idukki. Our Indian cardamom is supposed to be the best quality cardamom. But what is the position now? The position is that not even a single piece of cardamom is moving. Why? Guatemala cardamom, which is a lesser quality cardamom, is being smuggled into Calcutta in order to take it to Nepal. But it does not go to Nepal. From the Calcutta port or even after reaching Nepal, it comes back and it comes back even to Kerala, which produces the best quality cardamom, at a cheap price. My submission is that this has to be looked into by the hon. Minister of Finance. The Enforcement Directorate will have to take care of it and

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this practice has to be stopped.

Sir, tea is also in peril. Why? I had mentioned about it several times in this House. It is because of the glut in the export market. Sri Lanka is giving one year's credit with the help of America and Sri Lankan tea has become endeared in Europe. My submission is that we too have to help the tea cultivators in this matter.

Now I come to cash crops. The very word 'cash crop' means that it earns foreign exchange for us. So, in the case of pepper, rubber, cardamom and tea, he has to take it up. Sir, adding insult to injury, we know what happens now. The Commerce Ministry has taken a decision to canalise cloves and cinnamon. Everybody is talking about free enterprise and free movement. Now, suddenly it has become canalised. Because of canalisation, our cultivators are in difficulties. I explained it to the Commerce Ministry but the bureaucrats are governing now and they prevail. My submission is that this should be decanalised. The *status quo* of importing against export should be revived. Otherwise, the cultivators of cinnamon and cloves will be in difficulties.

Finally—Sir, you will also be interested in this—he knows that Kerala is a State which has got invisible export.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jos, you were the former Speaker of Kerala Assembly and you know the difficulties of the Chair. Please conclude your speech.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, I know your difficulties. I will be concluding my speech shortly.

The people of Kerala are going abroad. They are making money and sending it back to India. Yesterday, the hon. Minister of Finance has very proudly said that our foreign exchange balance has come up. I would very conveniently say that this money has come because of the NRIs, especially from Kerala people, who have put the confidence in the Minister of Finance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANAT MEHTA: We are also paying it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: You are also paying it but ours is a major share.

He gives incentives to all sorts of exporters. He gives incentives to everybody. But here the people who are going there, making money and sending it, for them he is not giving any incentive. We have seen this in all the Budgets. At least, some welfare measures are to be done for them. Some insurance measures are to be taken on behalf of them. These things are to be considered by the hon. Minister of Finance.

I am concluding. In general, I have to accept this Budget but this Budget is, of course, for the commanders of the corporations. The corporations are commending it more and I support this Finance Bill.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (RAJAPUR): Sir, this is the

first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan and the Finance Bill for the year 1997-98 happens to be the first such Finance Bill under this new Plan. So we have an Approach Paper for the Ninth Five Year Plan. It also projects a growth rate of seven per cent which is also the growth rate that is contemplated by the same Budget. The whole Budget exercise inches on the seven per cent growth rate. I genuinely feel that we should be able to attain the seven per cent growth rate but considering our past and also the bottlenecks that our hon. Minister of Finance himself is talking about and also which has been apprehended by the Approach Paper itself, I am afraid whether the bottlenecks of infrastructure will really make it possible for us to attain this seven per cent growth rate. And if we do not do that, the entire collection of excise and collection of income-tax which are based on certain growth parameters may not really realise.

Sir, the Ninth Five Year Plan is estimating a saving rate of 26.2 per cent. 28.6 per cent investment rate is also contemplated under the same Ninth Five Year Plan. But this Finance Bill has done very little to promote savings. Maybe, once they have savings, reducing corporate tax will also help the corporations to save more but there is also an incentive to distribute more profits by way of dividends because now dividends are tax free. So probably, in the savings rate, there should have been a more meaningful contribution. There should have been some direct incentives for people to save in this Finance Bill which, I am afraid, is missing.

I will definitely like to confine myself to the Finance Bill and I would not like to speak on the Budget. Sir, again coming back to the same Approach Paper, we are contemplating a high export growth of 14.5 per cent in this Plan period. I am sure that when they are contemplating seven per cent growth rate, we are also taking into consideration this growth rate in exports. In the current year, our export growth is only four per cent. I am sure everybody is worried about it. There should have been some measures, some incentives that should have been provided in this Finance Bill for promoting exports.

Sir, our inflation is seven per cent now. I am sure by the end of this year, it will definitely be a double digit figure if our oil pool account deficit is tried to be recouped. Even if we take that as seven per cent, the inflation of our trading partners in Germany, in the U.S.A. and in Japan is lower. So certainly to promote exports, there should have been some more incentives provided in the Finance Bill which unfortunately are missing.

Another important sector on which a great reliance has been stressed is the small scale sector and which is supposed to contribute significantly. Again, if I refer to the same Approach Paper, more than 45 per cent of our GDP from manufacturing is supposed to be coming from this sector. This year, we are taking a lower Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICUR) of 4.08 per cent in this and I think, they are again relying on the small scale sector for having it from 4.24 to 4.08 per cent. I think they are relying more on small scale sector. Again, here I find that there is very

little which has been provided in the Finance Bill to promote the small-scale sector.

Another area which is missed is some provision for sick companies. A large amount of capital has been blocked into sick companies. The money of public sector institutions, financial institutions, the private money and the disguised employment which we see on paper which again are available only on paper because the companies now have turned sick.

Sir, the measure that the Finance Minister has initiated like the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme for income, I think, needs to have a one time settlement situation for sick companies like this whereby this could be turned around. And probably this capital which is now locked would come out and probably this would also help in bringing it to a productive use.

Another point which, I think, should have been given more prominence in this Finance Bill is pertaining to employment. There is no incentive in the economy to create more jobs. In fact, there used to be a time when the Corporates had to reinvest their money into plant and machinery and to put it into a more productive use so that they could qualify for better deduction from payment of tax. But, now the investment allowance has been taken away many years ago. Now, there is hardly any incentive for creation of more jobs.

The hon. Minister of Finance has said yesterday on the floor of the House that 42 per cent of the G.D.P. is now coming from Services and the Services which contribute significantly to provide more jobs, in fact, were sought to be penalised for creating more jobs by taxing them in the form of Service Tax. But I am glad that the decision has been deferred. Of course, I am aware that when 42 per cent of economy cannot pay any tax, the hon. Minister of Finance will always find it difficult to match his resources. But, at the same time, we must keep in mind that this sector which contributes so significantly towards job creation than any other sector, should not be penalised for doing so.

Now, I would like to make one reference to the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme. I am glad that it has been partially amended. But there is always a temptation for any Minister of Finance to go in for a Voluntary Disclosure Scheme, which may be for 10 or 12 years. This is not for the first time that the hon. Minister of Finance has done it. The other Ministers of Finance have also done it in the past. It is high time that instead of bringing this Voluntary Disclosure Scheme every 10 or 12 years, we take preventive measures to make sure that there will not be any incentive for people to evade tax and for that, I think, there is need to have a comprehensive legislation. Most violations take place in terms of property. There is no point of giving amnesty under the Income-tax Act. But it is an incentive for people to evade tax because there is a high incidence of stamp duty also on such transactions. So, what is really necessary is that we really have some parameters to determine a transaction cost for such transactions. The

transaction cost must include all types of taxes paid— income-tax or stamp duty, etc. I am sure they will help prevent in evading certain taxes in future.

Let me briefly come to the provisions of the Finance Bill. Clause 3B was deleting Section 10(15A) of the Income-tax Act. The hon. Minister has mentioned that now it is going to be prospective. But, this is very necessary, if we really feel about the open-sky policy that we talked about and also to protect our own national flag carrier and also some other airlines.

My State, Maharashtra State, has started its own airline. Is it possible for new airlines to buy aircraft on an outright basis? They will have to necessarily resort to leasing and if they are going to resort to leasing, such type of benefit which was given for so many years, may not be removed. In fact, deferring it by a year and making it applicable prospectively may not really be the right thing to do.

Clause 25 is about Section 80 (1A). It is regarding the new exemption which he is introducing. He is giving certain benefits to hotels started in hilly areas. Sindhudurg district is the first district in India to be declared as a tourism district, for the first time, by the Union Government as well as by the State Government of Maharashtra. So, probably, all the hotels will be coming up in this district and should qualify for this deduction under Section 80 (1A). I think that is what the hon. Minister of Finance should really incorporate. This is my humble request.

Clauses 12 and 13 deal with Section 11AD and 11AE. There is a real mischief which is being played by this amendment. The civil contractors and transporters were told by C.B.D.T. circular No. 684 dated 23.2.1996 very clearly that salaries paid to partners and interest paid to partners will be deducted for the calculation of presumptive tax. Now, suddenly, you are making an amendment with retrospective effect overruling that CBDT circular. So, the assessee rely on a circular specifically issued by CBDT. If he tries to overrule that circular by making an amendment to the Act with retrospective effect, I think, he is really defeating the very purpose of the CBDT.

We are asking the C.B.D.T. to deal with many of the delegated legislations. If those delegated legislations and certain rules and circulars issued are going to be changed by Parliament by making an Act retrospectively, I think, it will be very unfair.

The drafting in Clause 40 dealing with Section 115(0) needs to have a re-look. The words "addition to" and "additional income-tax" give an impression that a company which is normally not supposed to pay any income tax will not be liable to pay income tax under this Section 115(0) I think this needs to be looked into. The words are not necessary and could be deleted. This will really avoid undue litigation in times to come.

There is another point which is a welcome thing. welcome this measure of abolition of tax of dividends.

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

was in our opinion and the confirmed opinion of ours is about the double tax—that is tax charged twice on the same income in different hands. If you really take this principle forward, then if the dividend is paid by one company to another company which is in the hands of the same company, and if that company is going to distribute the same income as dividend to their shareholders, probably the 10 per cent additional tax will again be attracted and the very principle which you are trying to follow of double taxation will be affected and the real purpose will not be served. I think there also it needs to have some amendment.

The income of Mutual Funds also needs to be exempted from income-tax. If you do not do it, again the very purpose for which this amendment is brought will not be served.

I am sure the hon. Minister will definitely like to move his amendment regarding Clause 27, which is very unintended. Clause 27 seeks to amend Section 80(L). In fact, Clause (4) of Section (L) is sought to be deleted from the Assessment Year 1998-99. But only the dividends declared after 1st of June are going to be exempted. For the first two months of April and May, whatever income will be received in the hands of the assessee, will not be getting exempted under Section 80(L) unless you keep that Section for some more time in the Statute Book. Otherwise, this will also really not serve the purpose. We are already going to continue to tax dividend as defined in Section 222(E). In the absence of that, if you do not keep this Section there, it may not be serving the purpose.

I am happy that there is an amendment being brought now through Clause 14 of the Finance Bill to Section 44(A)(f) which was brought for retail traders. There is really a need to define these retail traders properly to avoid undue harassment in the hands of the Income Tax Officers, to the retail traders in the districts and small towns.

I think the hon. Finance Minister would really like to apply his mind to Section 145. This Section 145, which was not amended during this Financial Year 1996-97 but was done so earlier, is going to come into effect from 1.4.1997. It makes it obligatory on the part of the assessee to declare his method of accounting. As you know, normally in India we follow the hybrid method of accounting. Any assessee receives his income and he pays his outgoings and depending upon the nature of it he accounts for it either on cash basis or on mercantile basis, but many a time on hybrid basis. But, now, it is mandatory for a person to declare it as cash or mercantile. This very method which is sought to be introduced now is also appreciated by this High Powered Committee which was appointed to simplify taxes. They also appreciated it. So, probably, from 1.4.1998, they may themselves recommend to abolish this. The Chief Commissioners of Income-tax also met and thought that probably this is also not in the interest of revenue. I think this amendment of Section 145 which is to come into force from 1.4.1997 needs to be re-looked.

Section 80(0) introduced by Clause 29 of the Finance

Bill, 1997 intends to tax patents of inventions and designs which are sold outside India. Again, this is something which the hon. Finance Minister really wanted to do because in his Budget Speech he said that he has great belief and great regard for the patriotic spirit of all the technicians. The income earned by them is sought to be taxed and this may not be serving the intentions that he has had in mind.

I am not referring to an amendment but something which should be introduced to Section 80(P). My illustrious colleague Shri Sanat Mehta who is sitting here would share my views that the cooperatives are exempt from tax under Section 80(P) of the Income-tax Act because of the concept of mutuality. A member joins hands with others and carries on activity. The income in the hands of the members together cannot be taxed because members themselves are contributing together. In case of certain federal societies it is done. In the hands of Primary societies we are not taxing it, but in the case of federal societies such income is sought to be taxed which is really defeating this concept of mutuality. I am sure the hon. Finance Minister would really have a look into this.

Then, the income earned on the reserves invested by the cooperative institutions is again taxed which is really defeating the purpose.

Sir, I actually welcome the amendment to Section 4 (a) for the simple reason that there was really an evasion of tax on a large magnitude on that. But the manner in which it is made is something which is not right. On the one side, we are talking of Value Added Tax. We are saying that we assess the value of a product and every tax will be added from that onwards. So, now we are going backward and saying that the retail price will be the starting point of assessing how much tax should be paid. On the other side, we are talking about taxing all income on the basis of retail price. I hope that the Finance Minister would certainly have a better way of doing it. But the definition given in the Bill is so terrible and it says that "under the provisions of the Standard Weights and Measures Act, 1976, or any other Act or under rules made thereunder other than that". It could have been defined more positively and I think that would have really helped in reducing probably certain litigations which, I am sure, are going to come. However, there is a great potential to tax income there, because I know that many companies are hiking the retail price and paying excise duty at a much lower price than what it should be.

Sir, the small scale sector is really suffering in the hands of excise authorities. Yesterday, the Finance Minister had given figures stating that only 47,000 of the total small scale industries are really subjected to this. The previous Finance Minister always used to talk about removing the 'Inspector Raj'. His 'Raj' had gone, but the Inspectors still remain and the Inspectors still harassing the small scale industries. The small scale industries may not object to payment of tax, because that is what they should be doing.

But the way in which it is collected and the administration of the tax are wrong. The excise collection machinery itself needs a total revamping and I am sure that the Finance Minister would certainly look into this aspect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken more than your time. Kindly conclude now.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): He can mention the points and give his notes to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That would be better.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I will do that.

Now, I will make one or two suggestions. There is a provision for advance ruling for Non-Resident Indians. There is a need to have the same type of an Advance Ruling Commission which could be started not only for income tax, but for excise and customs also and that Commission's ruling should be binding, probably, on all income tax as well as all the other revenue machinery so that there could be a better understanding about it as to how it needs to be done.

There was a suggestion made and it becomes more valid after the 73rd and the 74th Constitution (Amendment) Acts. According to these two Acts, the local self-governments have to raise their own resources. For them to raise the resources, there is a need to have tax-free bonds which they will be able to issue and those bonds, probably, will help them to raise their resources. If we do that, the spirit of the 73rd and the 74th Constitution (Amendment) Acts could really be attained.

With these words, I am just concluding without completing my speech, as per your desire.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Finance Bill.

We are at the last stage of clearing the Budget for the year 1997-98. My concern is that the Finance Minister should consider some of the reasonable requests made by the cross-sections of the public, particularly the small scale units. I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for announcing concessions to the tune of Rs. 111 crore yesterday and I do hope that while concluding his speech tomorrow evening, he would also further announce certain concessions as we expect.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for giving a 'dream Budget' to the nation.

Sir, the TMC is committed to national interest and that is one of the reasons why we rejoined the Government. After the political crisis in the capital city following the withdrawal of support by Congress, my Party stood the test throughout to keep the U.F. Government intact. We know at this point of history of our great nation, the secular combination of U.F. has been given the responsibility to carry out the administration of the country. We could not

ignore the appeals made by several party leaders and more particularly by our Hon. Prime Minister to rejoin the Government because it was certainly in the national interest. Political instability, even for a short period, can erase all the gains and progress made by hard work in the past several months.

Sir, it is clearly evident that the Budget was welcomed by all sections of people wholeheartedly. In fact, the press, industry, business and sections were very eager to see our hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram to resume as the Finance Minister. In fact, they were also worried when TMC was supporting the Government from outside. This shows that Budget has triggered to boost the reform process and unleash the financial potentials of our nation.

Sir, most of the proposals are very bold and have changed the very mindset of the people regarding financial thinking. I can say with considerable confidence that no Finance Minister has ever attempted to cut the top income tax rate by 25 per cent at one stroke. The message is clear that the benefit made thus will either go to savings or into investments.

Sir, the voluntary disclosure Scheme is yet another opportunity for the people who have got black money to come up clear by setting right their past. It is not a reward to a dishonest taxpayer but only correcting him through lawful means. This is the objective of law because law is for the man and not man for the law.

Sir, clearly the economy is on the move and is buoyant. Unless the wealth is created the poor cannot be helped. For this, the economy should grow on the fast track. Therefore, the only option is bold decisions. So, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister.

At the same time I will be failing in my duty if I do not point out certain anomalies in the tax proposals. Of all the metals aluminium is identified as the metal used by common people. One can see an aluminium utensil in the hands of the poorest of the poor. It is not gold or silver which are sought after by the rich. I do not understand why tax is levied on aluminium circles which are made from the scrap and old used utensils. The aluminium sheet is drawn from waste and scrap. From such aluminium sheets, the circles are made through a hand cutting machine without electric power. From such circles utensils are made by tiny and SSI units. The fun is that aluminium sheets are exempted from Excise Duty whereas on aluminium circles made out of the sheets tax is levied. Hence I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to exempt aluminium circles from Excise Duty. This will, undoubtedly, bring joy to the hearts of the poor.

The hon. Finance Minister has announced on the floor of the House that a scheme of compounded levy for producers of aluminium circles. A flat rate of Rs. 5,000 per month per rolling machine with not exceeding 60 HP motor making of aluminium sheets, may be considered.

Sir, I want to bring to the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Finance some anomalies in taxation. While we

[Shri N.S.V. Chitthan]

are signing agreements with every country to avoid double taxation, I fear that we are not doing so in the case of our own people.

Take the case of camphor. Camphor in powder form is cleared on payment of duty at 18 per cent. Small and tiny units buy duty paid camphor and use the same for tableting with the help of uneducated and unskilled labourers and their helpless family members who are all very poor. Hindus use such tabletted camphor for poojas. Packing once duty paid camphor in small packets, in tablet form, is liable to duty at 18 per cent *ad valorem* for the second time. This will amount to double taxation. There is no excise duty on candles, *dhoops*, *agarbattis* and *sambrani*. Hence, I request the hon. Minister of Finance to delete Chapter Note II in Chapter 29 regarding tableting, packing or repacking and not to levy further 18 per cent duty. This will help to avoid double taxation on the small and tiny makers of camphor tablets.

There is another case of double taxation. Hotels and restaurants pay sales tax on food articles and also pay income-tax on their income. But when the food is taken for outdoor catering, another service tax is proposed in this Budget. When they are already taxed, why should we impose another tax?

In the Budget of 1991-92, agro-based products like sauces, ketchups, butter, cheese, skimmed milk powder, canned foods and dried vegetables were excluded from excise duty. In the Budget of 1993-94, food items like noodles, extruded fruits were exempted. In the Budget of 1994-95, 10 per cent *ad valorem* duty was there on ice-cream, but in the present Budget, this was increased from 10 per cent to 13 per cent. Due to high incidence of duty and local taxes, the industry is not developing, and a number of units are either closed, sold or dormant. It is a seasonal business. So, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance to exempt ice-cream from the excise duty or to reduce the duty from the existing 13 per cent to eight per cent in order to save and encourage the industries. I do hope that this sort of an announcement would definitely bring joy to the children of this nation.

The National Highway from Chennai to Kanyakumari can only be developed by way of sanctioning more funds. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance will give due consideration to this and allot more funds generously.

Madurai is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu. Madurai aerodrome should be brought into the international network. The Ministries of Finance and Civil Aviation and other concerned Ministries should evolve a comprehensive plan with a time-bound programme to achieve this purpose.

The Union Government is providing funds worth several crores of rupees to many welfare programmes undertaken in the States. There are apprehension that the allotted amounts are not being spent properly. To monitor such disbursement at the district level, I urge upon the

Government to nominate the Members of Parliament in such bodies.

With these words, I support the Finance Bill.

16.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIAS AZMI (SHAHBAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Budget for several reasons. The United Front prepared the Common Minimum Programme. Social justice revolves around it. In fact they have nothing to do with social justice. The slogan of social justice was given by V.P. Singh on this soil. He blew it such a proportions that the people who were close the temple, were compelled to accept the Mandal Commission. Therefore, it is clear that social justice should be taken care of in the Budget and each programme of the Government headed by Janata Dal. Social justice calls for uplifting the people who are lagging behind in the race of life and bringing them at par with others.

16.01 hrs.

(SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA *in the Chair*)

Various sections of people are living in the country. These sections are formed on the basis of caste, region, religion and language and several of them are formed on the basis of sentiment. The sections, which are formed on the basis of caste, have been accepted by our Constitution makers. On that basis scheduled castes and backward classes have been provided reservation. Religious minorities also form a class. At the time of independence, these sections were neither poor nor lagging behind in the race of life. By a well conceived scheme they were rented from every field of life and were made to stand in a corner. When it became totally, helpless, it became a beggar for its sustenance. The Maulana Azad Foundation was set up for that purpose. The Government said that it is doing a lot for the minorities allocating Rs. 40 crores. In my opinion Rs. 40 crores is not a big thing for 10-12 crore people because when denied it comes to 3-4 rupees per head which is not going to help them in any way.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to put it on record that the Welfare Minister has also included the Sikhs in the Maulana Azad Foundation for their upliftment. I do not have any objection to it. Today the Sikhs are also called minorities. The people belonging to scheduled castes have been provided reservation politically and in services. Similarly Dalit Sikhs are also given the benefit of Indira Awas Yozana and other such facilities. They contest elections against reserved seat and enter Parliament and Assemblies easily. Similar reservations are provided in IAS and PCS but the people belonging to the Muslim Community who are doing the same job and who belong to the same caste, such as Muslim Mehtar, Dhobi, are not being given the benefits of reservation, politically and in services. This clearly indicates that our laws accepts the Sikhs as Hindus. It is a different thing that all are considered equal in Sikh religion also as is the case in Islam and they get all the

benefits to which Hindus are entitled but these are not given to Dalit Muslims. Shri Ramuwalia has not given anything to them. I do not think that there is any scheme for social justice. Under which section of Common Minimum Programme has it been done? Mr. Chidambaram should reply to it because he is the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Communist brethren have not fully accepted the social problem of our country so far. They have only two classes—the rich and the poor. If I accept this theory, this Budget becomes worse. A lot has been provided for the rich, the middle class and the higher middle class in this Budget and this class which dominates the society has been praising the Budget loudly. Therefore, it seems that this Budget has been prepared for them. But there is nothing for the poor in it. How I can promise it because my party represents the poorest of the poor in the society. The costs of post cards, inland letters and envelopes has been increased. Eight percent tax has been imposed on umbrella. Tax has been imposed on transport and travel tax has also been imposed. Therefore, through this Budget the middle class and the higher middle class have been benefitted at the cost of the poor. Therefore they are supporting it. How can I support it?

Yesterday, the Minister of Finance announced many concessions in taxes, but those concessions have also been given to those people whom the Finance Minister has given a lot of concessions while presenting the Budget, they give any concession demanded by the poor, I would thank them for that and would also vote in support of the Finance Bill. If the Minister does not make any such announcement, how I can support the Budget?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Uttar Pradesh is the largest State of the country. Uttar Pradesh is the poorest state in the country. The problem of power has become very acute in Uttar Pradesh because of which the Indian and Foreign capital investor do not want to set up their industries in Uttar Pradesh. Six-seven crore of rupees of the Central Government are outstanding against the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board. Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board is not even in a position to pay its interest, not to speak of paying the instalment of the outstanding dues. For the last two years Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board was not in a position to receive a single paise as assistance from the Central Government. This year, during the President's Rule when funds were allocated for Uttar Pradesh, some amount was reduced from it against the outstanding dues. After the formation of new Government in Uttar Pradesh this year, some assistance has been provided to the State Electricity Board. If they accept the Common Minimum Programme and think that more assistance should be given to the State which is more backward and poorer, they should provide more assistance to it and the State which has made progress, assistance should be taken from that and provided to the poor State. If they believe in social justice and the Common Minimum Programme, the Government should waive off the dues outstanding against the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board so that the Board may become self-reliant. It will help the state attract more capital

investment and people get employment. The Hon. Prime Minister is very intellectual. His generosity is highly lauded. When he goes to Punjab, the most prosperous state and waives off the whole of the loan in lumpsum, but he cannot waive off the dues outstanding against the REC and the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board inspite of our requests. What sort of social justice is it? What short of Common Minimum Programme is it? Give more to haves and nothing to the have nots. Therefore, I would request the Minister of Finance to get the dues outstanding against REC and Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board waived so that at least the position of Electricity may improve in Uttar Pradesh. When the entire loan amount of Punjab can be waived why the dues outstanding against the REC cannot be waived?

There should be some basis for providing assistance to the States by the Centre. Population and backwardness should be the basis. The States, which are more backward, should be provided more assistance the States which have more population, should also get more assistance. But this criterion is not followed while providing assistance by the Centre. I was not able to go through it completely, but some heads which I have gone through, as it has been said two days earlier that for Adult Education Rs. 13 crore have been provided to Rajasthan and Rs. 9 crore to Uttar Pradesh. I am not against allocating Rs. 13 crore to Rajasthan? But Uttar Pradesh has three and a half times more population than that of Rajasthan. Loan of Rs. 9 crore has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 13 crore to Rajasthan. It is against social justice. It is against the Common Minimum Programme. I request the Government to move an announcement to the effect that States would be provided assistance on the basis of their backwardness and the size of their population so that those States may make progress which are backward. If allocation is not made on the basis of population and to a State with a population of 15 crore and a State which has a population of 5 crore are given equal amounts it is an injustice. Besides it, I make a demand from the Minister of Finance that the taxes which have been withdrawn from umbrellas, Batteries, Towels and transport. ...*(Interruptions)* should be imposed again. The States should be given financial assistance on the basis of their population and backwardness at the time of allocation of assistance so that those States may also make progress which have been lagging behind in the race for the last 50 years. Earlier Uttar Pradesh was not backward. People say that there may be reasons for that. It has been said that Prime Minister has mostly been from Uttar Pradesh. But the Prime Minister who belonged to Uttar Pradesh never took care of the State. The Prime Minister who belonged to Karnataka accorded priority to Karnataka in everything. The present Prime Minister who belong to Punjab waived off the whole of the loan of Punjab within ten days of his coming to power ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I would say assistance should be provided on this basis. With these words I conclude.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. In my view, this bill is against the interest of most of the people of this country. We also admit that

[Shri George Fernandes]

it is against the Constitution of India. The Minister of Finance is well versed in law and I would like to draw his attention to Article 38 and 39 of the Constitution. I would not read it out. But he would know and admit that the policies of the Government and the Budget presented by it openly violate the provisions of Article 38 and 39 of the Constitution. Those members who have taken oath to maintain the dignity of the Constitution, have the responsibility of opposing this bill and this policy. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the 50th anniversary of Independence and in my opinion, a huge amount would be spent on celebration in the coming few months. I have the newspaper of yesterday with me in which there is a report of UNI. It is the report of Human Rights Commission. It is based on the facts revealed in the inquiry in the death due to starvation in Orissa. Human Rights Commission has stated that most of the suicides in the country are committed due to starvation. People's economic backwardness forces them to commit suicide.

Such an incident occurred in Delhi on last 1st May and the boy died the next day. Such an incident again took place after two days of it in which a woman committed suicide along with her children because she had no means for earning her livelihood. I would like to ask the Finance Minister as to what hopes this budget will give to those people. I can say about my Constituency that I am not in a position to give any hope to the people of my Constituency from this Budget, their programmes, their finance bill or their grant. I cannot say about other people but as an Hon'ble Member was saying just now that whoever becomes the Prime Minister certainly gives some amount for the development of his village. But it is not possible for the people like me. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose this Finance Bill.

In his opening remarks the hon. Finance Minister had yesterday stated how the foreign exchange reserve went on increasing from the day the budget was presented and how it reached the mark of 3 billion dollars on 6th May. He is right since, be it the pension fund, institutional investors or others, they come here to invest otherwise also, a limited capital is coming here. He has brought some foreign exchange undoubtedly. The hon. Finance Minister should have given the last years data of trade. Our deficit was of 4 billion 635 million dollars last year and this year as per the data available at present the deficit is 5 billion 259 million dollars while the year has completed and the whole data have not come. On one hand you talk to arrange the foreign exchange, on the other hand if we look at the data after the policies implemented since 1991, it can be seen that the foreign exchange is earned merely by the export of edibles and it is said that except export there was no other way out. Most of the export was of the food products which includes animal meat etc. I cannot name those animals here but this is the biggest achievement of our exports.

Secondly, the hon. Finance Minister in his budget speech has mentioned that how the prices of commodities were brought under control. He has mentioned how we

are on single digit after the formation of the United Front Government. He has also said that the single digit inflation has been going on in our country for the last 106 weeks, it is continuity for them, may be it is a thing to rejoice at for some people but you have been doing so since long. You have tried to mention it to the previous Government that the inflation is on single digit for 106 weeks, i.e. 2 years and 2 months. You are right at your point that inflation is at single digit but there is a need to change the system of marking the price and specially of calculating the rate of inflation. I am not saying so for the hon. Finance Minister. There is a need to change this system since on one hand you have been claiming that we are at single digit while on the other hand at least for the last 52 weeks the prices of essential commodities meant for the poor have increased by 100 percent. Therefore, whereas you give the data of the percentage of inflation as 6.4 or 5.3 percent. I would like to submit that I have the Economic and Political weekly of 15th April with me in which the inflation was 6.4 on 5th April in which the data of food articles is 11.5 percent.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the data of food article was 11.5 and that of fuel, power, light and lubricant it was 16.2. Later on it was 14.3 and food index computed was 12.4. Therefore, if we give the data like six percent etc. we play, specially with those people who do not know what is inflation. We say to them that may be the prices are soaring up for them but the prices in the country are not increasing. There is a word in English 'Charade', we are doing so with the people. It is a game in which the people who play it enjoy but it is played at the cost of spectators. This is happening here.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I am sorry to say that the hon. Finance Minister is saying with firm conviction as if he has made a big achievement yesterday he gave us a long list of what has been reduced, what has been increased, what has been reduced in the excise and what has been increased, all such details were given here. The earlier reduction and like given in the budget are at their own place but we would like to know about the effect of his yesterday's speech on the life of the poor? There is a document Indian Market Demographics—the consumer classes which have been prepared by the National Council for Applied Economics and research and the data of 1994 included in it uniform that whereas there were 15 crore 73 lakh families in India in 1994, out of it 13 crore, 12 lakh families, i.e. 83.41 percent families, on an average, were earning 20 rupees per capita per day.

[English]

This is 'The Consumer Classes'. It is not 'class' but 'Classes' and

[Translation]

further data given in it is that out of these 13 crore, 12 lakh families, 9 crore, 5 lakh families were living on 10 rupees per day or less and we have been discussing here about the beauty of this budget.

Mr. Chairman Sir, earlier before some days when the Finance Minister was not the Finance Minister, there was hue and cry in the country. Who were in trouble and with his coming whose problems have been solved? We are happy that he has taken charge again but tell me what will be the effect of his taking charge on all these people?

Mr. Chairman Sir, 4-5 days back I was at the Delhi Airport where I was to board a plane. The aeroplane was delayed to take off. There were policemen, around to whom I talked. During the conversation they asked about the Pay Commission and further told that they work for 12 hours. I do not know what sort of work is taken from the policemen for 12 hours. I would like that the hon. Law Minister, hon. Finance Minister and hon. Home Minister, who are present here should pay attention towards it. They work continuously for 12 hours and the salary is around Rs. two thousand and five hundred and when they work for 12 hours in day or night, they are not offered even, tea but they have to take tea from their own pocket and have to pay Rs. four for one cup of tea at the airport and that cup is a paper cup of one and half inches. They take tea at least twice in 12 hours and that tea does not even quench the thirst of their lips. They have to pay Rs. 8 daily on tea. In this way it comes around Rs. two hundred and fifty per month. They asked us what will be their fate and what will be the future of India? I think we should ponder over it. I would like to know as to what are you giving to them is this budget? Those who do not have employment, leave them aside. The unemployment is increasing due to all these policies, leave them aside but those who are serving and from whom we have expectations, what is your budget giving to them? Serving as a security guard in aircraft means the risk of life. There is the question of the security of the country. This is their condition and this is the price you are paying them for their services.

Mr. Chairman Sir, yesterday I received a letter by post sent by some of our colleagues of trade unions from Bengal. They are the employees serving in colleges. Perhaps Mamata ji is not here. This letter is of 29th April. I would like to read only two sentences of it:

[English]

"Eight of us are working in the office of this college—the name of this college is Raiganj College—since 1980 and some since 1986 as daily-wage workers..."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, you come from Bengal and are a labour leader.

[English]

...and having all sorts of jobs, including even accounting, on a daily remuneration of a maximum of Rs. 59.83 and a minimum of Rs. 53.83 under no-work-no-pay provisions."

[Translation]

It means that if one falls ill for seven days, one will die of starvation. The next sentence is for you to think.

[English]

"Six of us are working as hostel cooks since 1972 on a consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs. 405 at present. These persons have to work for 12 hours a day."

[Translation]

This is the condition. We would like to know what does it matter? The budget and the law through which you have decided to convert black money into white money, what does it matter? Therefore, we would like to submit that I do not expect anything from any of your programmes.

There is one other thing. They have increased the excise duty in the budget and that is on the cigarette. The duty on the smallest size of cigarette was 75 rupees on 1000 rupees which has now been increased to 90 rupees i.e. Rs. 15 have been increased. Likewise the tax on Bidi was Rs. 5 on one thousand rupees which has been increased to rupees 6. Only one rupee has been increased. Since, this is the age of social justice. Equality and justice are in your common minimum programmes therefore the increase was 20 percent on both there. But it appears that on one hand the increase is Rs. 15 and on the other hand it is increased by Re. one but on both ends the increase is 20 percent but many questions have been raised. When three years back the Government had allowed the manufacturing of mini cigarettes, the 60 lakh Bidi workers are suffering in the country due to it. We merely describe it in words but they are dying actually. Who will provide them employment? Where will they get employment? Which new industries are being set up and by when they would be set up? Beside, 60 lakh labourers there are 40 lakh workers engaged in collecting 'tendu' leaves who belong to various parts of the country. Their number is big specially in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. The number of those who have fallen victim to the Government policies is 40 lakh. It means that studies have been conducted to render one crore people jobless. Three years back multinational companies were allowed to compete with cigarette. Today there is restriction on smoking in U.S.A., Europe and other countries but all these companies are coming to India with their brands to set up their factories. Those who are to smoke and die, none can stop them but at least do not allow any one to kill Bidi workers.

The issue of minorities is raised. The issue of the down trodden people in the society is raised. The issue of social justice is raised. Each one of your policy is killing the poor people of the society. It does not look good and discussing on caste and religion is also not good, but most of the Bidi workers are Muslims. They are only 50 thousand in my Constituency. There is no other way of employment. The owners pretended that due to this increase in the tax and competition we have to reduce your salaries as we

[Shri George Fernandes]

are to pay more tax. The employment opportunities of the people were cut short on the pretext that their product is not being sold in the market as the small cigarettes have taken over their business. Therefore, I think that this budget is not going to solve any purpose.

Secondly, with the withdrawal of the hon. Minister from the Government, they people were happy since it was a solace for them. There was no question of concession/relief. All of us had asked to reduce the income tax. But we fail to understand the meaning of the decision taken by the hon. Minister on a dividend. Saying that there are one crore share holders in the country, we do not know their actual number since many companies have been declaring at their own that their share holders are in lakhs and crores. But nothing is known about the promoters and their share of shares. Nothing is known about the unnamed shares in the market. There are some such companies which have been issuing duplicate and triplicate shares and are taking dividend in their name ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to take a few more minutes ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit that we ...this thing ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. You have spoken for twenty minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (NALANDA): Regarding dividend, I would like to submit that if you want to give some relief to the rich then give them relief in income tax. But waiving of the entire dividend amount from tax does not seem appropriate and we oppose it specially. The hon. Finance Minister has said a very good thing here.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a number of speakers left.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Whenever he speaks, he should be allowed time ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 24 more speakers left.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (CHITTORGARH): George Shaib has his conviction ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will not take much time ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Finance Minister has said about the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme, in his speech that:

[English]

None of the political parties which met opposed this scheme.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: No, no that is not true.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Then you move a privilege motion.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I belong to the United Front, I cannot a privilege motion against him.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That does not empower him to speak an untruth, since you are saying that it is not the truth.

[Translation]

Our party is not with them and we oppose it. We oppose it due to some reasons. The main reason is that by this declaration this message is being given to the nation that we are celebrating the 50th year of freedom and the one who pays the income tax honestly is the biggest fool and the tax evader is a right since the Government is always with them. We do not like it. We strictly oppose this. You are allowing to launder blackmoney. Where this money has come from? Who have created this money? This money has not been created by way of tax-evasion only but the smuggled money involved in this black money will also be laundered. The foreign forces are playing the politics of money in India, that money would be laundered. The money involved in drugs, which is not only to the tune of crores of rupees but billions of rupees are involved in drugs, that money would be laundered. In it the money of the gangs the hired killers operating in India would be laundered. The groups which plunder the treasuries of India, their money would be laundered and they will become tomorrow's dynasty. The money makes dynasty in this country and the remaining people die. The looted money is required to make a dynasty. Take the name of money ranging from the Bofors, that money is required. Therefore, we oppose that. I appeal to the entire House that this is not a question of parties, this is the question of the country. The black-money is detrimental to the security of the country and by laundering it, the new dynasties of dacoits, looters, thieves and smugglers have come to stay and those very people will rule the country tomorrow and to what extent they would carry the country forward, we should ponder over that. That is why we oppose that.

Sir, we could have lakhs of differences with the Finance Minister but my request is that please don't do that. I realise your plea. Your plea is that this money will be invested in infrastructure. An economist of London has recently given you a new advice about infrastructure. I am sure that you must have gone through it and that advice came when truckers went on a strike. The advice given by the economist to him on April 12 on the truckers strike reads as follows.

[English]

"From an economic point of view the new tax, that is the tax which the truckers oppose, the lorry owners oppose, made sense. The Government said that it will try to find ways to resurrect it. But the strike shows that even a sensible tax can look unjust if it is corruptly administered. If only Mr. Chidambaram could collect five per cent tax on all bribes, his Budget deficit will probably vanish".

[Translation]

This is the thinking of London based economist about the economy of our country. If we could only save the money involved in bribery and levy tax thereon, only then something could come out of it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one more point arises out of the truckers strike and that is the tax which you have levied on the "ring cab" and taxi, this is not clear now...to me because you have said that the cab means under the so and so section of the Motor Vehicle Act wherein it is mentioned that mini cab means a taxi meant for less than six people to board on. You have proposed five per cent service-tax on such taxi owners or the collectives of the cab on hire, this tax is proposed to be levied, this is not clear, However, you did say in your speech yesterday that your proposal was meant for all things and you would talk to each one so that there might be no overlapping and you would take care of all these things before implementing it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude my speech after making two more points. These two are very important issues. The first is that I have got two documents of the Supreme Court. I had sent a letter to the hon. Speaker in the morning that I was going to take up two issues regarding this Finance Bill which directly relate to economic management of our country. How this whole system will function. I was just saying to my friend Jaswant Singhji that we wasted three years in the J.P.C. for no reason. When we were investigating the bank share scam while sitting in the J.P.C., writing report, we were tuning each other's brain and playing with the country as well, the scam in the Indian Bank was going on. As if nothing has happened in the country, they were in their enjoying mood and they were least affected by the efforts made by us, the Parliament and the statement made by the then Finance Minister. You, we and all members of this House raised a voice on this issue.

[English]

This document is "written submissions by Anil Diwan". This is dated 31st March, 1997.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it an affidavit or what document is it?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (NALANDA): I will submit that report too. There is a submission as follows:

[English]

"By an order dated 24th February, 1997, this hon. Court issued notice and also appointed *amicus curiae*. By the said order dated 24th February, 1997, the court also ordered as under...By another order dated 19th March, 1997, directed *inter alia* that any person wishing to bring..."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Fernandes, this matter is *sub judice*. You cannot read it here.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am reading a court document. I am not reading anything ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, let him say if he is reading from a document in a case which is *sub judice* or not. The answer is 'yes' or 'no' to that.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, This is not written in any book that if a matter is *sub judice*, that will not be discussed in this House.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This is *sub judice* Sir, that's all if the court is hearing it, we do not hear it.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The Bofors case is *sub-judice* is many courts in the world, that does not mean that this case is not or will not be discussed here.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if it is *sub judice*, it cannot be discussed in this House. Is the matter *sub judice* or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter is *sub judice*, Shri Fernandes, you cannot raise it here.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This House has discussed and I believe that this House can discuss matters whether they are in a court of law or whether they are not in a court of law. Where does it say that this House shall not discuss a matter? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The rules say so.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Where does it say so? In that case, how can this House discuss Bofors scandal?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is not *sub judice*.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It means, anybody who wants to hide anything will have to now file a petition and say that this House is now powerless, I will deal with it in the court.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Is the case *sub judice* in court, or not? I have no problems if the hon. Member wants to discuss anything. I am raising a matter of principle. If the case is *sub judice*—he says that this is a submission to a court—tomorrow in a case which is *sub judice* in a court can you start reading the affidavits, counter affidavits and reply affidavits? Is it *sub judice* or not? That is the short question now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: So far as Parliament is concerned, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think from page 352 of Kaul and Shakhder it is clear that a matter becomes *sub judice* in a criminal case once the charges are framed; in a civil case once the issues are framed ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: And in a writ petition, a matter becomes *sub judice* when the court takes it on its ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): No, when a writ petition is admitted ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The petition is being heard from day to day. ...*(Interruptions)* This has reached seventh hearing. ...*(Interruptions)* This writ petition is heard in the court. ...*(Interruptions)* Notice has been issued to the Attorney general. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am repeating from memory, about writ petition, Kaul and Shakdher is very clear.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: My learned friend is right. In a criminal case when charges are framed, in a civil case when issues are issued, and in a writ petition when the notice has been issued to the Attorney General; it is the seventh hearing which is going on. How can he say it is not *sub judice*? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if somebody says that the Indian Bank, the owner of which is this Parliament, this country, the people's money of this country is with this bank, people have share of that bank.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That is not the issue. The issue is not the Indian Bank. He can say anything about the Indian Bank.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That means the issue of the Indian Bank will not be discussed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can refer to the Indian Bank.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We are talking about the Indian Bank only.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you cannot raise a matter which is *sub judice*.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Let him say anything about the Indian Bank, I have no objection. Let him say anything about the Indian Bank. Can he read from a document of a court in which a submission is made in a matter which is *sub judice*? Let him speak about the Indian Bank. Our party gets only ten minutes; let him take one hour. But let him speak about the Indian Bank, not read a document which is *sub judice*. Our party will only get ten minutes but he will be given enough time. Let him take time ...*(Interruptions)* What is this then? ...*(Interruptions)* I am objecting on that ground. He is alleging that the moment the Indian Bank comes in we are rising. I am rising on a point of principal. Let him speak about the Indian Bank. I want him to speak about the Indian Bank but not read a document which is *sub judice*.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (JAISALMER): It is a legal issue. Truth should not be hidden due to that. Truth should come out. What trouble has cropped up by this document. A single document has given the fright.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please speak about the Indian Bank. I have no objection about the Indian Bank.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will quote from Kaul and Shakdher page 946.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH: Sir, after a Chargesheet is filed in a criminal case, the matter becomes *sub judice* because the court takes cognizance of it. In case where a writ petition is filed and on the basis of the writ petition, the notice is issued by the court, then again it becomes *sub judice*.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: A notice has been issued to the Attorney General.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH: If a notice had already been issued, then it becomes a part of the trial. Then that is *sub judice*.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Then why are you arguing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I will quote from Kaul and Shakdher. It says:

"One such restriction is that discussions on matters pending adjudication before courts of law should be avoided on the floor of the House, so that the courts function uninfluenced by anything said outside the ambit of trial, in dealing with such matters."

It is very clear. So, you should not refer to the matter which is *sub judice*.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We are not talking about influencing the court. But we are talking about that which has come before the court.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can refer to the Indian Bank but not the matters which are pending before the court.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Now, I will quote from page 947. It says:

"The matter does not become *sub judice* if a writ petition for admission is pending before the court.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: A notice has been issued. It is not pending.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A notice has been issued. It is not pending. Hearing has already started.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: If a writ petition is admitted, then that matter becomes *sub judice*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is pending. A notice has been issued.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN. Shri George Fernandes, you please conclude now. You have taken more than half an hour.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: All right. I will not read the document. I will make some points. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. You have taken more than half-an-hour.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: On the one hand, two thousand crore rupees have been embezzled during the last three years and on the other people are being taxed. The money which has been swallowed, discussion will not be allowed in this House thereon. But point of levying taxes on people is discussed in the House. This is a great injustice to the people of the country. You just leave us, if you will say us to sit, we will sit down but this is an injustice to the people of the country.

I want to put up two-three questions. Will the Finance Minister be pleased to state that today which such facts or information or point has come up before the court which speak that the people who are running the Government here, that most of the money of that bank has come in their hands or in the companies owned by them or their family members. Out of that about Rs. one thousand crore has disappeared. Secondly, if it is a fact ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): That money has disappeared. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Because there is no money ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will answer that.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Whether it is a fact that when the proposal came to appoint a particular person as chairman and Managing Director of that Bank, then it was told to the Reserve Bank of India, that this person should be prevented from becoming chairman of that bank as there was a vigilance case against him. Many people from Government's side said so but despite that he was appointed Chairman and Managing Director of that Bank. Whether it is also a fact that despite all these bunglings and after initiating inquiry by the C.B.I. he was given extension not for one or two times but for four times. Later on from the date he was recruited and till the date he was employed there, since then, his full service was taken into account and this was regularised as a service. Whether it is a fact that during that period, the person under reference in collusion with and with their cooperation a

political party and with some political leaders, a large sum of money of that bank was wasted on his behalf and with their cooperation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you have put up your all three questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH): What are you doing this? Fernandes ji is making his points. You are constantly interrupting him since he has begun to speak. If you will do so, nobody could speak. This is not the way ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken forty minutes. How long will you speak?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Who decides his time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has spoken for 40 minutes.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Then what happened?

SHRI. BRAHMANAND MANDAL (MONGHYR): A lot of time was wasted in controversy.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, how he has spoken for forty minutes ...*(Interruptions)* If it is decided that members will speak on the basis of their party's strength ...*(Interruptions)* Members do not speak on the basis of their strength. How much time one should get here to speak, that is not decided. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, parties which have only two members here, they take more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then only 24 speakers could speak in this way, will it go throughout the night? Whether unlimited time will have to be allotted in this manner.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If you don't interrupt they will not take more time.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: His party has three members. He has spoken for 40 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Janata Dal has only 40 M.Ps. and the member of this party has become Prime Minister what lesson they will teach us of democracy?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nitish Kumar, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATERJEE: It is a very unfair comment. The Prime Minister from the United Front is supported by the Congress-I ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Your each M.P. Speaks for 20 minutes. Why is it so?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Senior members like you are present in this House. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this has been the courtesy of this House. We also have been members of this House, we used to get more time ...*(Interruptions)* whether this House has ever functioned taking every single minute into account. This House could not function if we allot any fixed time for a member to speak...*(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): When you speak, we never interrupt you. What is it all about? We never made any remarks ...*(Interruptions)*. Let him speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Joshi ji, please take your seat.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude within five minutes. I want to ask one last question to the hon. Minister that the court has also noticed this fact that the C.B.I. has been facing a setback due to connections of influential persons in all these bunglings of the bank. This case has come to this point. I level charges against the Minister of Personnel that he is playing a role behind the curtain, this has become evident before the court. You want to make me shut-up but you cannot make me shut-up so easily.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We will answer all the questions.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a notice to hon. Speaker. The second point is that I want to directly ask the hon. Minister that there is a person and it is required to name him, I will tell his name also, if not, I will not because he is the owner of a big newspaper group. I know him for many years and he says for the last many years that how he can purchase this country and how he behaves, all of us know that. I have been also in Government twice. When I was in Government in 1997, I came to know about him very well. The talks which we had at that time in order to carry out his work, I don't have much time to tell all about that right now, but this man created hurdles in the functioning of the courts and finally, the Calcutta High Court save its ruling recently in October, last year, in a case pending for the last ten years and told the Enforcement Directorate that investigations should be carried out. These are the words of the court as given in its judgement, money has been deposited in foreign banks, the country's money is shiphoned off outside, looting is continuing here also. This is not a matter to influence. These are the words in judgement. The copy of judgement is very big but it is said that, 'this man has committed frauds, forgery and every sort of tricks to

usurp the companies as is mentioned in the judgement. The Enforcement Directorate conducts a raid at his house as per the judgement of the High Court, seizes documents and it is said that he has suffered a heart-attack and again he suffers a second heart-attack and Doctor is called again. He says that he has a heart-attack and the people of the Enforcement Directorate go back to their hurriedly. This is the incident of that night. The Enforcement Directorate knew it that person was to escape by the British Airways at 12 O'Clock that night. Many people escape from here or are get escaped. As soon as the people of the Enforcement Directorate come back, they had not the problem of heart-attack. He had already packed his luggage. He reaches straightaway the airport. At the gate of the airport, the people of the Enforcement Directorate nab him and as soon as he is nabbed, they receive the telephone calls from your Revenue Secretary, I would take his name—it is not proper to name him in this House. But everybody knows who the Revenue Secretary is and they know it very well that a person who should not have become a Revenue Secretary, against whom investigations have been initiated not once or twice but thrice and such persons talk of 50 years of independence of our country, such persons occupy such posts who never give a second thought to the interest of the country in any way or any manner—He gave a telephonic call directly and asked them not to arrest him but let him go. Further he says about you that the Finance Minister also uses good offices. How it has been done and if not done the Minister will told but the Revenue Secretary has written to Enforcement Directorate that yes, I have phoned ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Is he making a charge?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He has stated that he had telephonically asked them to let him go.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No he is not making a charge.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He is released then he is called back. He files a case in Calcutta High Court and says that Enforcement Directorate should be asked to stop the proceedings. The appeal made to Enforcement Directorate for stopping the proceedings is withdrawn two days later but a fresh petition is filed in Delhi High Court and after the Delhi Court ordered that it should be got investigated, he ran away. We have just come to know that he is sitting in some hospital at Mumbai and efforts are on that he should not be arrested at any cost. His foreign banks are not touched. That is why I am raising these two matters here. The Govt. may do to this country but unless these scandals involving on the one hand and the Indian Bank on other side are not resolved, no purpose will be served. All these things are going on without any change and looting of Banks is going on even after the

JPC of Parliament.

17.00 hrs.

Secondly, a particular person who is surviving on media hype continues to break every law of the land. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not possible to build the country like this and if you talk claims are made about the transparency then a white paper on this whole matter should be placed here and those who are trapped in these scame however mighty they may be, should be punished. This needs courage. If this is done well will consider that the Government is heading in the right direction. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with this I oppose this Bill and request the House that this Bill is totally against the provisions of the Constitution of India. Therefore, it is the duty of all of us to oppose it with all our might because we all have pledged here, in the name of the constitution. with this I conclude, thank you.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REEDY (VISAKHAPATNAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit one thing. Sir, I think, from now onwards there are more than 31 Members who would like to speak on this and you want to finish the speeches today. May we know how much time you are allotting to each Member? Should we have to sleep here today or go away? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri George Fernandes' party has got only four minutes.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: That is all right. We would like to know how much time you are giving to each Member? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I agree that Shri George Fernandes's case is an exceptional case but for all others you must enforce the time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am allowing only five to seven minutes.

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: We also have to get the opportunity to speak. We are waiting to speak right from the morning. At this rate, I do not think that we will get the opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am allowing only five to seven minutes.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, if you give me a chance, I will speak only four and a half minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

Now I call upon Shri Major Singh Uboke to speak.

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE (TARANTARAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you have given me opportunity to speak. I belong to that constituency which is on the border of India and Pakistan. Four wars have been fought in this area since Independence till date. First

war was fought in 1947, when partition of the country took place. Two-three days before, you have read that our leading journalist Shri Kuldeep Nayyar had said that when he came from Pakistan on 23 July, 1947 he had three clothes and Rs. 13 with him only. At that time people of Punjab had borne the burden of partition for the sake of country. The entire economy had shattered and people who came from Pakistan, left behind their home and hearth. At that time the whole of the country helped those people who came from West Pakistan and East Bengal. Later the people of Punjab and particularly those living on the border near Amritsar witnessed the war of 1965. The people of Kashmir and Assam had stood by us. After that the war of 1971 was fought. These two wars were fought in Amritsar district of Punjab and on the border of Punjab. There were many industries and factories in Punjab, particularly in Chharatta, near Amritsar and other areas. Because of these wars the people there migrated to other places in the country. They established their factories at Faridabad and other places in the country. Due to these two wars Punjab was ruined. The people of Punjab fought valiantly against Pakistan and the entire nation helped them. History bears testimony that the people of Punjab helped the army in many ways. They even carried Granades on their shoulders. This was reason that our army could reach till Ichhigil canal and Lahore.

But all the factories in Amritsar and at the border were destroyed in those two wars and the economy of the border area of Punjab was ruined. Many of these small-big factories shifted to Panipat and some to Faridabad or some other places in the country. There were some blanket manufacturing factories near the border areas. These blankets are used by the poor people. The acrylic is made of rags i.e. the torn clothes rags that comes from abroad: I am sorry that custom duty has been imposed on these blankets, which are used by very poor people. State Government has imposed excise duty and the Union Government have imposed custom duty. This has ruined the Blanket manufacturing industry in the state.

17.06 hrs.

(SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair*)

I request the Finance Minister that the custom duty should either be abolished or reduced on these blankets because the blanket manufacturer artisans, industries are suffering. Only one or two such factories exist today at the border. Rest of the factories have shifted to other places because nobody wants to establish unit at a place which is not safe. After three wars they shifted else where with their units. Today nobody wants to establish factories in the area. Agriculture is the only engagement for the people there. One-two small big blanket factories exists there. Therefore, the Govt. must reduce tax. On one hand custom duty is imposed on them, on the other excise duty is also imposed. It is not appropriate. They say that they have to pay Rs. 15/- per blanket as tax which is very high. That blanket is being used by the poor people that is why I would request the hon. Minister of Finance that he should

[Shri Major Singh Uboke]

reconsider this issue and give concessions in tax to these small factory owners, which is a domestic industry.

Fourth war fought by Punjab people which has been mentioned by our B.S.P. colleague just now.

Madam Chairman, the people of Punjab have fought the war. That war lasted very long and that war is being still fought by the people of Kashmir. We have won that battle. That battle was against militancy in the State which was aided and abetted at the instance of Pakistan. On 23 Feb. 1987 the President of India made a special mention in his Address to the Parliament about the militancy in Punjab. I would like to quote one paragraph. It was the battle of the country. It was not only the battle of Punjab. Presidents' address wherein it has been mentioned, was passed by both Houses of Parliament. The then Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala was congratulated in that Address for valiantly fighting terrorism. I want to read out that paragraph because here one colleague of mine has said just now that why the loan towards Punjab has been waived off. I want to tell them that it was not the loan of Punjab, although it has not been waived off till now. It is loan of whole of the country because the battle being fought by the people of Punjab is not only their's but, it is the battle for the entire country. Punjab has fought three wars for the country, since Independence.

Mr. Chairman, Pakistan does not want peace in either Kashmir or Punjab. That is why they tried to create trouble in these two states so that there is disturbance in these areas. The people were incited and misled. I would like to quote from the presidents' Address delivered in the central Hall on 23 Feb. 1987.

[English]

"In Punjab the forces of democracy, unity, progress and secularism continue to be engaged in the struggle to isolate and wipe out the anti-national elements which are guided and controlled by foreign sources. Under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Shri S.S. Barnala, the State Government and the people of Punjab have shown exemplary courage in upholding the values of secular democracy. The people of Punjab have always been in the forefront to defend the unity and integrity of India. They played a historic role in the freedom struggle which has left the imperishable imprint of secularism and democracy of their mind and spirit. It is, therefore, not surprising that they have stand up to the blatantly unconstitutional effort to subvert the democratic process through a sinister exploitation of religious sentiments. In flagrant violation of the sacred tenets and traditions of the great religion founded by Guru Nanak, a small section has turned religious functionaries and holy shrines into instruments of terror and subversion. Today this is the central issue in Punjab. Government will not allow the enemies of India's unity and integrity to abuse and misuse religion for their nefarious ends of creating communal disharmony and of unleashing violence and hatred in Punjab. All patriotic, secular, democratic and progressive forces have to unite to build the strength of the people to overcome the reactionary, fascist and anti-national

elements who are misguiding and confusing the masses in the name of religion. The challenge faces us all. No one can remain on the sidelines."

So, these are the words which were heard in Parliament.

[Translation]

This was approved by the Parliament of India. Please go through this and understand it. Was this the battle of the people of Punjab only? It was the battle of the entire country. This battle was fought for the country. Ultimately everything is there in the President's Address. Assistance was provided by the BSF, CRPF and paramilitary forces for curbing militancy.

They made the best bid to restore peace in Punjab. For 10 long years we fought the militancy. Lot of expenses had to be borne by the State Govt. under the rules. Lot of money was spent on the pay and allowances of the personnel of paramilitary forces BSF and CRPF. Due to this there was heavy outstanding loan on Punjab. Shri Barnala was dismissed after one-two months the President's Address because he was a thorough gentleman. He had received accolades for his exemplary courage and dynamic leadership. Later Sardar Beant Singh took over and the Congress Government when Shri Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister received lot of money for fighting militancy. This money was spent in combating militancy in Punjab. It has also been spent during our time but the major portion was spent during congress reign. We have demanded to waive off the money which was spent on the B.S.F. and C.R.P.F. there.

Our B.S.P. colleague has said just now that we want that our electricity bills should also be waived off ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Uboke, I hope you are going to conclude with this point.

[Translation]

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE: I am the only one from my party to speak. I would take a few minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been speaking since 5.03 O'clock.

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE: Shri George Fernandes could speak as much as he likes but I am speaking for the first times ...*(Interruptions)* I am not saying any thing big. I am first saying that in Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time do you think you will take more.

[Translation]

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE: I would take as much time as has been allotted to my party.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This cannot go on. We cannot do that way. Your Party is entitled to four minutes. You have already spoken for more than 15 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE: I would like to say that whatever expenditure has been incurred, has been spent to curb militancy ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What interest do I have sir? It is in the interest of other speakers.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE: You have taken as much time in interrupting which was enough for me to conclude. Please do not interrupt any more. I wanted to take one more minute. I would be brief but at least listen to me as there is a missconception that the Prime Minister went to Punjab and gave some favours to Punjab. As of now he has done no favour to Punjab. Shri Narasimha Rao who had given this loan, had understood it. He had waived off one instalment of the loan and had assured that the entire nation would share this burden.

Thirdly, the Government has thought over the problem of poverty. As far as provision of subsidies is concerned, the number of people living below the poverty line is 32-33 crores. This is good step but the Government should ensure that benefits reach the poor and should not be eaten up by the intermediaries.

I have seen the fate of the Indira Housing Scheme. During the last two, three years, huge funds were released by the Centre but the poor have not been benefited. Similarly the Jawahar Rojgar Yojna was meant to provide employment in the winter season when there are no means of employment but this has not done any good to the poor. The State Government as well the Centre should keep strict monitoring over it. As per a study conducted by the Central Government only 16 percent amount out of the total fund released by the Centre, reaches the poor and 84 percent amount is eaten up by the intermediaries. The programme carrying a photo of a woman with a child does make an impact whether it has been mooted by Shri Devegowda or Shri Harkishan Singh Surjeet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In what way it is conneted with the finance Bill.

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE: If somebody thinks for the poor, nobody should raise any objection to it. We should ensure the amount released for them should reach the

poor. Therefor, the misconceptions created about Punjab should have been allayed and it should have been made clear that Punjab has fought a war on the behalf of whole country. In the past, too, Punjab has always on the forefront to repulre the attacks launch from the west and today too, Punjab would meet the challange.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not mind—we have respect for Punjab—but what you are saying should have something to do with the Finance Bill. I am sorry. Please conclude. There are many speakers.

I would like to say one more thing as Madam has asked me to be brief. Punjab and Himachal have been receiving excessive rains causing havoc to the crops. The crops lying in the fields have been completely damaged and these crops have grown up in the fields where these have been dumped. The procurement target set by the Government can not be met. What I want to say is that if you want to procure the foodgrains then only the farmers feel motivated to grow more. You would find the sunflowers all around in Punjab. The Sugarcane crop is also on the large scale there in Punjab. The farmers have gone for diversification because of the lower price of wheat, therefore they have turned to Sunflower and Sugarcane crops. The area under cultivation of wheat has also reduced leading to the lesser production. The people of the country and the Government should be concerned about it. I would request the Government to give remunerative prices otherwise the farmers would go in for other more profitable crops.

When we say it instead of showing anger, the entire House should support us. This is a routine matter. Would Kashmir and Assam be able to tackle the problem of on going terrorism on their own. The uniform law should apply to all States. I would request that it should be taken in the right perspective. We are glad that the Pakistan Newspaper Jung and other newspapers have written about the father of our Prime Minister Shri Narayanji that he was carrying the Congress Flag to join and when he was asked to enter the jail he refused to bow down the flag and asked to open the gates full to take the flag along. The son of such a grand person has become the Prime Minister of India today, you should not have any grudge against him. We may have some political defferences as we are part of some other alliance. If he being a Panjabi understand the problems of Punjab then, you should not have any objection rather you should support him.

[Translation]

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE: Just a minute. You should also cate a glance at the tax imposed on the blankets you do not say anything. Those who go on speaking without listening the chair, and I have risen to speak for the first time today, and you have stopped me. I would request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to give a serious thought to the suggestions put forth by me.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us have a competition today in the sense that who can speak most cogently within the shortest possible time.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: He would be given an award.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shri Subbarami Reddy would give that award.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (NAGPUR): Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this Finance Bill.

Yesterday, in this House Prof. Kurien along with 15 other Members expressed their views and concern for the rubber labourer. Which amply shows that how badly the poor of this country has been hit hard in your budget.

I agree with the charge levelled in this regard I also level the charge that this budget has been made under the influence of the rich class. At every step these people have been consulted. It has been categorically mentioned in the annual report of the Confederation of the Indian Industries that foreigners are also there in the C.I.I. which includes billionaires, multinationalists and traders. Never before in the history the dignity of the budget and the Finance Minister has been under mined. The traders and industrialists had never dared to say such things about our Finance Minister and the Government. His vice president writes.

[English]

"What has distinguished ASCON in 1996-97 is the quality of debate, participation, consensus building and impact on Government policies and procedures."

[Translation]

The capitalists have dared to say that they are influencing the policies of the Government. This has been said by their Vice President. He further says.

[English]

"The recognition of ASCON was maximum in the weeks and months preceding the Central Budget, since the Finance Minister took the initiative and reached out to ASCON for suggestions, views, data and inputs."

[Translation]

This simply shows that the budget has been made in consultation with the capitalists. They are boasting. They say that this include the proposals and issues put forth by them which have been approved. These are in a big number.

They also gave a suggestion on the assurance sector.

[English]

"LIC and GIC are in the process of restructuring".

[Translation]

The C.I.I. capitalists are in a position to dictate and the Government bends to their dictates. Thereafter it is the most dangerous thing.

[English]

"Open up insurance to the private sector and foreign insurance companies."

These are their demands and suggestions. What the Government is doing in this regard.

[English]

"IRA set up: Statutory powers under consideration of Parliament. IRA will frame the guidelines for opening up and for the working of the insurance sector."

[Translation]

This is horrible. I would like to place the proof of FERA.

Our entire funds are deposited in the Swiss bank.

[English]

"The world regulation needs to be deleted from the title of FERA".

It will take a lot of time to go through all the suggestions made therein. The reply to them is.

[English]

"Government has announced its intention to amend FERA shortly".

[Translation]

This is most fortunate. The persons involved in the violation of FERA are dictating the Government and the Government is according to them. This has been published in their annual report.

[English]

"Confer on PESB the status on par with the UPSC"

[Translation]

Its reply is

[English]

"Disinvestment Commission set up the review the status of PSUs and to suggest a comprehensive long term disinvestment plan.

[Translation]

All the public sectors have assets worth crores of rupees. The Government propose to sell them and they are ready to purchase them. What for the disinvestment

has been constituted? Were the public sectors meant for it? I herewith charge the Government that it intends to sell out the O.N.G.C's. oil wells which are giving profits. Offers have been invited the people concerned with disinvestment are on their job. These industries running in profits are in number 40. I have got a disinvestment report. The public undertakings running in profit are being sold out. I vehemently oppose. You must amend your policies. What achievement we have made during these 50 years? The country has been thrown into the debt trap. Defence people are crying. We cannot give anything to them. We can not give ships to them.

Their budget is to the tune of Rs. 35000 crores and since 1990-91, when liberalisation has taken place, we have paid interest amounting to Rs. 21498 crores and they say that the debt would be reduced and liberalisation will take place. Of course, liberalisation will take place only when the debt will be reduced. The country will make progress. What progress the country has made in 1997-98? We are paying Rs. 68000 crores as interest. In 1991, it was Rs. 21000 crores and more over at that time there was no liberalisation but now we are paying Rs. 68000 crores as interest.

As far as the United Nations Development Programme is concerned, as per the report of the Human Development, we are ashamed of to see as to where this Government has lead the country to, Sri Lanka has acquired 135th position. Even Maldives and Pakistan are rich than our country. It means we are poor than these countries. What type of budget you have made? There is nothing for poor in this budget. Why did you meet only millionaires and not the representatives of poor people living in *Jhopar Pattis*? This is not good on part of the Finance Minister. It pains my heart and soul. What is happening in the country. You people want to sell out the country. One should learn from his mistakes. A man's life span is about 90 or 100 years. But the country's life runs to thousands of years. We have been under slavery for years. First, French people came and conquered us. Then Portugese came and then British came and conquered us. We have been under slavery for hundreds of years. They came here as traders. Now our country men are inviting multinationals and the entire world to come and rob the country. It is an irony that these people are going to do good for the country. These people have robbed the country. All the Public Sector Undertakings are becoming sick and the entire Steel Sector is on the way to collapse due to the Government's policy. Not a single factory will remain safe. They are making us beggars and then our owners. What is happening is not good. In our country out of 78.3 crores poor people, 22.9 crores people are such whose income is very low and who are living below the poverty line and 55.4 crore people have poor capability.

[English]

These are very poor people and you have not done anything for them.

[Translation]

You have not done anything for them. I have with me the latest report on education. Our annual expenditure on education is 14 dollars per head whereas in a small and backward country such as in Malaysia it is \$ 150, in Korea it is \$160.

How much inflation has increased? In 1981-82 the price index was 100. in 1986-87 the price index of foodgrains was 129. It means in 6 years since 1981, the rise in price index was only 29 per cent. But at that time a lot of hue and cry was made in Parliament. We have had delivered speeches continuously for four years for containing inflation. But inflation did not come down. Now during 1990-91 the price index has come to 179. At that time there has been a lot of hue and cry on this issue. Then congress had come to power with a hope that Mr. Narasimha Rao will bring down the inflation. In December, 1996 the price index figure jumped from 179 to 371. Will the poor survive in such circumstances? What concrete measure has been taken to check inflation? Just delivering the speech will not do good. This is a fact and this is a factual position. I am placing these figures before you. No one can challenge this. The inflation is too high. Just go through the prices of essential commodities. These are Government figures. In 1990-91, the price of rice was 134 and in 1995-96 it jumped to 316. Similarly, the price of the wheat and pulse have jumped from 127 to 302, and from 125 to 339, respectively. This is the effect of liberalisation. You will kill the poor people, they will not survive. You have to think what you are doing. You have gone abroad for 15-20 days then all the capitalists of the country united and multinationals board down the flights saying that they want only Chidambaram Saheb other wise the country will face destruction. You do not hear the voice of poor people living in *Jhopris*. It is we who raise voice on behalf of them. That's why we speak truth and it is for you to have courage to listen to us and it is upto you to improve the lot of the country. I am speaking truth. You please think over it honestly. You please think for their betterment and then reply.

You have played havoc with small scale industries. Why did you go for reservation in this aspect. The Government have constituted Abid Hussain Commission. I do not know from where such persons have come ...*(Interruptions)*

The sycophants prepare the report as briefed by the Minister. This is our culture. How dare the sycophants go against the wishes of the Minister? The Minister is doing wrong. The small scale sector should be encouraged. Thousands of items should be included therein. If small entrepreneurs stand up on their own strength then the country will progress. If we look at the whole world we will find that small items are manufactured in houses and in this way cottage industries are developed. What you are now doing is not correct. You have de-reserved 14 industries. We will strongly oppose this, we will go on roads. We challenge you, we will not accept this. You are doing

[Shri Banwari Lal Purohit]

wrong. How you have de-reserved 14 industries? If you want to invite the foreigners then invite them to manufacture those items which we do not manufacture in our country. You know the prices of ice creams, Mc. donald fast food and uncle chips. He has raised the limit of industries which includes ice cream and biscuit factories, rice mills, poultry feed, pulses mill etc. to three crores. They are playing tricks. It has been done to accommodate big multinationals. There is no need of this. How much inflation rate has gone up? The limit can be raised upto 60 lakhs or even upto one crore. There is no need to raise the limit to such an extent as you did. Raise the limit to the extent the cost of machinery etc. has increased and I request you not to go for de-reserving of the remaining items. These multinationals are capturing ice cream, fast food, soft drinks, industries. They will destroy the country. The population of our country is more than 90 crores. I do not know in which category in 95 crores the Finance Minister comes into. He is not a big capitalist. He is nothing atleast in comparison to Tata-Birla, Mafatlal, Reliance etc. He is having shares worth Rs. one lakh or Rs. one lakh and fifty thousands, a small house. Of course, he is an honest person but he is being misused by wrong people. In which category shall we place him into? Shall we place him in the category of upper middle class?

He has presented a budget which suits the upper middle class. He has prepared budget for only two crores of people out of the 95 crores. Who are these multinationals and wealthy people? They are only two crore people. The excise duty has been reduced for the people enjoying coca-cola, pepsi and other items. This is not good. He should have kept all the people in mind before presenting the budget. Who has been benefited through this budget. In one export report budget proposal of Hindustan Lever has been given. Due to reducing the Excise duty their profit will increase by 40.2 per cent. The turnover of Proctor and Gamble and Colgate Palmolive will increase by 7 and 14.2 per cent, respectively. But our small sector will collapse. This budget is meant for progress of multinationals. Excise duty has also been reduced to a large extent for them.

I had a talk with a foodgrains merchant. He told me that they sell one bag of foodgrains on a profit of Rs. five. The cost of one bag full of foodgrains is Rs. 700. If 5 per cent income is assessed on it then what will happen? Who gets five percent? We know that you have stopped going to public after becoming Minister. But we have to go to public. We are people's representatives. That's why we know that this is wrong. Our suggestion is that it should be 2 per cent. If you do not do it then purpose will not be served. In this way you will oppress the people.

You have defined an assessee. The person who is having four items i.e. immovable property, car and a telephone and who visits abroad then he will be covered under tax net. The Government also send the officials abroad. Suppose a person owns a two rooms house which even a poor man can have and an office bearer of a trade union has a phone for attending to the needs of the workers even in odd hours, now whether they too will be covered

under tax net? You have brought the persons having two room set and a telephone under income tax net. You please modify this. You should have fixed a limit that if a man owns a house at least worth Rs. 5 lakh then he will be brought under income tax net. Anyone can have a telephone. But it's not good that he is also forced to pay income tax.

We strongly oppose your Amnesty Scheme. This is too much of oppression. You have been imposing 80, 70 and 60 per cent tax on those honest assesseees who have been accumulating money for a long time. These people are paying taxes by cutting down their and their children expenses. You please think how much oppression you have committed on crores of honest tax payers. You please think as to what you can do for them.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Madam, I take note of the hon. Member's views. I assume, he represents the views of the BJP. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Shri Satish Agarwal, who met me, did not oppose the voluntary disclosure scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: No. It was regarding 40 percent.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No did they oppose the rates of that scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: No, my party has given a suggestion that the money will be properly used.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am accepting it. If this is the view of his party, let him point it out. All I am saying is that two representatives of his party, who met me did not oppose this scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: If you have done this then atleast it would have been better had this money been spent on poor people, for construction of houses for them and for their welfare. I have told the same thing while I had a talk with you, but no one has paid attention towards this mistake. My friends from congress has spoken about the tax structure for the current year. They have rightly said that people paying 30 to 40 per cent will pay 50 percent tax in return. They will deposit 30 per cent in amnesty and thus save 10 per cent directly. If any person deposits 1-2 lakh in amnesty then he will save Rs. one lakh. This is a wrong thing. This type of transaction will turn an honest person a dishonest one.

You have done wonders in regard to custom duty. The industries will not survive with this. The custom duty has been reduced on all the items. The people manufacturing

textile machinery have become rich in the country. Now textile industry is facing a major competition. The people from Public Sector Undertaking, NEPA had met me. The duty on imported paper has been reduced. All the paper mills are on the verge of closure as a result thereof. Now, the people from paper mills are distressed. You are not destroying only one industry but all the industries. Who these people are? It is unfortunate that you have been trapped by these people. We came to know about C.I.I. We never imagined that our Finance Minister has been trapped under the clutches of capitalists. This is the proof you please call them and ask if this is wrong then. ...*(Interruptions)** Why you have published this? It should be clarified in the House that such thing is not going on. They say that for months together they are holding meetings in this regard. They are saying wrong. What's the attraction you have towards this.

At one time the duty on glaze tiles was 115 percent. It was reduced to 25-30 percent. Whether these things are essential. Whether these are not manufactured in India? The people who have installed automatic plants have suffered losses as a result of this. This is not good. I have many items with me but there is paucity of time. This is a case of Excise duty. You are committing a sin by saying that duty would be charged on the price being obtained by the customer. But how would you assess this? This will lead to a large scale manipulation and corruption. 5 percent tax has been imposed on these people who are in service. The tent house owners come to me complaining.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please excuse me. Did you use an unparliamentary word?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: I am sorry, Madam ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be expunged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: I regret for that, Madam ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That word is expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: I was lost in emotions. The foreign people are looting us and we are watching them helplessly. That's why in a moment of anger I have spoken those words.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, that is going out of record.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: The most important thing is about retail price. You please don't do this. We should have another system in excise. Duty shall be imposed on quantity, number and weight ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Why are you so angry? I want to know it. I am talking very laughingly, but you are very very angry.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: I am asking to expunge these words from the record. I have never used this word in my life time. I am sorry. It was a slip of tongue. This is my third term in the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not understand what announcement he made regarding abolishment of service tax on tent house and tourism industry. The exempt limit on fixed deposit irrespective of Companies is Rs. 2500. Rupees 10 thousand has been given to Bank for F.D. Today inflation is so much that it has exceeded the limit fixed in 1986-87 by three times. You must consider these things.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the most step-motherly treatment has been meted out in the case of coal. Madam, Chairperson, you also belong to the coal belt. In 1994-95 duty on coal was 85 percent which has now been reduced to 35 percent. In 1996-97 it has been reduced from 35 percent to 20 percent and in 1997-98 it has been reduced from 20 percent to 10 percent. Bargaining is going on, lakhs of tones of coal is now coming from abroad. China is also ready to dump its coal here while lakhs of labourers are working in the mines of Coal India. I am warning the Govt. that I am seeing their future they will become jobless, factories will become sick. The Govt. are doing very grave injustice to this country. Their date reveal that they have so much of coal deposits that it is not going to be exhausted during the next 50 years. It is sufficient to meet the requirement of this country can be meet with this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The last point made by you was best.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Madam Chairperson, I would like to say one thing for you i.e. the womenfolk. Excise duty has been imposed on "Suhagbndi" bangless emplets making them costlier. These people cannot do anything else in this House. People have reposed their faith in us by electing us to their House. I am clearly charging you that the Finance Minister has made the Budget under the influence of the capitalist and millions.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Madam, since the House would be sitting late to discuss the Finance Bill, arrangements are being made to serve dinner to hon. Members and friends from the Press. Dinner will be served to hon. Members and friends from the Press in Room No. 70, First Floor, Parliament House at 8.30 P.M. and dinner to staff will be served in Room No. 73 ...*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: The hon. Prime Minister has called us for dinner. So, you must enable us to attend it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): Only those Members who want to speak may sit and others are allowed to go ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I do not agree with it. Madam, we can continue tomorrow ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Madam, Chairperson one important point of mine is left out. While replying to my question the Minister of Finance has admitted that there is a Bank scam of the order of rupees 640 crores. I wrote to him four times, this be replied. I asked him disclose the names, he said the matter is with the C.B.I. and the Government will not disclose them. It is not a matter pertaining to defence. The names of corrupt persons should be revealed to the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give it in writing to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us at least go by some standard.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (NALANDA): Madam Chairperson, Madam, I have one request that the House has become infested with mosquitos please do something to remove them.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Madam, Chairperson, they have admitted to it. It is not the question of the security of the country, being an M.P. it is our privilege to know and you must tell. It is my last demand that you tell the names.

[English]

Madam, he has accepted the fraud of Rs. 640 crore but he says that he is not going to reveal the names since the matter is with the CBI ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translations]

With these words I strongly oppose this Finance Bill.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (SURENDRA NAGAR): Madam, I have got up to express my views on some of the policy matters. In 1991, we started liberalisation. When we started liberalisation, the economic situation was such that we wanted to have foreign investment. We wanted to increase our foreign exchange reserves. Now, after six years, I want to raise a basic question before the Minister of Finance. Between these six years, that is, when we started

liberalisation and when we anticipated restructuring of the industry, certain promises were given to the working class of this country.

I remember that the former Minister of Finance, while assuring the working class of this country, promised that he would create a National Renewal Fund. He made an announcement in Parliament. He had anticipated that the National Renewal Fund would, in a sense, provide a safety net to the working class of this country who will be affected by restructuring the industry, by globalisation and new technology. That is the history of the broken promise.

Now it is the 50th year of our freedom. I remind this House that it was only the textile labour in 1942—when the country was fighting for its freedom—who joined the freedom movement. The textile labour of Ahmedabad had struck work during the British regime for three-and-a-half months. They did not demand wages. There was no scope for demanding the wages. The textile workers of Mumbai struck work for 65 days for a national cause. It has hardly happened in history. What have we given to the textile workers? It is the 50th year of our freedom. Somebody during the Movement in 1942 went to prison for seven days, for a month or two months. They got the certificates and became freedom fighters. They got a lot of concessions like ST pass and pension. But we have thrown all these textile workers into a deep valley of unemployment. It is time to think about them.

When this National Renewal Fund was created, I was promised by the then Secretary of the Department of Industrial Development that on the money that will come from disinvestment of the public sector units, the first right would be of the workers who would be affected by restructuring. But nothing has happened. The story does not end there. When the Disinvestment Commission came before the Standing Committee for giving their evidence, we asked them that one of their suggestions had been that a portion of disinvestment which was to come from disinvestment of the PSUs, was to be reserved for reviving the sick industry and for helping the workers. And they replied that the Government had not accepted the recommendations. If the workers are going to be treated like this, what is the meaning of this human phase when we decided for this kind of liberalisation policy?

When the word 'market-friendly' was used here in this country, some people said that we would now have a human face to the process of liberalisation. I am afraid, after six years since liberalisation has been introduced and after we have built enough foreign exchange reserves and after there has been a considerable improvement in the economy, those promises are being broken now. I feel very sad about it and if nothing is done now then a very serious situation will arise in the country. So, I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that something has to be done during this financial year. The textile workers who have been affected because of the sick mills would have to be given some kind of a relief before the end of this 50th

year of our Independence.

Madam, is it not a tragedy in this country that the legitimate dues of the workers of the Ahmedabad Textiles—I am not talking of the VRS or the additional relief, their legal dues, their salaries, their notice pay, their retrenchment compensation which amount to Rs. 220 crore—has not been paid even today? Are we to remain a silent witness to this kind of a situation? I repeat, Rs. 220 crore of the workers—who had gone on strike without wages for three and a half months, during the days of the freedom movement—has not been paid so far. What is happening?

Madam, a scheme was floated. In the National Renewal Fund it was promised that an Area Regeneration Scheme would be encouraged. Now, what does this Area Regeneration Scheme mean? It means that whatever land and machinery have been lying idle because of the closure of the textile mills, would be re-used for creating more employment. A scheme was submitted by the Gujarat Government. If the land and machinery of 15 textile mills were re-utilised, then it was anticipated that it would be able to generate 65,000 new jobs. The Scheme was approved by the Empowered Committee of the National Renewal Fund and it was sent to the Cabinet for its approval because it involved an amount more than Rs. 80 crore or, maybe, Rs. 100 crore.

Madam, till this day, in spite of the promises made by various Prime Ministers in the public meetings at Ahmedabad, the scheme has not been approved and the workers have not received their legitimate dues of Rs. 220 crore. On the other hand, one by one the lands of the textile mills are being sold at throw away prices. Even the land of the Calico mill was offered at a very low price when the auctioning was going on. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to do away with the old traditions. If he has some obligations to the industrialists; if he wants to give some relief in the Customs Duty; if he wants to encourage industrial growth, is it also not the duty of the Finance Minister of simultaneously protect the interests of the workers? Could we have a society in this country where the industry grows, the taxes are reduced, the excise duties are reduced, the custom duties are reduced; more and more funds are given to the industrialists and on the other hand the workers are deprived of their legitimate dues? There is even no way out of this kind of a situation.

Madam, I do not know what progress we have made in this country. I went to Calcutta. You know that some of the PSUs have been referred to the BIFR by the then Finance Minister. He had given an impression that once the loss-making PSUs were referred to the BIFR, they would ultimately be revived. I went to visit a unit called the Tyre Corporation of India. I went there as the Chairman of a sub-Committee of The Departmentally-related Standing Committee. I called the officers and asked them as to their present position. I also asked the Director (Finance) of the concerned company that if certain concessions, as are being given to a lot of sick industries in the country by the Reserve Bank of India, are given to them as well, what

would be their cash flow? Could they give me the position of their cash flow?

The next day the Finance Director came to me and gave the cash flow. The cash flow showed that within two years, if those concessions were given, they would have a positive network and the loss would be wiped out. But the tragedy was that all the promises given to the working class had been broken ruthlessly. No care was taken after having referred them to the BIFR.

You know very well what BIFR is! It is more than an *Abhimanyu's Chakrabyuh*. Once a factory goes into it, it never comes out. Ultimately, it is the shameful story of a public sector. The Tyre Corporation of India, which is a public sector company, is manufacturing tyres for a private unit and selling those tyres under the brand name of a private company. Is this the real liberalisation? Has such liberalisation taken place in China where the foreign investment has come in a much larger way than in India? Simultaneously, let them have the finance management. Let them have control on the deficit. Let them have a wider tax net. I do not mind, but along with liberalisation if we want to have a human face, then the interests of the workers would have to be taken care of.

I joined public life in 1940. This is my 57th year. I could never imagine in my life that a public sector undertaking would have to manufacture certain products for the private sector and they would have to sell it under the brand name of a private sector. I cannot call it economic progress.

This Government has accepted the formula of Dr. Lakdawala, as far as the poverty line is concerned. What has happened? The world's biggest democracy has earned the dubious distinction of having the maximum number of poor people in the world. Just because we accepted the Lakdawala principle, an estimated 320 million people—a third of the world's 800 million people—live in abject poverty and are suffering from chronic malnutrition. By accepting the formula of Lakdawala we have got our dubious place in the world's poverty line! When I went through the Budget, I saw different allocations for poverty alleviation and small scale sector. My friend, a socialist friend, Shri Sharad Yadav has narrated how allocations have been made for various poverty alleviation programmes and for the small scale sector. I would here like to quote only three figures.

In 1994-95 this Government had provided Rs. 2000 lakh for infrastructural development for SSIs in the rural areas. It is a very welcome step. Everybody congratulated and complimented the Government when this scheme was introduced. But what had been the performance in 1994-95? The Budget papers indicate that out of Rs. 2000 lakh, Rs. 1219 lakh was the savings. Rs. 2000 lakh, that is Rs. 20 crore was given out of which Rs. 12 crore remained unspent. In 1995-96, the small scale industry was suffering because of lack of good tools. So, a tool room scheme was devised. In 1995-96, Rs. 1871 lakh was provided for this purpose and out of that Rs. 1109 lakh was unspent.

[Shri Sanat Mehta]

For infrastructural development in rural areas, out of Rs. 2400 lakh allocated for SSIs, Rs. 2214 lakh was the unspent amount. This is the history. This shows that the Government give us a picture that they are providing more and more for poverty alleviation programmes and for the small scale sector but the money has remained unspent. Madam, what is the meaning of higher allocation?

I would like to quote a 1996 report of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. I would humbly draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the remark made therein:

"This is the International Year of Poverty. Eradication, heightening the moral commitment that we at UNDP and other international development agencies give to helping the poorest of the world's poor eliminating poverty requires a holistic approach to human development".

After liberalisation, when we have become so much rich with the foreign reserves, etc., the words which I want to quote are, 'holistic approach to human development'. It is not hand-out but empowerment; not band-aids but pre-conditioning for self-help.

What I feel is, along with the globalisation and liberalisation, every year, we are having new schemes and more provisions but they are not being used and money looks like hand outs and Band Aids.

Just now a discussion was going on in the House and the discussion was about some banks. We are in the country of Mahatma Gandhi. We claim a lot of things. We are talking about the banks, about the bank scams, about the bank recovery. We have our neighbour, Bangladesh, where there is one bank, you know very well, it is a *gramin* bank. If a *gramin* bank in a small country like Bangladesh can give Rs. 2000 crore to 20 lakh women and help them in becoming more and more empowered, why in this country are we not able to create such a bank?

I do not mind if they did not create such a bank. As a small experiment, I did it myself. I started a *gramin* bank. I collected Rs. 25 lakh from different friends and I have been helping 1500 women. Nobody helps me. NABARD delegation came, Mahila Kosh delegation came; they wanted this form and that form. They asked what I had done and what I had not done. Ultimately, I got tired and said, "I do not want your help". This is the situation. We are talking of a lot many big things, a lot many dreams. This Budget is considered to be a dream budget. Do we know that in our country even today a self-employed woman who does embroidery or makes kites has to borrow money at an interest of 35 per cent? The interest is calculated first. If she borrows Rs. 500, interest is calculated at 35 per cent and deducted, and then the rest of the amount is given. Nobody comes to her help.

We have created a lot of different types of minority development finance corporations, backward classes corporations, etc. I have gone through the reports. The

Finance Minister can see as to how many beneficiaries have been helped during these years by the minority finance development corporations. Perhaps it is not even equal to my small bank with 1500 beneficiaries in one State. Where are we heading to? Let us have a commitment for the poor.

(SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*)

18.17 hrs.

I want to draw the attention of the Finance Minister and raise one question. The Oil Pool Deficit is worrying us. Of course; Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Secretary to the Government, says on the Television that the Oil Pool Deficit is not a part of the Budget. All right. It is not a part of the Budget. But is it not a worrying picture for us? We accepted liberalisation. I supported liberalisation as a trade union leader in ONGC. But now, when I see the real picture, I have a lot of pain in my mind. Some fields were given to the private sector. Three medium-sized fields, Rava, Mukta-Panna, Mid and South Tapti are being developed by private sector, international and Indian companies. As a leader of the ONGC workers, I had got the authentic figure of the gas available in the Mid and South Tapti. Gujarat was more concerned, hon. Finance Minister, for Mid and South Tapti because hon. Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, had promised Gujarat that if they put up a power project at Peepawal, gas from Mid and South Tapti will be given to them. We created all infrastructure. Then, finally, a Petroleum Minister replied to me that he cannot fulfill the promise because there is not enough gas and it is required elsewhere.

Gujarat tolerated even that. Now I am getting a picture that Reliance and Enron which have developed that field, Mid and South Tapti, are getting double the quantity of gas that was estimated by the Geologists of the ONGC. It had happened in one field. Gujarat tolerated it. But the same is the story in Rava and same is the story in Mukta-Panna. So, when we develop, the quantity is lower; and when the international and multinational companies develop, all of a sudden, the quantity and the results become double.

Take the case of the small field of Hazira, a gas field which was thrown away. Everybody in the ONGC and the Petroleum Ministry said that there was hardly any gas there. They said that that was a small field and that it was economically unviable for development. Today, that field has developed the capacity of becoming a very rich gas field. If this kind of oil exploration is going to be done by the ONGC, how are we going to solve the problem of this oil?

When liberalisation started, our respected leader Narasimha Raoji was the Prime Minister.

Within a week, I approached him. I asked him only two things. Firstly, can we attend the oil exploration in this country? If we can attend the oil exploration in this country, then that is good. Secondly, can we do restructuring of the industries in this country? If we can do restructuring

of the industries in this country, then our liberalisation policy will become successful. We have been let down on both scores.

Sir, somebody was quoting the price of the surplus land of textile mills in Bombay as Rs. 20,000 crore. If it was cheaper, then the mill-owners would not have been killed in the streets. They were killed only because of the land and not because of the workers. That land is thrown away through auction. The workers are being kept unemployed. The disinvestment money is being adjusted. Then, how will the workers cooperate in the restructuring of the industries? West Germany have more stringent laws than what we have. They evolved a new strategy which is called land readjustment. It was because the steel mills have large areas of land. Why can we not have a land readjustment of textile mills scheme? We create new industries and ask the textile workers to get out. The Government of Gujarat waited for years together to get the money from NRF for restructuring of the textile mills but no reply was given. I was a Member of the Empowered Committee. The Chairman of that Committee was the Secretary, Ministry of Industry. He was willing to help me. The Labour Secretary was willing to help me. The Planning Secretary was willing to help me. But the Expenditure Secretary said 'no'. He said that it will have to go to the Cabinet and it never went to the Cabinet. Shri Narasimha Rao, in a public meeting in Ahmedabad, promised the workers that Area Regeneration Scheme will be implemented. Nothing has been done. Nobody says that scheme is wrong. I met the World Bank Director who was in charge of India. I asked him whether this Area Regeneration Scheme is good. His reply was that they had given money to the Government of India under NRF not for VRF but only for Area Regeneration Scheme and for more employment. But the Government of India had given nearly Rs. 1600 crore of NRF for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Under VRS who retired? People above the age of 50 years had retired. What is the meaning of giving VRS to them who are above the age of 50 years?

So, I want to appeal to the Finance Minister to have a look at it. Have you kept up your promise made to the working class? Have you kept your promise which you have made at the start of the liberalisation policy? I do not dispute Shri Chidambaram's financial policy. The financial policy is a part of the economic policy. Take the case of Bombay High. Bombay High was once our pride. Bombay High had made the ONGC as one of the *navaratnas*. Several Committees have been formed to re-assess it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA: Sir, this is my last point. I know that I am always a victim of this game. It is because I will sit down if you ask me to sit down. If my friend, Shri Fernandes does not sit down, the everybody will say, he is a senior Member. If seniority is to be measured in this House, then I consider myself junior. Last time, I went away without participation. I am not repeating a single point. I am not raising a point which is not relevant. I am not

criticising somebody personally. I am not interested in scams.

I am more interested in starting a *Gramin* bank like Bangladesh bank which can help 20 lakhs of women in this country than finding out scam. Recovery of money from my bank, although small bank, is 97 per cent, consistently for three years. Are we going to do things like this?

This is the Fiftieth Year of our freedom. Here promise was given. What is the plight of khadi? There are two Manchesters is Gujarat. As far as the textile milles are concerned, Ahmedabad is the Manchester. As far as khadi is concerned, our Surendra Nagar is considered to be the Manchester. All the khadi which is being spun is being woven in my constituency. Some new scheme has been evolved called Marketing assistance. The scheme did not materialise. The rebate was discontinued. Last year, Shri Deve Gowda revived the rebate. This year, I will appeal to the Prime Minister because the first day, he said, he wants to go on the path of Gandhiji, Pandit Nehru etc. A number of times, he quoted Gandhiji. I would beg and request that this is the Fiftieth Year of our freedom and let khadi be given rebate for round the year. Do not make any jugglery. What is the revival cost of the taxtile workers in the textile mills? It is Rs. 2000 crore. That is what Shri Venkat Swamy told in this House. Is this country not able to get Rs. 2000 crore for the workers who have sacrificed their lives for the freedom? I cannot understand this. So, I appeal, before it becomes late, let us look to the interest of the poor, look to the interest of the working class. Otherwise what will happen? I will quote one editorial recently came in *the Business Standard* on Blair's victory. Why after so much liberalisation, successful liberalisation of Mrs. Thatcher, Tories were defeated? It is only one item. This is what Mr. Ninan has written in his editorial. In the democracy of Britain, the people of Britain were feeling that democracy of Britain was interlinked with social justice. Democracy of Britain is linked with a kind of neighbourhood feeling. And what Blair could say to the people of Britain was, Tatcher brought every kind of liberalisation, revived the economy but that Britain's glory had been lost. Everybody feels individually, when I have become rich, what the hell, why should I care for the poor?

I would request Mr. Chidambaram to read the book of Gal Braith, *Contended Society*. Well, Gal Braith says, In America, poor people have no voice if their vote does not matter. So, there is no place for them in the democracy. And the contended class has captured the United States Government. If the State intervenes in favour of the poor, the contended class says, No intervention by the State. But if a member of the contended class has a factory of arms and the arms are not sold in the world market, the contended class brings pressure on Bill Clinton to try to do something like war so that the arms are sold. Gal Braith says, for the poor of America, there is no other way except drug trafficking, terrorism, killing the people and looting the shops.

We have to take a decision. We have to revive the

[Shri Sanat Mehta]

economy. Mr. Chidambaram has done excellent work as far as revival of financial position is concerned. But it alone would not serve the purpose. When Ray Ban Glass company wanted to come to India, there was an article in the *Fortune* magazine of America. Somebody asked Ray Ban, why do you come to India; India is a poor country. It is a very backward country.

Some marketing experts gave a reply, 'India has 200 million people who can buy anything in the world.' Where is the market of 200 million people in the world? All this foreign investment is coming not looking at our poor, not looking at me, but looking at the market of 200 million people who are buying anything in the country. It is welcome. We should exploit it. But we should not forget that, ultimately, when Gandhiji started 1942 Movement, we the Socialists asked Gandhiji, 'What will happen when the British will leave?' Gandhiji replied, 'the State will belong to the farmers and the working class'. On that promise, we joined the Freedom Movement.

Today, in the fiftieth year of our Freedom, the working class is feeling frustrated. They feel being let down. There is a movement as if it is dying and that it has no strength. A day has come when we know that we have to get certificates from ASSOCHAM, FICCI and all these industrial organisations.

There was a time when Ministers used to wait for the step they had taken that whether the working class was appreciating it or not, whether the poor were appreciating it or not. From there we have travelled and come to this stage but still there is time. Let us decide today that we want liberalisation by way of liberalisation and that we will not commit the mistake which have been committed in other countries. We will definitely look not by higher allocation alone but by other things too.

I do not have time, otherwise, I have collected all the statistics, on every item wherever the allocation is higher, even the elementary education. We are promising people that now we want to have hundred per cent elementary education. Rs. 26,000 crore is the cost of the total elementary education. From where are we to bring this money? So, today, we have to make a firm commitment.

I was hoping that for human development index, hon. Finance Minister would come with a Five Year Plan, that is, this will be the provision for five years for elementary education, for teachers, for children, for buildings etc. That he has not done. We have only increased the higher allocation and higher allocation, ultimately, results into bandages and some pieces.

I feel from the bottom of my heart and I hope that my appeal will not go unheeded because we have fought for the freedom. I wish that we give more attention to this. Finance Management is all right, it is a very important part of the Budget, but simultaneously with a high growth.

Sir, we travelled from growth with social justice. Then we wanted higher growth, so we wanted liberalisation. If

higher growth is not accompanied by a greater equity, that higher growth is of no use to me and this country will become a country of 200 million but not of 760 million people. This is only to give vent to my feelings.

In 1980, when I was a Finance Minister and when Indiraji used to come to Gujarat, there was a time when the Chief Secretary used to move here and there, helter-skelter, just to show Mrs. Gandhi how many plots he had distributed to the poor people. But now, all the Governments whether it is BJP, Congress, Communist or any other party, in the name of liberalisation, are busy spreading the red carpet for the multinationals or the industrialists. In *Sachivalya*, if you go, no Chief Secretary talks about distribution of plots under Indra Awas Yojana. This has become a secondary item. If this happens for some more years, Chidambaramji, we will not be able to do anything to revive what Mrs. Gandhi or Rajivji had done.

With these remarks, I support the Finance Bill because the Finance Bill deals only with the financial part of it. But when the other part is left out this Finance Bill will have no meaning.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (DUMERIAGANJ): Madam Chairperson, I rise to support this Finance Bill. When the Minister of Finance had presented the Finance Bill, he had explained all the circumstances that for two months after presentation of the Budget there was political instability. But inspite of that our financial management, our foreign exchange reserves have registered an increase. The value of rupee was not allowed to fall in comparison to dollar. Inflation has not been allowed to increase.

Sir, this budget has been presented is very adverse and very difficult circumstances. But inspite of this the Minister of Finance has shouldered such a difficult task and tried to accommodate the interests of all sections of society after having consulted all the sections. In the Finance Bill all attempts have been made to make provisions in the Budget. It is correct that the income of the labouring class and the poor should be enhanced. This income and seeking contribution from middle class and making it to share its income with the former. This has indeed been attempted to do.

Our Finance Minister has widened the tax network. It is a welcome step. The ratio of our direct taxes to our Gross National Product is much less than what it should be. The ratio of direct taxes is more in the developed countries. The number of people comprising the middle classes about 250 million in our Country out of whom the households number about 40-45 million whereas the number of tax payers is just 12 million. Therefore, the need of the hour is to further widen the base of direct taxes in our tax-structure. True, we have given many concessions, whose aim to increase our industrial production, and the number of our factories accelerate our financial or economic activities. But side by side as has been said that development has a wide connotation. Development has got

no meaning if simultaneously the poor does not get his share his standard of living does not improve, if there is no qualitative change in our style of life. Therefore, it is necessary that having made all the changes in the tax net extended all kinds of families, we may pay special attention on two things. Firstly there should not be much of burden on our poor, lower income groups of people. Along with that the reduction in import duty should be made in such a manner that it does not adversely affect the production of our indigenous industries and factories.

There is danger from the increase in the kind of pressure being exerted on the world community. Therefore such efforts should not be made. Hon'ble Finance Minister has said just now that truly we shall be able to achieve the target of producing 192 million tones of foodgrains which we have set before us in the field of agriculture. The weather is very good. Agriculture production has increased. But I do not consider it adequate. I think that these are still vast possibilities of growth in agriculture provided we invest more and more capital for the development of agriculture and increasing the production because we know that if we take the nation wide figures of foodgrain production we will come to know that Punjab and Haryana produce 50 percent of the National production while other areas do not produce in the same ratio. In my opinion Uttar Pradesh, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, North-East and part of Orissa are such areas where agriculture production can be increased. But it will be possible only when Planning Commission will prepare special programme for this purpose and when Govt. will chalk out a special scheme for this and invest more and more for this special scheme. If the agricultural, production, the foodgrains production is not increased the country cannot make progress.

America, Western Europe about which we talk here, lot of subsidy is given to farmers there for increasing this production, developing their agriculture. In Japan which making giant strides on the path of industrial progress, farmers get 60 percent by way of subsidy. But when concession are given to farmers in India, all the big capitalist and big industrialists and urban intelligentsia make the maximum hue and cry on our subsidy to farmers. But in today's conditions agriculture or foodgrains are like shock-absorbers. If there are no shock-absorbers in a vehicle, then the passenger travelling by it will break his bones. As such agriculture will not prosper if there storage of grains is not adequate, if the production of foodgrains is not increased, then our economy will be shattered. Therefore, I would like to say that there is need to pay special attention for the development of especially Uttar Pradesh, north-eastern region and Bihar. We have got funds for purchasing Aeroplanes. We have got funds for implementing all sorts of schemes. But there is no use of money if not spend for that area which will provide employment to lakhs-crores of people, which will provide food, which will provide the base for the industrial progress.

Electricity is the biggest requirement. In the Eighth Five Years Plan the requirement of electricity was 36,000

megawatt the target fixed was also of the same order. But after the expiry of Eighth Five Year Plan we could generate only 18,000 megawatt of electricity. Now in the Ninth Five Year Plan the requirement of electricity is one lakh twenty eight thousand megawatt. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government that if electricity will not be generated, if new possibilities will not be explored for the production of foodgrains and optimum utilisation of our capacity will not be made, then our country cannot progress. If the infrastructure for providing basic needs roads, Modes of transport, if these are not developed then the economy cannot be strengthened even if you provide concession in tax structure, provide facilities to big industrialists, try to invite foreign investment or operate the economic and financial management properly, because the need of the hour is a balanced development for which it is essential to pay special attention to all these areas. With these words I support the Finance Bill.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, there was a decision that every hon. Member will speak for five minutes only. Such a decision was taken. Please implement it. It was accepted by all.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, it is required so that all of us will get a chance. The Chair has taken the decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the decision was taken in my absence I will stick to it now. Let us start it with Shri Raghavan. The sooner the better.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, it can be for four-and-a-half minutes only. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (TRICHUR): Sir, it is not applicable to the senior leaders. By Senior, I mean by age.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The names are serially listed.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Finance Bill. I earnestly hope and wish that all the expectations of the hon. Minister of Finance are fulfilled hundred per cent. It is a tremendous task to mobilise the required resources. There lies the guts of the Finance Minister.

Last time I told the hon. Minister of Finance that streamlining the entire Finance Department is quite essential. He might have done it. But, as I have an opportunity to closely watch the resource-mobilising agencies of the Finance Department, I think there is, to put it mildly, lack of coordination. The lack of coordination among the Enforcement Directorate, the Customs Department and Revenue Department adversely affects the resource mobilisation. Otherwise there would not have been such a huge quantum of dues from the corporate sector, from the big business houses. Such a huge amount of money is pending payment. If that situation continues the dreams and expectations of the Finance Minister may not be able to be fulfilled. That is why I again hope that he will look into it, regarding the lack of coordination. Something must be done. I do not say it is rift. But lack of coordination is there and that affects our resource mobilisation.

[Shri V.V. Raghavan]

I agree with the priorities given by the Finance Minister which are power and infrastructural development. That is all right. That is quite essential. But I would have been happier if he could have included agriculture and public distribution system also. I think the hon. Minister of Finance would agree that the primary production sector is agriculture in our country.

If agriculture is neglected, it will affect the whole of our economy. So, agriculture should have been given priority together with power and infrastructure development.

The importance given to the Public Distribution System is quite welcome and the credit goes to the United Front Government because the United Front Government implemented a scheme for giving cheaper foodgrains to the poor people below the poverty line. But to check the price rise, a fool-proof Public Distribution System in the whole country is essential. It is our experience in Kerala that with the importance given to the Public Distribution System, we could check the price rise to a certain extent. Now, after implementing this new scheme, we could take the grains to the people below the poverty line, but the other sections of the people are suffering. For example, immediately after the implementation of this scheme, the ration quota of rice and wheat which we used to get for years and years is reduced. That affects our Public Distribution System very badly. That will also pave the way for price rise. So, together with power and infrastructure development, priority should be given to agriculture and Public Distribution System.

I am happy that the Finance Minister has dropped the proposal of excise duty on roof tiles and umbrellas. I am the happiest man, because roof tiles and umbrellas are manufactured very largely in my constituency.

I plead with the Finance Minister that the duty increase on beedi also should be dropped, because Shri M.P. Virendra Kumar, who is working with you knows the plight of beedi workers in Kerala and elsewhere. They were in ruins. We organised them in cooperative societies and they are just marching forward. I request you to please drop that increase and you can charge it on small cigarettes. It can be compensated in that way. Beedi workers should be saved and the proposal for charging duty on Ayurvedic preparations also should be dropped. I hope that the Finance Minister would consider it favourably. I also suggest that the proposal for charging excise duty on pile fabric at the weaving stage has to be dropped.

Sir, I will be failing in my duty if I do not say a few words about certain other sectors. The hon. Finance Minister, when he was replying to the General Discussion on the Budget, had said that all isms have to pave way for pragmatism. It is all right. But we should not forget that almost all the colonies are free. In that sense, there is no colonialism and there is no imperialism. But colonialism, in many ways, is plundering the developing countries. Colonialism of a new type still exists.

That fact should not be forgotten. When we chalk out our policies on import-export, customs, excise duties and foreign investment all these things should be considered in the background that the neo-colonialists are out to plunder this country. We must safeguard our national interest. That is the primary task. Dumping the goods of the multinationals in our country will affect the growth of our national industries and will not serve our national interest. So, be careful. I am not opposing liberalisation and I am not opposing modernisation. I only remember the United Front's Common Minimum Programme which was drafted by the hon. Finance Minister himself. There is a phrase of his own which says: "modernisation with self-reliance and social justice". That is a very important phrase. That is the guideline. When we deal with the foreigners, when we deal with multinationals, when we deal with the imports and when we deal with our markets, we have to see how far it will affect our self-reliance. That is one thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to conclude now.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, I am concluding with one sentence. The other thing is social justice. When we propose our taxation policy and welfare schemes we have to safeguard the interests of the poor people, lower middle class people and of the majority of our population.

[Translation]

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Finance Bill. I know that you would start ringing the bell soon. The earlier speakers spoke for one and half hours. You should have controlled from that time onwards, What one can say in five minutes? I would like to draw attention towards two things specially. First of all, the budget is a social document. It is a document of industry. It is an economic document and social document also. The entire House is witnessing that this budget favours big companies and traders. The main disadvantage of this Budget is that disparities are cropping up in our country in trade and money. Money is coming in some areas specially in coastal areas. More money is being invested there. This is going on because no arrangement has been made to set up industries in backward areas.

I come from Deoria Parliamentary constituency. There is no industry. But I am not saying that there was no industry earlier also. The number of sugar mills are the same as these were earlier. In the meantime the production of sugarcane increased but not even a single new sugar mill was set up. Now arrangements were made for the modernisation of sugar mills and to grow more industries. Therefore, this disparity has come up. What sort of picture of our country is this? Do we want that in some areas money should increase and in some areas there should be no increase at all. Do we want the people to migrate from one place to other or have a to and fro journey from one place to other on the roof of the train.

19.00 hrs.

It is possible by one way only since it is the policy of the BJP also that agriculture based industries should be promoted. This budget is incomplete in this regard and no consideration has been given to it. After that we should give thrust on the small scale industry so that some money can be generated in all areas. The educated youth there can get employment. It is all right that those who are well educated go to Delhi, Calcutta and Mumbai and those who cannot study remain in villages. They are unemployed due to which various problems are cropping up in these backward areas. If they do not have any industry to get employment, disparity would go on increasing. Even if 2-4 companies are set up to make the country rich, that is not going to solve their problems. As far as multinational companies are concerned, they cannot give so much job opportunities as the small scale industries can.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have reduced the taxes on the import of readymade material. It is very wrong. Some companies had increased their production two years back but due to not reducing the taxes these are changing their views and the companies preparing goods in our country are closing down. It has been causing a heavy loss. There is a need to ponder over it. Please reduce the taxes on raw material. We would support that since it is the policy of our party. The language which we are listening seems to be of W.T.O. The Government was claiming to put it at zero by 2000 A.D. Our trade is not in the field of INFOTECH. The tax on computer has been reduced. We too can produce INFOTECH material. The software business can be developed and we can do it competently. We are against this language of W.T.O. We should give boost to our traditional industries. These industries are being neglected in the backward areas. If the Government neglects the backward areas of UP and Bihar there can be no stability in this country and in the society. If the people continue to migrate from one place to other, how can the country be stable. You can see that everyday issues related to Bihar and UP are raised. It is not that the people are incompetent there. They know that they are backward and they should get a chance of progress.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now comes the issue of inflation. It is 6.4 percent. I would like to cite an example. People in my constituency do not eat pulses for years and only 1 to 2 percent families cook pulses. That is the source of protein. There has been a rapid increase in prices. Therefore, stop talking about the rate of inflation. Price hike affects the common man and he does not get relief from the rate of inflation. I would have told an incident in this regard but I am running short of time.

Lastly, I would like to submit that you run some schemes under pressure and those schemes are not implemented properly. As there is a scheme of providing ration at half rates to 36 crores people, but the same cannot be implemented properly. We have an experience of it.

There is a scheme through which we provide meals to the children in schools. This scheme is running smoothly in places where food is cooked and served but at 80 percent places the father of the child gets 3 Kg. rice or wheat, but he gets only 2 kg. and the rest of one kg. goes somewhere else. Is not there any way that the foodgrains reach to 36 crore people at reasonable prices? The Government do not have any method and there is no machinery to check it. It can be done at one or two places. Instead of doing so if the subsidy is reduced, why is it so? We are not opposing it. If the farmers are provided water and fertilizers etc. at low prices or free of cost then the production would increase and if it increases one or two percent then it would be a day of rejoicing for the Government.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI M. KAMALUDDIN AHMED (HANAMKONDA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill. While supporting it I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister that he has taken over the charge of this Ministry again to get the budget, presented by him passed.

While presenting the budget, the hon. Finance Minister has delivered a very good speech. He said many things. He had pointed out some objectives as to what he wanted and what would happen after this budget.

[English]

Growth, basic minimum services, employment, micro—economic stability, investment particularly infrastructure, human development and viable balance of payments.

[Translation]

These aims were told but after going through the proposals of the entire budget it appears that perhaps not even a single aim would be achieved. When the proposals were seen on detail it was found that there is only a nominal increase in some areas and a big reduction has been done in various areas.

[English]

One of the weaknesses of the Budget is a small increase in the Central Plan outlay. The Plan outlay for the year 1997-98 amounts to Rs. 91,839 crore against Rs. 87,088 crore of 1996-97. In many key sectors, there has been practically no increase. For example, about Rural Development, the step up is only Rs. 171 crore. In regard to irrigation and flood control, there has been a sharp reduction from Rs. 1248 crore to Rs. 323 crore. In the energy sector, there has been a shortfall of Rs. 36 crore from the level of last year. In regard to industry and minerals, there has been a shortfall of Rs. 626 crore. In the transport sector, the shortfall is Rs. 956 crore. However, the Finance Minister has increased the Central Plan outlay in communication sector, social services and in agricultural sector. The step up in agriculture is just Rs. 138 crore which is nominal and negligible.

[Shri M. Kamaluddin Ahmed]

[Translation]

Now, in this situation how the target of growth, the target of eradication of unemployment and economic stability would be achieved. Much has been said to increase the infrastructure but it seems to be doubtful. The biggest problem in this country is energy i.e. electricity. The experts of the country have said that during the next five years the production of power would have to be increased to 46 thousand megawatts. It does not seem to be feasible from the working of the State Electricity Boards and the manner in which distribution is going on, that there would be some improvement. Efforts should have been made directly through this budget to improve the economic condition of the poor. It appears from the budget that it has been made only for 15 percent of the elite population of the country, the 85 percent poor are not its beneficiaries. These can be the most deemed beneficiaries. They can have some benefit in the process otherwise there is nothing special in it. As far as unemployment is concerned for that I am specially submitting that the way the Finance Minister has reduced the duty generously and the way the flood gates have been opened for the multinationals to come here, would have a serious impact in the next 5 years. A number of industries are closing down. The 40 percent part of our export was of small scale industries. A large number of small scale industries are on the verge of closure. Out of the indigenous industries, the lamp industry had set up with great difficulty. Now, with the arrival of the multinationals, the H.M.T. and the other industries have come on the verge of closure. In such circumstances how can we expect that unemployment would be reduced. Unemployment is increasing. Now you are talking about production but I am sorry to say that at the time when our total food production was 180 million, we were not in the habit of importing foodgrains. Today it is claimed that our total production has touched 190 million but every year we have been importing 10-20 million of wheat from outside. Keeping in view all these figures, it has become imperative for us to increase our agriculture production.

As far as the question of increasing our agriculture production is concerned, I have told just now that the allocation in irrigation and energy sector has been reduced, there is no power generation and there had been power riots in my State recently. The people started agitation for electricity on a large scale and they came to the markets. In the rural sectors unemployment has gone upto such an extent that the people do not get work and have become unemployed. Although our youth have become educated yet they are unemployed. If someone lives in village after being unemployed, what would he do? The result is that he has taken up arms. The struggle going on in my State, specially in Telangana, in the name of P.W.G, is the result of unemployment. It has created economic instability in the rural sector. If the Government feels to curb such a movement at gun point, it is not going to solve the purpose. Sheer killing is going on in the name of encounter there. Efforts should be made to go to the root cause of the problem and those problems should be solved.

I would like to submit one more thing here that the imbalance has been increasing due to our failure in

economic field. Not only the imbalance exist between two States but also in the same State. I would like to cite the example of my State. In my area, Telengana, the imbalance has increased to such an extent that on one hand unemployment has increased to a great extent which has adversely affected production and on the other hand the overall economic activities have come to an end. The people have started thinking why not a separate State, Telengana be formed by dividing their State for a rapid growth. The demand of a separate Telengana is being raised again. Earlier, when the demand of a separate Telengana was raised, I was a Member of the State Legislative Assembly there. At that time I had firmly opposed the separate Telengana agitation and had accelerated the agitation against it, but now my views are also changing. I have also started believing that separate Telengana must be created for rapid growth. Then only the problems of the people could be solved and the economic activities of the people could be improved. I have been compelled to think in this way and I feel that this agitation cannot be stopped.

All these things are connected with economic activities and budget. I had thought earlier also to draw the attention of the Finance Minister towards this issue so he may ensure that the benefits of Budget could reach the poor. I do not know what to say whether this is intelligence or something other that several concessions have been given and most probably this is the first budget in many years wherein it has not been mentioned as to what will be the impact thereof and what will be its revenue implications. From where the money will come since several rebates and concessions are being given and duty is being reduced? You have such a big plan outlay, such a big budget but it has not been mentioned from where the deficit would be covered. I think there are some points towards which we should pay attention. I am sure that our Finance Minister is efficient enough and when these matters will come into his attention, he will certainly take some steps.

I am sure that he will certainly look into this matter and I pray for his success in achieving the aims and objects of the budget.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next Speaker is Shri N.K. Premchandran. I think it would be better if he straightway goes to his constituency issues. Otherwise five minutes will not be sufficient to analyse the budget as a whole.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to analyse the Finance Bill, 1997 which has been placed before this House. I would like to say that immediately after the presentation of the Budget there was a wider acceptance of it from various sections of the country. The media has accepted this Budget as a populist Budget and also it has been declared and described as a growth oriented Budget. I would like to say that during the political stagnation in our country when a political deadlock happened for a few days, the multinational companies, the corporates and the rich class were so much eager—they were not worried about the

political deadlock or the constitutional crisis which would have happened, but they were very much eager—to see that the Finance Bill was passed. So, I would like to say that the tax proposals envisaged in the Finance Bill is benefiting the corporates, the multinational companies and the rich class of this country. That is the worry that we have seen in the media and also in the newspapers in our country.

So many tax exemptions, concessions and benefits are being given to them. I remember the reply given by the hon. Finance Minister to the general discussion on the Budget. He was very much sticking on the economic growth by way of increase in the GDP to the extent of seven per cent. If the promise on poverty alleviation, infrastructural development and the basic minimum requirements of the common man has to be fulfilled, the GDP has to attain a greater level. We know that in so many developed countries the mere growth or enhancement of the GDP did not serve the purpose. We have to look from this angle also. I would like to suggest only one point. That is, the economic growth or the growth rate of the GDP should be based on the principles of equity and justice. Even the Constitution of India in its Preamble as well as the Directive Principles aims at a welfare State and also to render economic justice to all sections of the society. The point is whether these two goals are achieved by the tax proposals in the Finance Bill.

The rich is being exempted and they are being benefited and the poor is ignored in almost all the sectors. I would like to substantiate my argument by the following points. I am straightway going to the points; I am not narrating other things due to the time constraint. Abolition of tax on dividend from shares is a proposal. I strongly oppose this proposal because the dividend is an income derived by way of investing the money in the share market. Why is it being exempted? What is the reasonable justification for exempting the tax on this dividend? There is no reasonable justification. Even personal income-tax has been imposed on the Government employees and the employees of other sectors who are earning their wages. So, it is a proposal which has to be opposed in strong words.

I would also like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister about so many welfare funds which are being enunciated in our country. They are mainly meant for the welfare of the working class. The contribution also is from the side of the workers. So many workers' welfare funds are there in our State also. In Kerala twelve welfare legislations have been enunciated. So many welfare legislations for the workers have been enunciated all over the country. But they are liable to pay income-tax. So, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to exempt these welfare funds from the income-tax net. It is a part of the welfare measure for the working class of this country.

I have made a mention of corporate tax and customs duty during the Budget discussion. The peak rate reduction of customs duty from fifty per cent to forty per cent will definitely affect the indigenous industry adversely. I am very happy and I am also grateful to the hon. Minister of Finance

for not decreasing customs duty on titanium dioxide from 40 per cent. Even at this juncture, I appeal to the hon. Minister to increase the peak rate of customs duty to at least fifty per cent and also to enhance the customs duty on titanium dioxide to fifty per cent.

I am not going into the details regarding excise duty. The various items have been examined critically by Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee yesterday. So, I would like to say that these excise duty exemptions have been given on goods which are consumed by the rich class of the society. Enormous benefits have been given on items like air-conditioners, refrigerators etc., which are being consumed by the rich and elite classes of the society.

I congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance and welcome the proposal mooted by him yesterday withdrawing excise duty on roof tiles, umbrella, etc. I appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to extend this to *bædi* and Ayurvedic drugs and medicines. This may also be taken into consideration. The service tax will result in price hike. It should also be reconsidered.

The small scale sector is the back bone of the rural industrial sector. It is not only playing a vital role in the national economy but also in the employment generation sector. So, it has to be protected. I would suggest to the hon. Minister of Finance that the earlier provision under notification No. 1/93 dated the 28th February, 1993 should be restored.

The duty-free clearance up to Rs. 30 lakh also has to be enhanced to Rs. 75 lakh.

With these remarks and comments, I once again support the Finance Bill.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH (CHITRADURGA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me five minutes' time. I will try not to overshoot the time given by the Chair.

At the outset, I must compliment the hon. Minister of Finance for presenting a very good Budget which takes care of growth as well as social justice side by side. There have been certain reservations expressed about the revenue consequent upon reduction of duties and taxes by certain authorities in the country. I happened to go through them. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister of Finance that the tax collecting machinery as we have got today has not retained that integrity and efficiency which they were known for about a decade or two ago so much so that the recoveries have not been commensurate with the effort put in or the tax rates prescribed over a period of time. It is necessary for the hon. Minister of Finance to ensure that the tax collecting machinery does its duties properly and efficiently. With the reduction of the tax rates the tax base will have to be increased and the revenue realisation also will have to be stepped up.

There is a projection made that revenue realisation will go up by 16 per cent. If it is achieved, it is good enough. It should be achieved. It should not be a difficult task. I have seen a cross-section of the people talking very happily and enthusiastically about the reduction in tax rates. More

[Shri P. Kodanda Ramaiah]

people are willing to file their returns now unlike in the past. This should enable realisation of more revenue for the schemes that the hon. Minister of Finance has envisaged in the Budget.

There have been certain criticisms about the voluntary disclosure scheme. I hear complaints from many a taxpayer. They say, 'How can you equate me, an honest taxpayer, with a person who has been building up black money? How is it that you prescribe the same tax rate for both the honest tax payer and the person covered under the voluntary disclosure scheme?'

On the wealth tax side, the hon. Minister of Finance has made an announcement that the wealth tax computation would be from the date of declaration and not from the date of acquisition.

Once again, there will be a public criticism to say that undue concern is shown to the tax evaders and that they are placed on higher pedestal than the honest tax-payers in the country. My suggestion to the hon. Finance Minister is that there should be at least some type of a difference between an honest tax-payer and a person who has declared his income under this scheme. I would suggest that he must raise the taxation level for voluntary disclosures to about 35 per cent or 40 per cent so that the honest tax-payer would not feel demotivated to be honest in future or to have more people voluntarily coming into the tax net.

As regards the Plan outlay, the increase is not substantial though it is about 16.7 per cent. I would consider it, not a very substantial one, considering the volume of development activity that is to take place. However, there may not be a very high allocation under the Central Plan because of the shortage of time and administrative constraints, resulting in a revision of the estimates to the lower side during the last year, that is, 1996-97. I would urge the Finance Minister to enhance the Central Plan outlay and ensure that it is properly utilised and spent.

There have been instances where the States have cut back on the Plan allocations which were sanctioned and approved by the Planning Commission and it should be ensured that there are no cut backs on the Plan size of any State.

One important issue about agriculture is the land reform measures. Except for the Southern States and probably West Bengal, I would say that land reforms have been totally neglected and as long as this social reforms is not taken up and income distribution is not ensured by equitable distribution of land, we will not be able to improve this and we would not be able to achieve the expected growth rate.

Then, the hon. Finance Minister has announced that he was going to ensure that about Rs. 28,600 crore would be flowing into the rural sector as credit. It is a good step up—from Rs. 22,000 crore to Rs. 28,600 crore. But again here also, there is an administrative lacuna. It results in uneven flow of credit to the rural sector. It has been found

that most of the credit that is going to the rural sector goes to the rich farmers.

Once again, coming to the subsidies, the rich farmers are getting benefited by the subsidies that we have given and it is time that there is, again, a sort of discriminative subsidy given to the people in the rural side.

As regards the fertiliser prices, I would urge the Finance Minister to ensure that the bigger farmers are given lower subsidy or no subsidy and the marginal and small farmers are given substantial subsidy in the matter.

Even while talking of giving subsidy to tractors, sprinklers and other things, it is only the *kulak* lobby that will be able to utilise these things and the ordinary farmers who is the backbone of the country will be once again neglected.

As regards the recovery rates, the Finance Minister should insist and ensure that the recoveries of loans given, whether they are in the farm sector or in the industrial sector, are properly monitored and the recovery rates do not fall below at least 60 per cent every year so that refinancing will be easier for NABARD and other refinancing agencies.

As regards poverty alleviation schemes that are financed by the Government of India in the form of Indira Aawas Yojana and Employment Affirmation Schemes, I would say once again that the benefits are not reaching the targeted groups and that a lot of money goes down the drain in the form of various, shall I say, commissions between the targeted groups and the sanctioning authorities? Some kind of a tightening of the administration is required in the rural side and since the money is being sanctioned by us, by this House, there should be some amount of a say in the matter by the Members of Parliament in the expending of the money.

The Finance Minister said sometime back that the Government is going to give a decisive role to the MPs in the administration of the rural projects and I have got a circular which was issued by the Rural Development Department recently which is in total negation of the assurance given by the Finance Minister. I would urge the Finance Minister to ensure that this circular is taken back, that it is redrafted again and that his assurance—that a decisive role will be given to the MPs—if fulfilled. I would urge the Finance Minister to do it.

Lastly, I would like to say this. Somehow, it happens every time that I have been always asked to speak at the fag end of the discussions and then again, only five minutes are given. I would urge the Presiding Officer to give us some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House has taken a decision that only five minutes would be given to each Member.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH: At least in future, new Members should be given more time than the old Members, who monopolise it.

In any case, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your own senior Members have taken one hour. Then, how will you get time to speak?

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH: Sir, you may inform them ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chaman Lal Gupta, you may speak for only five minutes. You have seen me fighting with him just now. Your leaders have taken more than an hour and you had been enjoying it. Now, we cannot be victims sitting here for three hours.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are few members who are to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All men spoken you are reducing even his five minutes time.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (UDHAMPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the budget proposals.

First of all, I would say that on the one hand the Finance Minister has reduced the Custom Duties and on the other hand he is showing that revenue from the custom duties would be increased to Rs. 8000 crores. We would like to know as to how he would do so, as he has irrationally reduced the custom duties due to which a large number of Small Scale Industries have been totally ruined and the coming time would show that we have crippled our thus largest employment generating sector. Although it has been emphasised in the budget that employment would be generated, but there seems to be no such proposal. You are fully aware about the position of employment generation in the country that more than two crore young men are unemployed. There is unemployment in cities, villages, in industrial sector amongst educated youths. This budget is not attacking a single reason for unemployment the reason were stated to be

[English]

rapid growth of population, slow pace of industrial development, backwardness of agriculture and prevailing system of education.

[Translation]

None of these four factors has been attacked in the Budget. This budget has been praised much, but no provision has been made in it for providing employment to the people in the country where 36 crore people take meals once in a day.

19.38 hrs.

(SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE on the Chair)

I want to draw your attention to the fact that unemployment was the main reason for the militancy particularly in Kashmir. None of the students has got employment since 1988 who have passed from Engineering, Medical and professional colleges even after a lapse of about nine years. Although, the ruling party had mentioned in its Manifesto to that jobs would be provided to all children, but not a single Engineer was provided employment. He had spent fair or fine years for doing Engineering, but we have not been ask to provide him employment for nine years and it's result is before us.

No incentive has been given for savings in the Budget.

[English]

Voluntary Disclosure Scheme is nothing but legitimising tax evasion.

[Translation]

Infact, such schemes were introduced earlier also, but none has been successful. This scheme is also going to meet the same fate because legitimacy is being given to those who have indulged in tax-evasion. I would like to place certain facts before you regarding my area. The main thrust in the entire budget has been given on this aspect as to how the multinational companies should come and invest more and more. No attention has been paid towards the 85 percent people who live in the villages and who depend on agriculture. No incentive has been given to the agriculture.

The budget for Jammu-Kashmir which was Rs. five crore in the year 1951-52 has been raised to Rs. 5400 crore in the year 1997-98. The entire funds provided during those period have gone to the militants. We have not been able to make any such provision so that this money may be properly utilised. The income of Jammu-Kashmir from its own resources is only Rs. 600 crores. The expenditure on the salaries of Government employees would be Rs. 1000 crores. We have to make arrangement for it from Rs. 5400 crores which is provided from the union. But no heed is being given to make any arrangement for its proper utilisation. Most of the money goes in the hands of militants. They dictate as to what amount may be utilised on which items of work. During last few days when there was crisis in the United Front, our Chief Minister has come here. He used the Indian Airforce Plane for to and fro journey. He had come here for party function. In this way most of the funds are misutilised. Therefore, we should ensure the proper utilisation of the funds provided for Jammu-Kashmir.

Power sector is very important. In my constituency Chenas is such a river from where you can easily generate power upto 15000 Mega Watts. Previously I had discussed about Swalkota. Survey has been conducted for it and the whole infrastructure has been installed. After completing Salal Project, the whole infrastructure is there. Second

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stage of the Salal projects was to be commenced. If two-three crores of rupees had been spent this project could have been undertaken easily. But Dulhasti was undertaken. This project was started in the year 1980 and now it is 1997 that means a period of 17 years had elapsed and that too passed. When we are talking about the importance of power, 15000 M.W. electricity could easily be generated in my constituency on reasonable cost but nobody is paying any attention towards that. About 30000 people would be completely dislocated because of the proposed Thein Dam. They would have to travel 80 kilometres now instead of 20 Kilometres. Therefore, the dam on Ravi should be constructed immediately so that these people may not face any difficulty. The refugee problem is the main problem in Jammu and Kashmir. About three lacs people are wandering without any shelter some in Delhi and some in Jammu-Kashmir. I don't want to narrate the whole situation. The entire family comprising mother, father, brother, sister and children have been living in one tent for the last eight years. But neither any head is paid towards them nor any provision has been made for them, and nor anybody is concerned about them. My submission is that at least our Finance Minister should pay attention towards this problem because it is a human problem. They have not come here themselves. We have not been able to put a check on the situation created in Jammu-Kashmir and as a result there of they had to leave their homes. I would like to say one thing more that the Government have made adhoc appointments in place of the 13000 employees who have now migrated to other places. They should honorably go back to their respective home places. I would like to add that if Hindu Migrants would not go back to their home places, Kashmir would remain incomplete. But where these people would reside in Kashmir because their houses and property are being destroyed. The Government does not protect their belongings. That Government does not guarantee for the protection of their belongings. Their property should be registered. No such arrangements are being made there. Therefore, I submit that full attention should be paid towards this human problem and the families should be honorably brought back to their homes. We would have to make proper arrangements for it.

Sir, according to the statements of Governor Krishana Rao, Rs. One lac crore have been spent in Kashmir. A white paper should be brought out in this regard. I doubt that this money either remain with the people of ruling party or their families or remains with those who dictate militancy. This amount does not reach to the common people. We provide money to the state so that education may be provided there and life may be improved there. White paper must be brought out in regard to the situation prevailing there.

At last, I would like to say that there is no control over the foreign money which is coming in Kashmir. After all, our Government exist there. A thing called Human Conference has been created there. American Ambassador, Shri Visner has visited Kashmir six times during the last six months and he has met the Governor the over people there. He met those Huriyat people also who are

not prepared to accept that Kashmir is an integral part of India. There must be some check on the foreign money which is coming in Kashmir. Unless it is checked, militancy cannot be checked there. At last, I would say that poverty is still there even today. There are three regions in Jammu-Kashmir i.e. Laddakh, Jammu and Kashmir valley. Out of the total 97 thousand square kilometre area of Jammu Kashmir the area of Kashmir valley is only 15 thousand square kilometre and the area of Jammu is 28 thousand square kilometre. The area of Kashmir valley is on 1/8 of the total area of Jammu and Kashmir and the whole of the amount allocated for Jammu-Kashmir is spent there. My friends from Laddakh are here. They should tell that even after 50 years of independence, Laddakh gets electricity only twice a week and that too for four hours only. After a lot of efforts, we were able to set up a college there last year.

Therefore, I request you that a council should be made for three regions and the funds should be distributed region-wise from the centre itself so that all the three regions should develop equally. The funds are spent only in Kashmir valley alone ignoring Jammu and Laddakh. The issue of autonomy has been raked There. The issue of Jammu regional sub autonomy has also been raked. That means Jammu should also be divided. This sort of things are happening there.

We want that all these three regions remains intact because it is in the interest of the country. Kashmir should remain the crown of India and for this purpose it is necessary that all these three regions should remain intact. But these three regions cannot remain intact because of the things happening there. I want to say only that the funds should be distributed from here regionwise so that all the three regions viz. Kashmir, Jammu and Laddakh may progress simultaneously and they remain one and Kashmir may remain crown of India in the real terms.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand that the House has decided that all the speakers will speak for five minutes. That being so, I am bound by that decision and I hope that subsequent speakers would also be bound by that decision. Accordingly, I would ring the bell after four minutes so that within another minute the Member will have to finish his or her speech. You may kindly plan your speeches accordingly.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYAM BEHARI MISHRA: At least five minutes may be provided because five minutes time is not sufficient. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the decision of the House, I have not decided it.

[Translation]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: He was the Campaigner for sticking of five minute schedule.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I am keeping a watch on the clock. At 8.00 o'clock, without your ringing the bell, I will sit down.

I wholeheartedly support the Finance Bill. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Finance Minister for having presented a very good Budget and also the Finance Bill. When he did not join the Cabinet, the Prime Minister in the presence of the entire House had invited him to join the Cabinet. It is perhaps a rare opportunity and a great honour to be given to a person for which he is very fortunate and I congratulate him for that.

In the last Budget the Finance Minister had provided for an Industrial Infrastructural Development Corporation which was supposedly meant to develop the infrastructural facilities for the new industries. On this occasion, I would like to point out that Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh is the most populous industrial city where about Rs. 25,000 crore worth of industries are going to be established at an early date but it is suffering for lack of proper water facilities.

Without water the entire industrial progress of the country will be futile. This problem is going to assume serious proportions. Water is a very important input for industries. There is a project called Bhagirath which was started four years back. For want of money, the project could not be started and the water problem continues there. I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to provide Rs. 250 crore through the Infrastructure Development Corporation, as a special case, for the Bhagirath water supply scheme at Visakhapatnam. If this is done, a lot of industries will be able to come up at that place. It will be a great event for the nation.

I would like to emphasise the recently occurred unprecedented cyclones suffered by the State of Andhra Pradesh. The damage caused by the cyclones is still being felt in the coastal areas of the State. I urge upon the Government and the Ministry of Finance to give special attention to the suffering people and give a special assistance for cyclone relief which could be used for repairing roads and providing infrastructural facilities for the villages which have suffered great losses.

I feel sorry to see the people who try to politicise everything. We all, irrespective of our political affiliations, must endeavour to build a great nation. If you want to remove poverty, if you want to remove frustration from the minds of the youth, if you want to remove unemployment in the country, the only answer solution is that you must try and increase the income of the people, you must build industries and you must ensure the growth and prosperity of the industry. The most important thing for that is to create a good atmosphere internally and externally. People should not laugh at us seeing at what is happening here.

We are suffering from red-tapism, scams, mutual disrespect and disbelief among people in this country.

We must stand together. Let us build this nation with a new philosophy. Let us not everyday talk of this scam or that scam. If somebody commits a mistake, let us punish him, let us take action against him but let us not generalise and say that everybody in the country is bad. This is what is happening in the country under FERA. One does not know which is a FERA case and what is FERA law. But we find that for the last one year people are being harassed in its name. We find that people are running for FERA cases. Why did it not happen previously, I do not understand. What is FERA law? Why should it come in the way of building the nation? People may think that we are supporting this FERA. I want a simplified law and it should bring in an atmosphere in which industries can be built in the country.

I heard that FERA is going to be modified. It is a very urgent necessity and it must be done. I understand that in place of FERA, FEMA is going to be enacted. That should be done as early as possible. Let us now remove the suspicion, confusion and frustration from the minds of the people. Let us create a good atmosphere to build this nation.

About raising the revenue, the Government can raise a lot of money through the Excise and Income Tax Departments. There are a lot of tax arrears pending in court cases. Why are these Departments not able to collect those arrears? It is because of the disputes. There are people who go to tribunals in appeal and when they go to court, it takes years for a final decision. The Government must create a special machinery through which they must clear the disputes and collect arrears and get more money for the exchequer.

The next point is the small scale industries. The Abid Hussain Committee has given a lot of recommendations. I am happy that 14 industries have been de-reserved based on that Committee recommendations but the other recommendations have not been considered. Small scale industries are the heart of the industry in the country. I suggest that Abid Hussain Committee's recommendations be examined once again so that the maximum possible assistance and encouragement is given to the small scale industries.

Lastly, nothing was provided for power in the last Budget. I am happy to find that in this Budget a provision of Rs. 900 crore has been made for power. This provision is not sufficient. If you want to build the nation power is the most important input for it. I urge upon the Minister to increase the allocation on power over and above the present Rs. 900 crore.

I am very happy that everybody in the country, the industry, employees, middle-class and lower middle-class people, and educated people are appreciating the Budget and the Finance Bill. Let us not criticise it because it is a democratic country and we can say anything. Even when somebody does a good thing, let us not say,

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

[Translation]

"That is bad and therefore, we oppose that.

20.00 hrs.

If somebody is doing good for the country, allow him to do so. If any Party wants to bring forward some reforms, allow that Party to bring forward the reforms. It is not necessary to oppose them.

On behalf of my great Congress Party, I give full support to this Finance Bill and I also congratulate Sri Chidambaram who had taken the trouble of minimising the tax burden. I am sure it will be a great inspiration, and stimulation to the people, who will definitely come forward and pay taxes.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA): Madam, Chairperson, on behalf of my Party, I rise to support the Finance Bill. If we analyse the Budget, we find that there are some positive features. They are, continual high economic growth at the rate of 6.8 per cent, a strong recovery by the agricultural and allied sectors, increase in foodgrains production by 191 million tonnes, a 11 per cent growth in the manufacturing sector, and a sizeable build up in foreign exchange reserves.

There are also some negative aspects of the Budget. They are, a sharp drop in the domestic crude oil production, sluggish performance of power sector, and deceleration in the growth of exports.

Madam, lac is the cash crop in some of the tribal areas of West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. It brings some foreign exchange also. Some representatives of this lac industry met the Finance Minister. From this year onwards, the Government have imposed Excise Duty. I urge upon the Finance Minister to exempt lac industry from Excise Duty.

There are some non-industrial districts in some parts of the country. In the Budget proposals, we find that the Government have taken a decision to effect tax holiday on the production of mineral oils in the North-Eastern States. I also suggest to the Finance Minister that some tax holiday should be given as an incentive for introduction of some industries in the backward districts and non-industrial districts of West Bengal, and Bihar. These are my submissions.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (KALAHANDI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not against the policy of liberalisation. The development of the people in the country is must but this aspect has not been given proper attention. In the Eight Five Year Plan attention has been paid towards the development of human beings. Everyone knows whether the development of the people has taken place or not. Every one knows that values of humanity have fallen.

Sir, it is essential to strengthen every section of society. Humanity in children and youths is must but there is no policy for the children and youths of the country. If there is any it is not being followed. No grant has been given for it in the budget. A provision of Rs. 125 crores has been made in the Ministry of Youth Affairs whether with this meagre amount the problem of 35 crores of youths in the country can be solved? The drop out rate in Primary Schools is 75 per cent whether any effort has been made to ascertain as to why the children are not going to Primary Schools? Here we talk about the agriculture landless labourers. We talk about dalits, harijans, adivasis, backward people, handicapped people and women. Several programmes have been made for them but whether we have been able to solve the problem of these people? Our Finance Minister has tried to pay attention on all these aspects in budget approach paper. As far as possible, it has been tried to prepare a good budget. Today there is regional imbalance in Chhatisgarh, Santhal Pargana, Chhota Nagpur areas also. There is famine in Kalahandi, Phulbani Sonpur, Nawapara areas of Western Orissa. What is the reason for all this. Thousands of people are dying of hunger. Why the mothers are selling their kids? The drinking water is not being made available there, why the irrigation arrangements are not being made there? A large number of rivers and rivulets merge with the water of sea in those valleys but why the arrangements are not made for providing drinking water to people by constructing dams on rivers. Human Rights Commission is writing. People are going to Supreme Court and High Courts. Supreme Court and High Courts are directing Union Government and State Governments. Even then the problem is not being solved. All the Prime Ministers, from Indira Gandhi to Rajiv Gandhi and V.P. Singh to Chandrasekhar have gone there and now Gujral Saheb also plan to go there. Whether any programme is not being made there even after the visits of Prime Minister and Ministers? There was famine in 1965-66 in which thousands of people died. Five thousand people have died from 1985 to 1990 and even today that area is reeling unless famine. The people are dying like insects and are fleeing their villages. Why no attention is being paid towards these questions?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to ask the Government as to how long this problem will remain in our country. To keep pace with other countries of the World we are going in for liberalisation but will not pay any attention towards infrastructural facilities. Here we talk of Tele-communication and T.V. Villagers don't know as to what is happening here in Parliament? Merits and demerits are being discussed here but how many people in villages have T.V. sets. It is limited only to cities. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that laid budget paper is not sufficient. As such before proceeding further with other countries we will have to strengthen our country. I would urge upon the Minister to pay attention toward this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said about the children and now will say about youths, that unemployed youths get 20-25 thousand rupees as unemployment allowance in other countries. Atleast one thousand rupees must be given

to unemployed youths. Whether the Minister of Finance will do this? Whether our youths will remain unproductive? Whether we don't want to have any production? When I was the Minister of Youth Affairs I proposed to the then Minister of Finance that for the implementation of this programme rupees 1200 crores are required. That money has never been made available. Sometimes rupees 80 crores is given, sometimes rupees 100 crores and sometimes rupees 125 crores is given. Every party in this country uses the youths and everytime this slogan is given that youths will be made to proceed further for the development of the country. Today youths have no future and therefore they are frustrated. How will they develop their country? Therefore, I would like to demand that every unemployed youth of the country be provided allowances of rupees 1000, only then there will be some meaning of liberalisation and inviting foreign people. I request particularly to Minister of Finance on behalf of youths of India that youths be provided unemployment allowance. A lot of postmortem has been done on the backward areas of Orissa. Independent scheme should be made to solve the problem. KVK scheme was prepared during the tenure of Shri Narasimha Rao ji that has also been put under the carpet. No such scheme is being prepared and it is not being solved. Therefore, I request that it must end at some point. Many people used to say to us that you are not talking about the poverty, not talking about starvation. I would like to say that I whenever of tried to raise this issue, I was blamed that I was selling the poverty of India. People who were against me, the leaders of all parties who were against me, today they are trying to sell the poverty. I am trying to find a solution to this problem. I am constrained to say that we come here to fulfill the aspirations of the people and if we fail to do so, we have no right to be in Parliament or in legislative assemblies. Therefore, I request that the Government must to pay attention towards this.

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR): Hon'ble Chairman, I rise to oppose the Finance Bill. Although two third of the members of this House are opposing this, but some members have no other option but to support this Bill in first and the last sentence of their speech. In between their speech they are criticising and opposing it. They have some compulsions, some are helpless due to which they are saying their first and last sentence in support.

Madam, Chairman, the Budget and Finance Bill is the economic and social reflection of any country. Through this budget and Finance Bill the entire world is seeing the economic position of India. From whom it is collecting taxes, how taxes are being collected, what is the procedure and after that where it is being spent. In all these circumstances if we see the Finance Bill we hang our head in shame. I have heard the speech of Hon'ble Finance Minister on 28th. Yesterday I heard the speech about Finance Bill. In both of these speeches, he reiterated what he said on 22 July, 1996 that we are capable of forming the Government, he had indulged in self praise. I say that after the speech of on 28th he left his job and he came back after a lot of persuasion. After coming back on this post he said nothing on 28th in his speech that I have fulfilled all the

promises only are promise remains to be fulfilled. I think that he has not fulfilled even a single promise. Promises are not fulfilled by speeches. Promises are not fulfilled with mere talks, these are not fulfilled by writing on papers, they are not fulfilled by giving directions on papers. For fulfilling the promises we will have to go to the people. Today, in fact the benefits of schemes, Bills, Budget are not reaching the people. They have made three promises in Common Minimum Programme but not even a single promise has been fulfilled. They have promised to check the rising prices but there is no stability in prices. A promise has been made to encourage small and domestic industry but that has also not been fulfilled and in this Finance Bill they had promised but everything went totally against it. As such they have not fulfilled even a single promise and what should I say about the other promises. I can only say about promises that there are not to be kept. We will say that the excise duty has been raised by the United Front Government and the custom duty has been reduced at the behest of multinationals. This Finance Bill and the Budget has been prepared under the pressure of world Trade Organisation, GATT, Dunkel, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and that is why it is going against the interests of India. I would like to make a request to you that at present our Minister of State in the Finance Ministry is sitting here, he is also looking a bit sleepy. Our Finance Minister has gone somewhere. I would like to ask you that you have imposed service tax, that tax has been imposed on road transport. Why that tax is not imposed on rail transport. 40 to 45 percent of goods are carried through trains. Today you are imposing service tax on similar trade, competition. You had said onething that we will provide corruption free clean administration. Whether this is the specimen of clean administration. There are 30 lakhs trucks operating in our country. 93 percent trucks are single operated. They have no offices, they are operating from their homes. 20 percent truck drivers are themselves drivers and you are imposing service tax on them. From where and how will they pay this tax and what will be the procedure of it. Excise department is responsible for recovering. Now that Excise Department will go to the houses of 30 lakh operators. Whether this is the way to abolish inspector raj in this country? Not only this, you have also imposed tax on 'Pandals' and 'Shamianas'. Today well to do families are performing the marriage of their daughter in Five Star Hotels. 80 percent farmers lives in villages and those are Jhuggis in villages. They need 'Pandals' and 'Shamianas' in marriages and you are imposing five percent service charges on them. You might be seeing it here in cities as 10 percent where big 'Pandals' are erected. You see in villages, where people live in Jhuggis, and they have 'Pandals' in marriages. Pandals are erected in the event of death in family and you are imposing service tax on that. You have betrayed in a big way. All the operators have gone on strike. You have also betrayed them. You have compromised with them that you will not recover from them. Then, whether you will recover from traders, whether you will recover from farmers, who are bringing their produce in markets by trucks. For the time being you have said that you are not implementing it. My request to Finance

[Shri Shyam Behari Mishra]

Minister is that you abolish the service charges imposed on road transport, pandals, shamianas, etc. There is no need to consider it. You have said that rules and regulations will be considered. There is no need to consider it, you simply to withdraw it.

You have included small traders in the matter of income tax. You have said that those who have sale of 40 lakhs can give five percent tax. After leaving five percent profit we should impose tax on it. It means that you are counting five percent as net profit. Are you giving them five percent profit. You are giving wheat to shopkeepers, retailers @ Rs. 447.50 and they are selling @ Rs. 450. It means rupees two and half per quintal. You are giving rice @ Rs. 595.50 and there are selling @ Rs. 600. You are giving sugar @ Rs. 1048 and they are selling @ Rs. 1050. You are giving kerosene @ Rs. 2.76 per litre and they are selling @ Rs. 2.80. But you are saying that if sale of 40 lakhs takes place, there, you presume five percent of profit. You are considering five percent profit as net profit whereas trader will have to pay freight, rent of shop, if he employs a labourer then he will have to pay wages under minimum wages Act, will have to pay interest on capital, will have to bear the burden of his efforts but you are considering 5 percent profit as net profit. I consider it as crime against traders because people who are in villages, have small shops. You have not taken their position into consideration. you tell, how much profit is being given by the Indian Oil—only 8 paisa per litre but on the other hand in villages, where there are no petrol pumps. you have constructed outlets here, small shops have been opened, they are getting profit @ 25 paisa on rupees 8.25.

Hence you even tried to see that where corruption will reach through this arrangement? Who will decide, whether one has income of five lakhs, ten lakhs or 15 lakhs. Who will make its assessment? The income tax officer will go to trader's house to determine tax. This will give rise to corruption. Have the Government ever tried to see what the income tax officer is doing there. Today if a trader goes to an income tax officer, the latter feels as if a dacoit has come to him. Therefore, no one goes to meet him. Have the Government ever tried to know why the incidents of manhandling are increasing in the raids of the enforcement department. There is a need to ponder over all these points and bring corruption to an end.

Excise duty is being imposed on retail prices of commodities. I fail to understand how excise duty can be levied on retail prices on the one hand one has to bear the transportation charges and other expenses will also be there on the other he has to put his labour. The Government are changing the structure of excise duty. Excise duty should be imposed on cost of production and not on retail prices. Excise duty has been imposed on various items. Potatoes grow in abundance in my constituency but it is lying useless in the fields. It is being sold at Rs. 3 per kg. in the market. There were some schemes to set up industries so as to give the farmers remunerative

prices for potatoes but the Government are imposing excise duty. The Government must reconsider this point.

A policy has been evolved to convert black money into white money voluntarily. My submission is that this money should be spent on providing potable water in villages. Although we are going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our independence yet potable water is not available even today in quite a large number of villages. Last year three people died after consuming contaminated water in my constituency. Potable water was not available in their village. Potable water is not available even today in quite a large number of blocks. Last time pictures of some women carrying water pots on their heads two pots by their two arms had appeared in Dharmayug and Saptahik Hindustan. One can come across such a scenario in my constituency. Therefore, money earned from voluntary disclosure scheme should be spent on providing potable water, on the spread of education, on health schemes and on construction of roads in villages.

The Government are providing houses to people under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, Indira Awas Yojana and Weaker Section Awas Yojana. These schemes should not be run merely on paper and these cannot be implemented by issuing directions. There is a need to implement these properly since today funds of almost all schemes are misused. We will have to stop their misuse. Under the Indira Awas Yojana houses are being allotted after taking 2 to 5 thousand rupees. Attention should be paid towards it.

I had many points to draw Government's attention but due to paucity of time I would like to submit again that all the schemes should be implemented properly so that poverty and unemployment can be eradicated. Schemes should be evolved for the welfare of the poor and to eradicate unemployment. Today the poor is suffering. Though the Government talks about the poor and the exploited society which are the scheme that has been included in this Finance Bill for them. There is nothing in it for them. Therefore, I am opposing the Finance Bill. I urge the Government to withdraw service tax and reconsider income tax. It should provide a clean and corruption free administration to the country.

[English]

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD (KOLHAPUR):
Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Finance Bill which has been presented by the hon. Finance Minister. After he presented the Finance Bill to the Parliament, a number of political changes took place. We faced a lot of uncertainties. At one time, we were afraid that the Parliament may be dissolved and we will go back to our constituencies. But, fortunately the differences have been patched up and now after a gap of two months, hon. Shri Chidambaram, the Union Finance Minister who has presented the Budget is back in the saddle again.

This is a unique Budget and for the first time he has

got congratulations from every quarter—industrialists, businessmen, academicians, consultants and also from the housewives. It is very difficult to receive such a unanimous appreciation from all quarters. I must congratulate him again.

A number of our colleagues have spoken about the Budget and the Finance Bill. But I would like to speak only on one aspect which appears to be rather neglected in the Budget, that is various problems and difficulties faced by the small scale sector.

The Expert Committee on small enterprises was constituted by the earlier Government under the chairmanship of Shri Abid Hussain. Their report has been presented to the Government in the month of January, 1997. All of us those who are concerned with the small enterprises' growth in our country were expecting a comprehensive statement of the decisions taken by the Central Government of the recommendations of the said Committee. We were also expecting that the report of the Committee would be made available to the public and there will be a public debate in the country on the recommendations of the said Committee. None of this happened. One fine morning, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, the Government had taken a decision to raise the investment ceiling for small scale units from Rs. 60 lakh to Rs. 3 crore. The Government has also decided to reduce the 75 per cent export obligation for production of reserved items by non-small scale units organised sector to 50 per cent. The main thrust of this argument of the Government for this decision was that the technological upgradation in the small sector was possible only by hiking the investment limit. The Government, however, has conveniently closed its eyes to the other facts.

First of all, with the enhancement in the investment limit, the medium scale units have become small units. The medium scale units will now manufacture the items reserved for the small sector. Secondly, after having become small units, the medium scale units are now eligible for priority sector credit. At present, about 95 per cent of the small units are having investments in Plant and Machinery to the tune of Rs. 5 lakh and below which are known as tiny units. The consequences of the above measures is that the bigger units will benefit by way of producing the reserved items and also such units will corner the lion's share of priority sector credit leaving the small and tiny units to starve of funds.

Already the flow of credit to the small scale and tiny units is extremely low against the stipulation of the Nayak Committee whose report was accepted by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India. The Committee recommended that the credit should be extended to the small and tiny sector on the basis of 20 per cent turnover. Whereas, at present the tiny sector is extended only 2.7 per cent credit and the small sector is extended only 8.1 per cent.

I strongly suggest that the priority sector lending should be fully directed towards the tiny sector and there should

be no insistence for collateral security which is being always insisted upon by the banks and financial institutions. Further, the announcement of tiny sector policy has been pending despite Government's promise to this effect made on the floor of the Lok Sabha in July, 1991. The announcement should be made without any further delay.

In the beginning, the non-SSI units had to earmark 90 per cent for exports which was made to 75 per cent later and now it has been fixed at 50 per cent. This decision has facilitated back-door entry of medium, large and large units into the reserved realm of the small sector. The non-SSI units can now sell the balance of 50 per cent produce in the domestic market which will blunt the competitive edge of the small and tiny units as these units are operating with slender resources resulting in ousting them from the arena.

The reservation policy, I may state, was not formulated as a measure of protection alone, but for other factors such as provision of employment opportunities, development of industrial activities in the backward and rural areas, utilisation of local raw materials and restraining migration of labour. Further the small and tiny sector, at present, produces about 8,000 items. The reservation list, whereas, contains only 836 items, that is, the reservation covers only 10 per cent of the items produced in the SSI sector. Therefore, I plead that the reservation policy should always form a component of the industrial policies of the Government and the dereservation should not be resorted to.

Right now, dereservation has been indirectly effected by the Government by enhancing the SSI investment limit and reducing export obligation for non-small scale units. The 20th Report of the Sixth Lok Sabha stresses that the Government must resist the pressure to open up areas currently reserved for the SSI sector. It further states that penal measures should be straightway enforced including summary expulsion of the units who have made their entry into the SSI sector through irregular means.

As regards dereservation, the Government, in a great hurry, has announced a list of 14 industries which have been dereserved from the SSI sector. Announcement was made by the Finance Minister to this effect and the notification has been issued on April 1, the day after the Congress (I) withdrew its support. I do not know what was such a great hurry in implementing this suggestion even before this proposal was passed by Parliament. Even now, Parliament has not given its approval of this dereservation scheme.

One of the argument for raising the investment of SSI sector was enhancement of rupee value cost by inflation and devaluation. According to the same analogy, then the exemption limit for levy of central excise should have been adequately raised.

The initial exemption for central excise levy of Rs. 30 lakhs is the same for the last more than 10 years despite inflation and manifold cost escalations. The Government is also inconsistent in accepting the recommendations of

[Shri Udaysingrao Gaikwad]

Abid Hussain Committee. I have a feeling that it has worked under the pressure of large scale units and has raised investment limit of SSI units of Rs. Three crore. Similarly, it has not raised exemption of central excise to Rs. 50 lakhs.

The Abid Hussain Committee had also recommended for the total turnover limit of Rs. 3 crore. It had also recommended the restoration of excise exemption for branded goods. Unfortunately, none of these recommendations has been accepted by the United Front Government. On the contrary, a so-called simple SSI scheme was announced and a notification was issued on April 1 in a great hurry after the collapse of the Government.

Moreover, the Report of the Committee had not been made available to the public. The apex body of the small scale industries, viz., FASII has not been consulted while doing all this exercise for small scale units. I still feel that only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. This apex body should be consulted on these matters.

As regards finance for SSI sector, because of the present RBI policy of freezing interest rates by banks, the rates have reached dizzy heights. The bank finance or for that matter the SIDBI finance is available at more than 20 per cent rate of interest. The SSI units can hardly afford such high cost of funds. The limit of Rs. 2 lakh for providing concessional rate of interest be raised to at least Rs. 10 lakh and there should be an upper limit on the rate of interest by banks. Madam, this is about the small scale industry and I hope that the Government will take into consideration whatever suggestions I have made.

Madam, I would like to take one more point which is of vital importance for my constituency and for six districts of Kolhapur. I will conclude within a minute or two. There are six districts, viz., Sangli, Satara, Sholapur, Kolhapur, Ratnagiri and Sindhu Durg. All these districts are going on agitation to have a High Court Bench of Bombay at Kolhapur. I have raised this question on the floor of the House so many times. An assurance was also given that the Central Government will consider this proposal provided the Government of Maharashtra sent the proposal to us. The thing is that Kolhapur is an historical place. Obviously when it was a State, we had a High Court and a Supreme Court also. The persons like Lokmanya Tilak and Gokhaleji used to appear before these court. Naturally lakhs of cases are pending. This is what our Minister of Law has suggested the other day. There are many cases pending in Maharashtra High Court also. That is why we are demanding this High Court Bench at Kolhapur. A delegation has already met the Minister who is from Goa.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA): Madam Chairperson, I rise to oppose the Finance Bill. Yesterday, our main speaker and our leader Dr. Murlu Manohar Joshi expressed his views. Associating myself with the speakers who have expressed their views today, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance

Minister towards a few points.

There is scarcity of industries in Utranchal area. At present there are magnesite industry, paper industry and drugs industry. The reduction in excise duty and increase in customs duty has badly affected these industries. They cannot compete anywhere. Today the new items of income tax, excise and service tax have been included in the Finance Bill. On the one hand the Government expects that revenue should increase but unless the fiscal deficit and the increasing expenses of the Government are brought under control, the people will not get benefit of the whole exercise on this Budget. There is a magnesite industry in Pithoragarh in my constituency. The magnesite industry in Almora is on the verge of closure since the imported magnesite is cheaper. I made a mention to this effect many times in the House. It was expected that some positive efforts would be made but no such effort has been made. As a result thereof our indigenous industry and the people who are employed in these industries are going to be ruined.

I would like to take up another issue. A lot of things have been said about Utrakhand State and yesterday and day before yesterday the hon. Home Minister said that it would not be taken up in this session. I would like to inform the House and the entire nation through this House that even the initial action to obtain the approval of the hon. President has not been taken and we know very well that the present Government is not at all sincere to form Utranchal or the Utrakhand State. They are playing with the sentiment of the people. This issue does not come to an end here. A separate State has to be formed but till such time the State is formed its economic development is the responsibility of the Central Government. We welcome the announcements of the present Prime Minister and the former Prime Minister. These measures are necessary for Jammu and Kashmir since it has been a disturbed area. Similarly special packages were given to the North-Eastern States. Do the Government expect that the people in Utranchal and Utrakhand State should also embrace terrorism and it should be a disturbed area. Because today the criteria is that the areas which have made progress and where the pre-capita income is higher, receive more assistance or the States which have taken recourse to terrorism, are receiving special packages so that they are pacified and remain quiet. The third measure is that the States which have political dominance both inside the House and the Government, are given priority. What is the reason that no package has been announced by this United Front Government for Utrakhand area. A lot has been spoken about the Common Minimum Programme. Do the Government follow the Common Minimum Programme?

I was going through a reference that the BIFR would be reconstituted. Besides, I also come to know that the act would be amended and the industries which are being declared sick in the country and are being closed down would be revived. No programme has been made in this regard. All the earlier speakers said that Multinationals

should come. There is no need to go into its details. I would like to cite an example in this regard. There was an enterprise called the Saraswati Woolen Mills Private Limited in my constituency and Sodhi Woolen Mill was set up in my home town Ranikhet. All the looms were working properly. These mills were closed on the orders of the BIFR. It was the first and only industry of that hill area with a capital involvement of Rs. 50 lakh at the height of 5 thousand feet. Even after my personal request to the hon. Finance Minister and writing many letters for the last eight months, I could not get an appointment with him. It would be raised by some other way in the House. But will our duty come to an end by merely collecting revenue and providing facilities to some sections.

A very good issue was raised. The problem of foodgrain is coming up. The Government talked about social justice to the public distribution system working smoothly? There is a need to make introspections in this regard. If it is said that the Government bear a burden of Rs. 8000 crore on food subsidy. Then where is the mill? Today people in Almora and Pithoragarh districts which are predominantly inhabited by scheduled castes and people in the border areas are not getting two to one kg. of wheat. Rice is not at all available. The Government made an announcement to supply wheat and rice at subsidised rates be given under the Employment Guarantee Scheme and Employment Assurance Scheme and supply wheat or rice supplied in mid-day meals. Instead of making such announcements the Government should think how to increase the purchasing power of the people. Why employment is not generated to people? The poor should get wheat and rice at subsidised rates. There should be a uniform rate. Today there are four rates. Besides blackmarketing it is due to bureaucracy that the development of our area has stopped. Merely saying that Uttaranchal would be given the statehood or there would be separate State will not serve any purpose.

The issue of IDPL was raised here. These units have been manufacturing life saving drugs. The present Government have turned their eyes from the entire public sector undertakings situated in Gurgaon, Hyderabad and other places. Four thousand units were working on it in the hill areas and the Uttarakhand area. They have been lying closed since October.

B.I.F.R. had submitted its recommendations to the Government for implementing them so as to accrue some benefit therefrom but, the Government have not taken any action so far in this regard. There is an important issue from which it appeared that concession is being given on customs duty for conservation of forest and any customs duty will not be imposed on the wooden pulp being imported from abroad. I would like to ask whether fire wood is not available for use in hilly area because due to implementation of Forest Conservation Act as per the decision of Supreme Court, now is it practical to import fire wood or timber? I think it is not practical. We will have to make special efforts in this regard.

My request is that we should achieve cent percent literacy rate in the hilly areas. Their aspirations are also high. But the per-capita income of the hilly areas in the entire country is very low. At that time a drive had been launched to provide wheat and rice to the people of the hilly areas. So, foodgrains must be supplied in these areas as a special package to meet the shortage of foodgrains. If a situation of drought prevails there, then the Union Government will be responsible for this. A package was given to Kashmir and North Eastern States and the entire country had welcomed this move, but not a single penny has been provided to Uttaranchal region. Rs. 225 crores has been provisioned for the Five years scheme and no Central assistance has been provided. I would like to request the Finance Minister to make a provision in this regard. Adequate arrangements for potable water, road and electricity should be made in these areas and it should be brought into the main stream of the country so that the unity and integrity of the country remains intact. The people of Uttarakhand have self-respect and they have full faith and confidence in the constitution so, I would like to assure that they will wait patiently for positive results in future. I would like that the Union Government should respond to it. The Government should take some initiative on its own in this regard. The Government have played cards of Uttarakhand state but it will not go for long. With these words I strongly oppose the Finance Bill presented by the Finance Minister.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): Madam Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. I am raising a matter which is very important for the marginal rubber growers of Kerala who sell the product called latex which is very much essential for the manufacture of rubber foam by small scale industries. But unfortunately many of the small scale industries are facing serious crisis and they are almost crippled due to the reduction levy of import duty on a substance called polyonithane, the duty on which have been reduced from 85 per cent to 30 per cent over the last five years.

This year also, there was a reduction of ten per cent. Because the import duty on these raw-materials is reduced, the artificial foam that is made becomes available at cheaper rates. Therefore, the rubber foams which are made of natural rubber cannot compete with them. Hence, a number of these units, which are small-scale units, are closed.

Madam, I am making a very important point. Therefore, today there are no buyers for the rubber milk which the small growers are producing. This has created a very serious situation. So, I am only asking the Government of India that if they cannot increase the import duty on the raw-materials which I have mentioned, at least reduce the excise duty on the products which are made of natural rubber so that the small growers and the small-scale industries are saved. I am requesting the Minister of State for Finance because the hon. Finance Minister is not here.

[Prof. P.J. Kurien]

Morning also, I raised it during the Zero Hour. I would request you to convey it to Finance Minister. I am only pleading for the cause of these growers and the small-scale industries. I am not lobbying for others. Yesterday, maybe by way of making an off-the-cuff remarks, the Finance Minister said that I am lobbying for others. In fact, the stand taken by the Government is helping the big industries. If what I am saying is implemented, that will help the small industries and the growers. I do not want to say anything more because I will say on the rest of the things in my personal explanation. I have a personal explanation to make tomorrow. I will say other things at that time.

Then, I want to make two more sentences only. After that, I will finish my speech. One is that the philosophy of the Budget equating the honest tax-payers and the dishonest is not correct. The dishonest who own black money should be asked to pay a penalty for keeping the black money.

My second sentence is, as my friend has already said, the small-scale industry is the backbone of our industry. Forty per cent of our products are from the small-scale industries. Please do not continue with the policy of de-reservation. The small-scale industries should be protected.

With these words, I support the Budget and I take my seat. Thank you for calling me to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL (BETUL): Madam Chairperson, I stand to oppose the Bill. This Bill has been brought to gain cheap popularity. On the day the budget was declared, the same day, in the evening some people praised the budget because some tax rebate was given, the prices of T.V. and refrigerators have come down and the industry and trade got what they wanted and they even didn't mind when some of their demands were not met in the budget. I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that the Government have given an assurance that whatever be the convertibility on entire capital account, they will also contemplate on it in future. Thus, some facilities have been provided to some people. But, the people who were supposed to get some benefit, didn't get anything from this Budget. There is a shortage of eatable items, potable water, medicines and roads in the villages. There are no employment opportunities. This budget would have been meaningful had these people, who comprise 80 per cent of the population benefited there from. This budget has been announced for Industry and Trade Sector and efforts have been made to facilitate them whose population is merely 15-20 crores.

No provision has been made in this budget for 80 crores people who need some facilities. I would like to tell you that the situation is so grave that 16 per cent population earns Rs. three per day, 18 per cent population earns Rs. five per day, 40 per cent population earns Rs. 2444, which comes to Rs. Seven per day. 73 per cent population earns less than Rs. Seven per day. If I say so any foreign media

or any other agency says this then don't believe it. But it is a fact and this is one of the samples of the survey conducted by National Council of Allied Research. Today the fund is not directly provided to the village it is provided through the brokers and middle men and a large portion of that amount does not reach the poor. If we look at the budget, we will find that the revenue tax is four times higher than the capital tax. If I draw your attention towards some provisions of this budget, then you will find that these are false announcements. I would like to tell you about a particular announcement. A provision has been made for village wherein it is announced that help would be extended to the poor for construction of houses costing upto Rs. two lakhs. Only those people can think of constructing a house in the village costing Rs. two lakhs, who owns a land of his own. When he owns a land then he won't need any house in the village. Hence, the houses are constructed only for some moneylenders, trade merchants, capitalists and contractors. The person who needs a house will not get one in the village.

32-33 percent of the population is living below the poverty line. Our Finance Minister, by making announcement for constructions of houses costing Rs. two lakh, want to create an impression that they want to provide facilities to the poor. A provision has been made in the budget to provide food stock to the poor people at low price and subsidy will also be given. The people living below the poverty line can get ten Kg. of food stock. But, this is also a hollow announcement. The people who are really in need of the food stock do not get it. These people don't have purchasing power. I would like to give an example of my Parliamentary Constituency in this regard. According to the Government data, one and half lakh people live below the poverty line. There is a village called Chaandu and Palsia where people eat Bhamori and Chirote vegetable they say that they do not have a capacity to purchase the produce available at the shops. They do not have work and money so they want employment instead of cheap produce. On hundred and fifty people died there due to shortage of water during the last year and 100 people died one year before the last year. When they do not have power to purchase food stuff then what will be the position after the food stock reaches the shop/village. As far as Public Distribution system is concerned, they don't want sugar instead they want work so that they can earn and purchase the produce from the market. The shops always remain closed. These people do not have money and all the items of the shop go into blackmarket. So, this ten kilo produce will not reach in the hands of the targeted people. As on date, the Government have made announcement that the produce will be provided in market at half the rate of Rs. ten. Had these people got the rate of the produce at that time when the announcement was made then the produce would have been available at Rs. three as food stuff was available at the rate of Rs. 6 at that time wheat costing Rs. 760 is likely to reach there under Public Distribution System.

21.00 hrs.

After expenses are added it will cost more than Rs.

800. If food stuff will be given at the rate of Rs. 400 then, these poor people do not want it instead they want work, if they earn 40 rupees wages then they will purchase Jawar and Maize from the market. Is this scheme meant for this purpose? This is a fraud scheme. As a result, the targetted people will not benefit from it and all these items will be sold in black market so, importance should be given to employment. These development things have been said out of compulsion. Heavy cuts have been imposed in works relating to development and Infrastructure as a result, the development schemes have been directly affected. I would like to draw your attention towards those areas, where cuts have been affected. These areas include departments such as animal husbandry, irrigation, flood control, rural development, fertilizers, civil aviation, industrial development, heavy industry, petroleum, textiles industry and atomic energy. Besides, a cut of Rs. 1397 crores has been made in the subsidy being given to the State Government. Similarly, Rs. 60 crores has been cut from the current budget of animal husbandry department is comparison to 1996-97 and Rs. 925 crores has been cut in Water Resources Ministry. Today, people say that it would be better if they get water for cultivation. The owner of five acres of land says that he will get water. The people do not need facilities we do not talk about subsidy also. In our State, subsidy is given on electricity but the Government raise slogan that the electricity would be provided free of cost. When we talk to the people they say that what purpose does supply of electricity at free of cost will serve when in real sense we do not get electricity and then what will we produce? They are ready to pay Rs. 500 to 700 for providing electricity. A cut of Rs. 925 crores has been made in water Resources Ministry Rs. 16 crores has been reduced in textile Industry's budget during current year in comparison to last year. Similarly, a cut has been made to the tune of Rs. 942 crore in fertilizers, Rs. 1668 crores in civil aviation, Rs. 54 crores in atomic energy, Rs. 626 crores in Industry and Minerals, Rs. 70 crores in heavy Industry and Rs. 240 crores in petroleum products. Not a single paisa has been raised under rural development head. The Government boast about rural development and says that they want to eradicate the poverty let us see what allotment has been made. In 1996-97 Rs. 2195 crores ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This point has been repeated by many. Therefore, Kindly do not go into the details.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: A provision for Rs. 1154 crores was made under 'Indira Vikas Yojna' during the last year and 11 lakh houses were to be constructed during that period. This year, only seven lakh houses have to be constructed. If we go to each block we don't find even two houses constructed. As a result people quarrel among themselves in the village. What's the use of such a scheme? The Government have formulated Employment Guarantee Scheme and Employment Assurance Scheme

under which the Government have given guarantee to provide work for 100 days. Under both the schemes, some financial provision has been made during the current year as was during the last year. Last year, Rs. 1970 crores had been provided under Employment Guarantee Scheme and the same amount has been provided during the current year. I would like to give an example of my district where one and half lakh people need work and 15 lakh mandays are required for this. If wages are paid at the rate of Rs. 40 then we need Rs. 60 crores for the said purpose. But a mere Rs. five to six crores are being provided. Then what's the use of giving wrong figures.

I would like to say something about individual tax. 35 percent tax has been fixed for Partnership Firm. Earlier, 40 percent tax was fixed for it. The tax applied in case of individual should also be applied on partnership firm. 30 percent tax should be fixed in this regard. The Capital Gains tax was fixed at 20 percent during the last budget and it was said that capital gains tax would be collected at the rate of lower tax. The capital gains tax has been fixed at 20 percent during the current year whereas the lower tax has come to 10 percent.

The biggest blunder on part of the Government is that the Government wants to impose tax at the rate of five percent through 44 A(F). The Government may not be aware that a trader cannot show and charge profit more than 2-4 percent. If he does, then he will be prosecuted under the Essential Commodities Act. Yesterday, the Finance Minister has made an announcement that the Government will give rebate in salary interest. If it is so, then every individual will have to meet Income tax officer along with the documents to get rebate in salary interest. It means to make it cheaper and good, the tax should be reduced from 5 percent to 2 percent.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to tell one more thing that there is a clubbing provision under section 64 where in the income of a minor is clubbed with that of father-mother. As per the Tax Expert Committee Group's report if a minor gets a gift, it should be deleted from the clubbing tax provision. It seems that the Government wants to increase the savings. A person can pay a premium of Rs. One Lakh in LIC under Income tax and he can deposit Rs. One lakh in N.S.C. but he can't deposit more than Rs. 60 thousands in his provident fund, why? Rebate should be given upto Rs. 12 thousand but why this restriction on deposit of money? When as per the report all the proposals are upto Rs. One lakh, then it should be deducted from income but it should not be collected as structural tax. Revision of tax also takes place. A person with a wife and two children can open three accounts and the person who do not have children can't open three accounts. He can deposit Rs. 60 thousands, he is getting rebate on Rs. 12 thousands then why deposit of money in provident fund has been restricted to Rs. 60 thousands? On one hand the Government wants heavy savings and earnings and on the other hand there is no restriction on savings in N.S.C. and L.I.C. One more thing is that there is a lacunae in the Act. It should be out of the purview

[Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal]

of income. As per your assessment if the amount is deposited within one month, then it will be rejected. Shall we wait till 31st March? This should be deleted and an amendment should be made therein.

With these words while concluding my speech, I oppose this Finance Bill.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (LADAKH): Madam, Chairperson, I thank you for giving me time. I would speak on some points. At first this budget appeared good but when I read it at home it appeared to me that it is politically motivated and I did not find much in it for the development of rural sector and power sector and for the advancement of the people living in backward areas and particularly in hilly areas and Tribal areas. But yesterday when he moved the finance bill, he also made some improvement in it. He reduced the excise and custom duties worth 111 crore rupees. Similarly he gave budgetary support of 900 crore of Rupees in power sector. It is good and we welcome it and the paucity of funds would be removed to some extent but it would not be to the desired extent.

Madam Chairperson, I want to say one or two things in this regard. There is the need of paying head towards rural development. I don't want to go in statistics because there is not much time. In my view, when the Minister would reply finally tomorrow he would give some relief to this sector also keeping in view for views of the hon'ble members.

So far as power is concerned a provisions of Rs. 900 crore has been made. Out of this Rs. 200 crore have been allocated for improvement of State Electricity Boards. I think that amount is inadequate for this purpose. All the State Electricity Boards have been incurring losses and particularly in Jammu-Kashmir, there is the world record of power leakages. It is more than 48 per cent. Some of its would go. It would all go in rent. But unless two centre intervenes in it, they will continue to be red. Finance Ministers should look into it. He would certainly provide Rs. 200 crore for it and alongwith it these are non-conventional energy sources including hydroelectric source which is very important for hilly and tribal areas, for which you have provided 700 crores rupees but it is for big hydel project. There is no transmission facility in hilly areas to get power from national grid. We have to depend on local resources. We can produce electricity from diesel there but that will be very expensive and the hon. Minister has said that the government is going to increase the prices of oil. In my view we should not give priority to Diesel. We have other resources also. Micro hydroelectric Schemes may be set up but I don't know about the share of non-conventional energy sector in thus allocation of Rs. 900 crores for the power sector. If you really care for the people living in tribal and hilly areas, there is the need to pay more attention towards it.

My second point is about solar energy but for this initially we have to spend a lot on solar energy. But once a solar unit is set up it goes on working. The first solar energy village, S.O.S. Children Village, was set up in Leh

under my constituency. That was in early Eighties. It has been working without trouble since then.

We have 300 sunny days in Ladakh Sector and same is the situation in Rajasthan also. So there is the need of paying full attention to such areas. My friend, Shri Chaman Lal Gupta, who is not present here, has stated that the area of my Constituency is about one lac square kilometer which is equal to twice the area of Himachal Pradesh. The population of my Constituency is quite less and scattered, therefore power can not be supplied there through transmission because it is very expensive. Small solar units can be useful there. We have got a scheme in this respect. But we are not getting funds for the same. An annual provision of 50 or 100 units under non-conventional energy sources is not going to solve the difficulties of my region. I want that you should give more priority to my Constituency which require the attention of all the engineers and scientists. I would like to draw your attention to Geo Thermal Energy. There are many hot springs in my Constituency and about 30 Megawatt electricity can be generated from each hot spring. In Tibet geo-thermal power has been generated since early 80 and we have G.S.I. and one other department, the name of which I am skipping, in which about three crore rupees have been spent and so far no result has been achieved by it. Only yesterday, in reply to my question, it was stated that we are starting Poultry Farming there and constructing Green Houses. I said that it is a mockery we don't require Poultry Farming, we don't require Green Houses. We require power because hydel projects would not be successful there. The temperature goes very low during winter there. So geo-farming can go on during winter also and a lot of power can be generated there. Therefore, I request the Minister to look into it.

The other point is about main produce. The local pashmina is not being utilised because there is no buyer of this product and almost entire pashmina available there is being smuggled through the borders of Nepal, UP and Himachal Pradesh. Earlier, Pashmina of Kashmir and Laddakh used to be purchased and used by the small industry of Kashmir but now not even one kilogram of it is being taken by them. In my view custom department is under Ministry of Finance. What the department of custom is doing. Leave aside Pashmina. Shahtoosh which is fine antelope wool and an internationally banned product is selling like hot cake in my region at a price of Rs. 25 to 30 thousand per k.g. There is nobody to check it. I request the Government to take care of this.

At last I would like to say something about income tax. Though I had spoken a lot in regard to providing exemption in Income tax, while speaking on income tax amendment bill. The Minister of Finance speaks good English and perhaps he does not understand our Hindi, but we cannot speak English like him. Now you can call it Communication gap or something else but we failed to convince him and he is not prepared to listen us. I would like to request him once more in this respect. The 90 percent population of Laddakh is tribal. Income tax exemp-

tion should be given the tribals of Laddakh as it is given to the tribals of North Eastern States. I am not pleading the case of traders who have come from outside. Collect income tax from them, but some concessions should be given to the local people of Laddakh as are given to other tribals. The total population of Laddakh is about two lacs.

Last time, two years ago I did not receive the answer of one question because the Ministry had no record but in the previous year to that year income tax of Rs. 38000 was collected from Laddakh, in the earlier to that year income tax of Rs. 50,000 and in the previous to that year Rs. 40000 were collected when I asked for the record, I was given these figures of the three years. You can imagine from it that on the one hand, the Government have given concessions of Lakhs and crores of rupees for the high income group, on the other hand you have not given exemption for the people who give only 30-40 or 50 thousand rupees. We have been demarking it for quite sometime.

It is our bad luck that often a long agitation, Laddakh was accorded the status of tribal State in the year 1989. There was the Congress Government in Centre at that time but we were defeated in elections after that when Janata Dal came in power it exempted the Laddakhis from income tax. It is beyond my understanding that on the one hand you talk of giving facilities to the tribals and we have been accorded this status but on the other hand you imposed income tax on us. It is sheer injustice. I request you to convince the Minister of Finance, you are not likely to get anything from there. I am not against collecting tax from non-Laddakhi traders, big businessmen, who earn a lot, but income tax should not be collected from the local people of Laddakh and it is only since last 2-3 years that they have been able to earn some money with the development of tourism in our region. In this situation, imposition of income tax on them will be a source of harassment. This should be checked at the earliest.

With these words, I support the budget presented by Chidambaramji, but I request you to reconsider the issue of collecting tax from the local people of Laddakh. I welcome the announcement made by you yesterday. You have given many concessions in that such as, for non-conventional energy, particularly you have reduced the excise duty on silicon from 13 percent to 8 percent.

Madam Chairperson, Sir it is a good step. I welcome if Silicon chips are used in manufacturing Solar Panel. Reducing the excise duty on it would promote the non-conventional energy by which the country would be benefited.

Similarly, the rate of tax on Juice and other non-alcoholic beverages has been reduced from 18 percent to 8 percent when is also a welcome step. It would benefit the people of Jammu-Kashmir which is a fruit growing state. You have increased the duty on almond which is also a welcome step as it will boost the local produce and keep a check as the sale of almond coming in from other areas

which sells at a cheaper rate in the local market and too price of local produce, which is comparatively on the higher side, is not received well in the market your step would check it. Madam Chairperson, with these words. I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): Hon'ble Madam Chairperson, I rise to oppose this finance bill because it is mere a budget stunt. It is mere juggling of figures. Madam Chairperson, you know maximum number of amendments have been brought in the finance bill this time. People did not understand this budget earlier. Therefore they expressed happiness. Many leaders praised it. Even CPI (M) leader Shri Som Nath Chatterjee also praised it, but when he understood it, he also opposed it and yesterday Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee also opposed it.

Madam Chairperson, as the Minister of Finance is not present here and his associates are here, I would like to know something from them about budget. Is it not true that this budget is meant for pleasing some people, for giving benefits only to few persons and it would create problem for most of the people? Whether it is not a fact that it is not realistic budget and is based on imaginary figures and wrong expectations? Will the pace of infrastructural development not become slow and rate of inflation not rise by this budget? Is it not a fact that infrastructural development of the country has been left to the mercy of private sector and as a result of it this development would be costly. Whether correct direction would be given to long term system by this budget? Whether it will be possible to check the recession in industries. Whether budget deficit would be reduced by it? Whether adequate funds have been provided for agricultural sector? Whether it would save the Capital market from fluctuations? The main reason of industrial recession in revenue deficit. Increase in revenue expenditure brings recession in industries. Have you considered it seriously? Due to cut in direct taxes, budgetary deficit would further increase in the next year and it would go on increasing every year no thought has been given to it as how to reduce this budgetary deficit. The budgetary deficit has been increasing regularly each year.

Madam Chairperson, yesterday also the hon. Finance Minister had declared rebate in taxes, if we go through the data then from where would you arrange such a huge amount? It means that the budget deficit would go on increasing. Would not the country reach the condition of bankruptcy due to it? My submission is that you have not allocated sufficient amount for health facility. My submission is that malaria has attacked the country again after 50 years. T.B. and Hepatitis-B have attacked again after 50 years and AIDS is spreading and other diseases have been spreading. The Government should make available sufficient amount for having a check on these but no attention has been paid towards it. My submission is that the Government must introduce health care through Ayurvedic System of Medicine but merely 25 crore rupees have been allocated for 5 pathies and epidemics are spreading as a

[Vaidya Dau Dayal Joshi]

result thereof. Diseases hazardous for mankind have been coming up. Has any provision been made in the budget for the prevention of these diseases? My submission is that you must control market prices. You must reply why Mahatma Gandhi did the Dandi March and opposed the tax on salt? At what price it is being sold today? The hon. Minister might not be knowing since he does not have to go to the market. Where salt is produced, it is purchased at the rate of 25 paise per kilogram from there. The salt of 25 paise is sold later on at the rate of 2.50 rupees per kilogram. Likewise it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 4.50 per kilogram in the name of iodised salt. An important item like salt is being sold at this price. At least control it. At least determine the cost of production of the products and that product should be sold on the basis of the certain limit of Profit on that. It is not bothered at all.

My submission is that mid day meal scheme has been running for the last many years, no proper arrangements have been made for that in this budget. The mid day meal scheme in the schools has been withdrawn. In this condition the other thing which is being taken up is that the foodgrain would be provided at cheaper rates. I would like to know from the hon. Members in this House if any poor person in any village gets a small quantity of sugar from the fair price shop. Where is kerosene available at cheaper rates? Just now Gupta ji was saying that kerosene oil is available at the rate of rupees 2.50 per bottle but it is being sold in the market at the rate of 15 to 20 rupees per bottle. When the public distribution system has totally failed. I fail to understand how would you make available wheat and rice to the poor at cheaper rates. When the hon. Minister replies he should make it clear as to how the foodgrains would be made available to the poor at cheaper rates. Would it be made available through public distribution system or a new agency free from corruption would be set up for it.

You have withdrawn the National Social Programme. It is a very important programme. Why has it been withdrawn? 10 lakh houses were to be constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana but arrangement for the construction of only 7 lakh houses have been made. Even the amount allocated for this purpose has been withdrawn. No sufficient amount has been provided for steel, cement, road construction, tele-communication and irrigation. Please make sufficient provisions and proper arrangement for them.

At last, my submission is that Bhujia, Papad and the Cane Achar etc. used to be sold in Bikaner in Rajasthan. It is their main profession. The poor and illiterate people used to sell hand made Bikaner Bhujia. They did not make it with machines. You have imposed 8 percent central excise duty on them. The illiterate people make namkeen by doing labour. 8 percent central excise duty on that namkeen has been imposed. It is injustice. The poor housewives who used to prepare papad, how would they be able to pay 8 percent excise duty, I fail to understand this.

Today, this issue of 8 percent excise duty on groundnut

has been raised. Every Sanatani Hindu family does fast. There are the fasts on Ekadashi and Pooranmasi. They live on Sendha Namak and Pepper alongwith groundnut on that day. You have snatched their food and have imposed 8 percent tax on that. Today the Rs. 50 to 60 per kilogram of Bikaneri Namkeen is being sold by the multinational company, in the packing of Papsi food in our market at Rs. 300 per kilogram.

The Government have at no stage, bothered to check it but imposed 8 percent tax on 'Namkeen', manufactured by hardworking poor people of the country. This is not good at all. Tax has also been imposed on people engaged in electrical and tent house business. Some sympathy should have been shown towards them. It is a gross injustice. A loss of crores of rupees has been suffered due to trucks strike in the country but the Government didn't pay any attention towards this.

Sardar Sahab is sitting here. Mostly Sikh and Jaat Communities are engaged in truck business in the country. The Government are going to impose tax on the illiterates. Their strike continued for 8 days. After 8 days, the Government befooled them. Yesterday too, the hon. Minister failed to mention it clearly. Some sympathy should be shown towards them.

In the end, I would like to say that some amount has been earmarked for sick industries. The Union Government had launched the only industry 'Instrumentation Limited' at Kota in Rajasthan. 4000 people and 20,000 families used to earn their livelihood from this important industry. Today, it has become sick due to the wrong policies of the Government. Similarly, it has become sick also due to wrong policies of the officers, their extravagant expenses and frequent trips to foreign countries. Whenever any provision is made for sick industries, the attention should also be paid on 'Instrumentation Ltd.' of Kota. The Government wants to collect tax from the flower decorators. I don't know how the Government will bring three lakh people more under the purview of tax. I can't extent support, at any cost, to such a finance bill which is meant for imposing tax on hard working people. I request the Minister to reconsider on it. It is true that first time the common people could not understand it. So many amendments have been carried out as per the wishes of the leaders but yet more amendments are needed. I request the Government to bring in proper amendments and provide relief to the people and atleast tax proposal should be withdrawn from items such as Bikaneri Papad and Bhujia. No tax should be imposed on poor people engaged in tent and truck business.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): Madam Chairperson, I stand to oppose this budget. All the hon. members have already spoken on the various aspects of the budget. When the budget was presented, the Finance Minister had, in his speech and later through media, tried to create such an impression in the country as if this budget

of United Front will give relief to the common people which will prove a blessing for them. But the common people have realised the truth within two months.

When the Finance Minister was out of the Ministry for some time, due to political reasons, a sort of hide and seek was going on and there were rumours of his joining or not joining the Government. After the Finance Minister resumed his office, the most heppiest people were the big industrialists of the country and the chamber of Indian Industry. The big industrialists and Industrial houses were happy due to his joining the Ministry. It was not because they have personally any love for him or they consider him good. The big Industrialists of the country feel that after Shri Manmohan Singh if any person has protected their interests more than anybody it is Shri P. Chidambaram, the present Finance Minister of the country. I would like to ask as to what the common people had got from this budget? Any proper provision has not been made in this budget for solving poverty, starvation, unemployment, potable water, electricity, roads and housing problems. Shri George Fernandes was speaking in the morning. I agree with him. The common man, whose family is already starving due to inflation, who was hardly in a position to purchase ration for his family, has not got any sigh of relief from this budget. No increase has been made in the daily wages. The ration has not become cheaper and the common man did not get any employment opportunities. Actually, the common man did not get anything from this Budget. Some concessions have been given and that too in customs and Excise duty and only the big Industrialists and big Industrial houses have been benefited from this budget.

This budget does not provide any relief to lower section of society such as, clerks, constables, peons small shopkeepers, rickshaw pullers, auto rickshaw drivers, gardeners, guards etc. Our Finance Minister has not spared any one and has done his level best to bring more and more people under tax net.

The tent owners do not charge anything for installation of tents on the religious and other occasions. Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia is present here with us and he would subscribe that several religious programmes are held every month in Punjab. Prime Minister Shri Inder Kumar Gujral has recently visited Punjab and the tent owners association offered free of charge installation of tents for all the programmes hold these. But our Finance Minister imposed heavy tax on them. The income tax inspectors have started chasing them. These new taxes have been imposed in the name of service tax. This is causing great difficulties for the common people. I understand that you should have imposed taxes on the rich class who has got blackmoney and can pay it. This Government would run by imposing tax on common men and shop keepers. You have presumed that if the sales are more than 40 lakhs, the profit would be 8 lakh and 5% tax would be charged on it. The income tax inspectors would now on start chasing the small shopkeepers which would lead to corruption and add to the woes of common people. The self proclaimed

Government of down trodden people has not even spared the bidi of the common people. The elite class smokes cigar and expensive cigarettes. The poor, rickshaw pullers labourers smoke bidis.

SHRI SUKDEV PASWAN (ARARIYA): It is injurious to health.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): Smoking bidi is injurious to health and the relief announced would be appreciated. What do you mean by that. The arguments being put up by the Government does not have any basis. Your saying that smoking bidi is injurious to health then you should ban it. One BJP-H.V.P. Government in Haryana openly said that alcohol is injurious to health and enforced prohibition. If you think that Bidi is injurious to health, then you should ban smoking. But you can not do that. The rich people smoke Cigar and expensive Cigarettes and the poor man should not smoke even bidi. Your Finance Minister has tried to take out the only five paise coin lying in his pocket.

Today sports industry is fast developing. I had gone to meet the Finance Minister with a delegation. Today every household has sports cycle. Doctors advise the patient to exercise on cycle and you have many other sports equipments to reduce your weight. The Finance Minister has imposed 13 percent excise duty on it and there is no custom duty on it. Sports goods are exempted from custom duty. Thousands of small scale sports units are on the brink of destruction.

We were glad that our Prime Minister belonging to Punjabi Community would do something for Industry of Punjab. I have with me a letter which has written by the then External Affairs Minister Shri I.K. Gujral to Shri Chidambaram in which he had written, "I had gone to Punjab." The people working in the industries there met me and I am sending their representation so that you can ponder over it. I am sorry to say that a person writes a letter to his Finance Minister as an External Affairs Minister but soon he assumes the charge of the Prime Minister, he does not want to pay any heed towards it. Today, the whole of the industries of Punjab are on the verge of closure. Now when the hon. Prime Minister had paid a visit to Punjab, several delegations met him and I would like to urge upon him that this clause should be withdrawn. The items excluded from the sports goods category are not only exercizers.

[English]

Explanation: Sports goods for the purpose of this Entry do not cover articles and equipments for general physical exercise.

[Translation]

All such articles which are used for the purpose of general physical exercise have been excluded and my submission is that the Government must ponder over it and this excise duty should be withdrawn. There is no custom duty on account of which the imported items would

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

be available at cheaper rates and the items produced indigenously would be sold at higher rates. We have been encouraging the multinational companies which will not be in the interest of indigeneous companies.

I would like to raise the issue regarding the Union Territories. This Government has been doing injustice with us. Chandigarh is a Union Territory and is under the Central Government. The budget in respect to every department has been increased 10-12 percent. It's growth is 10-12 percent per annum in a natural way.

But the budget for Chandigarh, which was 471 crore rupees last year, has been reduced to 463 crore rupees. The report of the Standing Committee on Home Ministry has been laid before the House and it has been stated in it that there is no plausible explanation of it. The budget for us should be increased. It is gross injustice with us. I would like to submit that the hon. Finance Minister should accept our demand and the recommendations of the standing Committee on Home Ministry should also be accepted.

The C.G.H.S. facility is not available in Chandigarh. It is the capital of two States. This is the policy of the Government that C.G.H.S. facility should be available in all the State Capitals. Not only this, but the bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal has also instructed the Union Government to make available this facility here. Questions after questions are being asked and the hon. Union Finance Minister and Health Minister have been speaking the same thing for the last five-seven years that it is being considered. I would like to submit that an early decision should be taken in this regard. There is no policy regarding the sales tax in Chandigarh. Punjab and Haryana have their own tax structures and on account of which the Union Territories have to face a lot of problems. I would like to submit that the hon. Finance Minister should call on the representatives and traders and take a decision in this regard.

Madam Chairperson, you also have leftist thinking. The hon. High Court of Punjab and Haryana has directed the Chandigarh administration to issue water and electricity connections to nearly one and half lakh jhuggi dwellers. But if the Union Government does not allocate funds, the directions of the hon. High Court would not be implemented. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to allocate more funds for this purpose. Repairing of roads and the problem of potable water should be pondered over.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): Is anyone noting down all these things or are we speaking in vain? ...*(Interruptions)* What is it that they do not know Hindi? Are we merely speaking for entertainment? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is noting the points.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Please listen, you have not listened? ...*(Interruptions)* If we do not get the reply we would not let the House run. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is noting the points.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): Even if Hindi is not known, English translation comes here. Madam Chairman, I was just putting on the headphones here ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): Madam Chairperson, I will conclude after putting forward two points. The hon. Prime Minister has made a good announcement recently during his visit to Punjab. He said that the construction work of rail link between Ludhiana and Chandigarh would be completed soon. This announcement has been made continuously for the last twenty years. Every Prime Minister while visiting Punjab, made this announcement. I want that it should soon be completed. But it would be completed only when the Union Government provide funds for it. This line starting from Chandigarh via Kharar, Mohali and Moranda is being constructed and it is only 25 kms long. I want that the Prime Minister should stick to his announcement. Arrangements should be made to solve the hanging problem and the houses which are being demolished there, that should be stopped.

Madam, I will conclude with this final point. Much has been said about the voluntary disclosure of income scheme. I would like to say something about this. The first thing is that this scheme should not be applicable to those who had been in power in India. Be it an M.P., M.L.A., I.A.S. or I.P.S. Chairpersons of corporations or Boards, who hold public offices, who could be charged with corruption or have been charged with corruption, such persons should not be allowed to take benefit from this scheme, otherwise, these people could try to launder blackmoney received through corruption or other illegal means. The Finance Minister should take a suitable action on this cannot. I want a reply from the hon. Minister to this point otherwise those people from whose houses a sizeable amount of money to the tune of Rs. three crore has been seized and from the houses of whom it is yet to be seized, they could launder their black money taking recourse to this scheme. The second thing is that this money should be spent on any good scheme. It may be used to solve water problem. It may be used for Cottage Industry, it may be used to solve housing problem. This money should be spent on productive activities so that the country could be benefited. This money should be diverted to the Juggi-J. clusters, to generate electricity, to develop Juggis and if this money is diverted to above area, it will be beneficial.

Madam, with these words I conclude my speech. I am thankful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak

and listened to me attentively. I also thank to the members who are sitting here to listen my speech.

21.52 hrs.

(SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*)

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (CHENGALPATU): Sir, on behalf of the DMK party, I rise to speak and support the Finance Bill moved by hon. Finance Minister, Thiru P. Chidambaram.

The Finance Bill is an instrument to implement the central Budget. It suggests how to mobilise funds for Budget Expenditure. Various measures have been proposed in the Budget for collection of revenues to meet the expenditure during 1997-98 for carrying out welfare and anti-poverty programmes throughout the country. The Budget brought forward by the hon. Finance Minister is a well balanced, growth oriented and a reformist Budget.

Sir, our friends on the opposite side accuse the Government that massive loans have been taken from International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and we have been paying them a heavy interest on the loan taken. But I would like to remind the House that the loans taken from those agencies are fully utilised for construction of bridges, dams, railways, highways, ports, power plants, metro-rail, etc. which benefit the common people in the country.

The Budget for 1997-98 has received commendation from all sections of the people. More autonomy for RBI, amnesty on black money, liberalisation and removal of controls on agriculture, dereservation of many small scale items, ushering in full convertibility, new evolution formula to benefit the States like the PF contributions and telcom incentives are some of the important and creditable proposals which will be considered and passed in this House through this Finance Bill.

The Finance Minister has claimed that he would stick to fiscal deficit target of less than five per cent, that is, 4.5 per cent of GDP. It is doubtful how the Finance Minister would be able to achieve this figure of 4.5 per cent of fiscal deficit against an increasing Defence expenditure, huge subsidies on food items, petroleum, fertilizer, etc., and failure to mobilize resources through disinvestment of public sector equity.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has been kind enough in adopting exemption-oriented approach and concessions-extended approach towards lowering the taxes and customs duties and raising the income-tax ceiling. He deserves exemplary appreciation.

Sir, I regret to state that no significant new measures to encourage the infrastructure sector have been mentioned in his speech. Funds for National Highway programmes of Rs. 500 crore are not at all sufficient for a vast country like ours. There is no mention about the National Highways Development Fund for financing the large road investment requirements in the country. Broadening of roads, con-

structing of new roads and connecting them to the National Highways should be given priority over railways construction because it is less expensive, less time-consuming and easy to implement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Next comes power sector. All help should be extended to the States for establishing mini-power plants.

Sir, I do not agree with the view that inflation rate should be brought down as low as possible. It is now 6.64 per cent. Bringing down the inflation to six per cent or 5.5 per cent may not contribute to economic growth. If wasteful expenditure and very little actual production take place, there is no use in talking about inflation. Bringing down or pegging the price of household goods and essential items would not help the economy, if the purchasing power of the common people is lacking.

The hon. Minister of Finance has, a week ago, brought down bank interest rates on deposits and loans. Some time back, Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio have also been brought down. These measures have been taken to encourage the corporates and productive units so that economy may pick up. For the past two or three years, you would have noticed that there has been a very low demand for textile, electronics, leather items, TVs, scooters, cars, dwelling units, travel etc. It is because of lack of purchasing power in the people.

You cannot have the cake and eat it too. You cannot have a low inflation rate and seven per cent growth in the economy if there is a little purchasing power and industrial recession.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV PASWAN (ARARIYA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting this budget, I want to put forward some of my views. India is a country of farmers and 70 to 80 per cent population of India resides in villages. But the Government has not been paying as much attention on farmers, as actually should have been paid. We remember that during the V.P. Singh Government in 1989, the price of fertiliseres was Rs. 105. 50 p. per bag. The D.A.P. fertilizers price was Rs. 188.50 p. and the price of Potash was Rs. 60 per bag but it is unfortunate that whichever party came in power at the centre, it expressed its sympathy towards farmers but they did not provide as much support to the farmers, as should have been provided to them. If today the farmers stop their production in reality, the country would be on the brink of starvation. Every Government must have a soft corner for farmers, labourers and poor people. They do not set the facilities they need. The hon. Minister is sitting here, I appeal to him that he should pay special attention towards the plight of farmers. The welfare of farmers would result in the welfare of the country. If unfortunately farmers stop their production, one can easily imagine the situation the country would be in. Mean while our popular Prime Minister is also in the House. We should certainly have sympathy for farmers.

[Shri Sukhdev Paswan]

Sir, wherever there are banks in rural areas, the poor people, the unemployed youths and small businessmen go there for getting bank-loans and bank officials beat them in such a manner as if they were obliging them. There is not even a single bank in rural areas which does not take bribe from them. The application which reaches to a bank through blocks under the I.R.D.P., it takes many months before loan is sanctioned against these applications. The bank employees sometimes ask them to bring a photograph and sometimes they ask them to come after 15 days. They are harassed in such a manner that they are compelled to say: Tell us what we have to do. They somehow spare their time from their busy schedule for coming to bank, but they are harassed in such a manner. This is very unfortunate. The Union Government provide subsidy to Banks for farmers, but they take this subsidy as a bribe. Our hon. Minister and hon. Prime Minister know very well about villages. The rural unemployed youth are exploited by the banks' officers. The then Prime Minister had assured to provide loan to one lakh educated unemployed youth so that they can become self employed. In fact, this amount is being disbursed but the quota and target fixed in this regard is very less. I request the Prime Minister that since the loan is being provided to only 10-15 unemployed youth in a block, their number should be increased because there are lakhs of unemployed youth in each block. At present a loan for Rs. One lakh is being given to them. I request you to raise this amount to Rs. two lakhs and the number of unemployed youth, to whom loan of Rs. One lakh is being provided should also be raised from 15-20 to 100 in each block. The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Class persons get a loan of Rs. 20 thousand under Indra Housing Scheme and Ambedkar Scheme. This amount is not even adequate for construction of a lavatory/toilet. Shri Deve Gowda's Government had raised the amount from fifteen thousand rupees to twenty thousand rupees. I congratulate the United Front Government for this but this is a meagre sum. They are also human beings like us. My request is to raise it from Rs. 20 thousand to Rs. 40 thousands.

Madam Chairperson, the development in rural areas is not upto the mark. Today, even after 50 years, drinking water is not available in the villages. There is no electricity and not too many primary schools are there in the village. It is most unfortunate situation. Teaching is the only means of education in the villages. There are no school building and teaching is being done under tress. I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to introduce such a scheme wherein all blocks should be covered under the scheme for providing education to all the children.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Please mention the points only.

SHRI SUKHDEV PASWAN: I will mention only two three points and then I will conclude my speech. A huge amount is being spent on construction maintenance of foundation and latrines, lavatories in the big cities like, Mumbai, Calcutta and Delhi. These expenses should be curtailed and allocation be made for development of the villages. Allocation should be made and programme should be formulated for construction of roads and schools and for providing potable water in the villages.

Madam Chairperson, there is a ceiling on 15-20 acres of land in the villages whereas there is no ceiling for land worth thousands of millions rupees in the cities. There is a ceiling on 16 acres of land in irrigated areas and on 20 acres of land in unirrigated areas in the villages. Similarly, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to introduce ceiling system in the cities also. A ceiling should have to be fixed that no one could keep more than the fixed area of land otherwise the Government will acquire that surplus land.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Atleast now, you please conclude your speech because 5 minutes had been allotted to other speakers and you have already taken 10 minutes. You have been given grace period.

SHRI SUKHDEV PASWAN: Madam Chairperson, there is a heavy backlog of vacancies of SC. STs. in the Banks. This backlog has not yet been filled up. Through you, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to fill up the entire backlog vacancies in the banks. The officers and employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not being promoted in the fixed time limit. Attention should also be paid towards this. I would like to request to promote these officers and employees within the fixed time limit.

With these words I support this Finance Bill and I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With this the general discussion on Finance Bill comes to an end.

[English]

The Hon. Minister will reply immediately after the Question Hour tomorrow. The House stands adjourned to meet again on Friday, the 9th May, 1997 at 11.00 a.m.

22.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, May 9, 1997/Vaisakha 19, 1919 (Saka)

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