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Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Sravana 2, 1918 (Saka)

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ES

**Second Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**



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LOK SABHA

Monday, July 24, 1996/Sravana 2, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Indira Awas Yojana

*201. SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) amounts earmarked for housing under Indira Awas Yojana for 1996-97;

(b) the estimated money required to tackle the housing problem in the country; and

(c) the time by which the housing problem is likely to be solved ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) During 1996-97, an amount of Rs. 1424.60 crores (inclusive of 20% State share) have been earmarked for housing under Indira Awas Yojana.

(b) An amount of Rs. 24303.00 crores is likely to be required to tackle the housing problem in the rural areas of the country.

(c) The housing problem in rural areas is likely to be solved by the year 2000 A.D.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Sir, my first supplementary to this question is that if Rs. 1,424 crore have been earmarked for this year and if the Government wants to achieve the total completion of the housing project by the year 2000 A.D. then, how are they going to earmark the rest of the amount, which is round about Rs. 24,000 crore, that would be needed for the whole country ?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was a Budget allocation to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crore last year. In comparison to last year, this year there has been an enhancement in the Budget allocation for this purpose to the tune of Rs. 1,100 crore. In keeping with our basic minimum programme, in the Chief Ministers' conference held on 4th and 5th of July, 1996, we decided that we would like to complete the total housing project in the country by the year 2000 A.D.

Furthermore, an amount of Rs. 24,303 crore would be required for completion of the total housing project by the year 2000 A.D. Accordingly, an amount of Rs.

6,000 crore would be required for this year. We have put a proposal before the Planning Commission and discussions are also going on in this regard. We propose to complete the total housing project for the shelterless people throughout the country by the year 2000 A.D. The hon. Member has correctly said that the amounts earmarked for the purpose is not sufficient for achieving the target. The proposal is before the Planning Commission and we would take a decision after that.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : So, under present circumstances, they have to change their target of achieving it by the year 2000 A.D. Within the year 2000 they cannot complete the construction of the houses in this country. The required funds are not available. Unless Rs. 5000 crore per year is earmarked, the project could not be completed. Their minimum programme must also change.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, based on this decision, the Ninth Plan is also being prepared. We are allocating funds based on this not only for the housing sector but seven other schemes have also been identified. Housing is one amongst those seven schemes. We are planning to allocate more funds for this in the Ninth Plan.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Mr. Minister, are you giving an assurance?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Murthy, you have already asked your two supplementary questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : My second supplementary is, in no State the Indira Awas Yojana is being implemented fairly. In every State, the Government in power is selecting the beneficiaries according to its own choice and not according to the actual eligibility of the beneficiaries. The MLAs are selecting these beneficiaries. The MLAs, who belong to a particular party, are selecting those beneficiaries. This is a Government of India programme, where 80 per cent of the fund goes from the Centre and there are many States who are not even contributing 20 per cent of the fund to this programme.

So, my suggestion is, MPs should be allowed to select the beneficiaries at the rate of 500 beneficiaries per Assembly segment. That is one suggestion. The second suggestion is, out of the proposed Rs. 1 crore that every MP gets, Members should be allowed to earmark some amount for the construction of houses for the weaker section, as at present that is not there in the proposal.

The fire victims and the flood victims that are supposed to be assisted by this Indira Awas Yojana are not being assisted even after two or three years of the incident. We must resolve that at least these victims should be assisted within a week of the incident so that the Indira Awas Yojana can find a place to substitute or to the help these people who are affected by fire and flood.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, no such complaint has been received so far. As far as the identification of beneficiaries is concerned, Gram Sabhas are conducted...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Nowhere Gram Sabhas are called.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Let me answer.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : There are some guidelines to identify the beneficiaries ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen first, then you can put questions...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are specific guidelines to select the beneficiaries under Indira Awas Yojana. All the fund is collected. The selectors will select the beneficiaries and put it in the Gram Sabha. There are so many guidelines like that. I will tell you the guidelines...*(Interruptions)* You first listen and then put questions. The order of priority for selection of the beneficiaries is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Among the target group the order of priority is as follows :

1. Freed bonded labourers.
2. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households who are victims of atrocities.
3. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households below poverty line headed by widows and unmarried women.
4. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households affected by flood, fire, earthquake and similar natural calamities.
5. Other Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households below poverty line, and
6. Non Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households below poverty line.

These are the guidelines and based on these guidelines...*(Interruptions)*

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Nobody is following these guidelines...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : So far, no complaint has been received...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Members of Parliament should be involved in this scheme.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In this manner, none of you will be heard.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a matter of chance that very important questions have secured place in the ballot, but other questions are equally important. More time is wasted in interruptions than in putting supplementaries, as a result, we are able to take up 3-4 questions only

(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : It is a very important question. Please allow a discussion over this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what the hon. Minister was mentioning might be the policy, but in reality, going by what the hon. Members from Andhra Pradesh and other States are saying ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Not from West Bengal.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I do not know about West Bengal, but Shri Dasmunsi is there, he will talk about it.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : It happens everywhere.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It does not happen everywhere.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We are not trying to talk about what had happened in the past. In the Budget speech...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to put his question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : All right, West Bengal is very good.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : No, West Bengal is very bad.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not lose tempers.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : All the beneficiaries are selected by Gram Panchayats in West Bengal ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : In the Budget speech it has been stated that more Centrally-sponsored schemes would be given to the States. I presume that this is one area which will be considered for that. The experience of the Members of Parliament, whether they are Congress Members or non-Congress Members, is

that they are just onlookers in such schemes. Funds go from Delhi and implementation is done by others. Nowadays people come to us in connection with the implementation of each and every scheme. So, without arguing with you, I shall request you and the whole House would request you that the Government should issue guidelines that there should be some involvement of Members of Parliament in these schemes. It should be mentioned within the guidelines. This is our request, and nothing else.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are aware that these funds are allocated to the DRDOs under the control of District Collectors. The MLAs and the MPs concerned are members in the Governing Bodies of the DRDO ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the entire house knows that DRDA is not covered under Indira Awas Yojana, and if this is the knowledge of the hon. Minister, then I think he should come here after doing his home work more diligently ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply that an amount of Rs. 24,303 crore is likely to be required to tackle the housing problem in the country. Despite that, an amount of only Rs. 1,424.60 crore has been earmarked for the year 1996-97. In these circumstances, I would like to know that how can the Govt. solve the housing problem by 2000 A.D. How can the Government tackle the housing problem within four years when you have earmarked only Rs. 1,436 crore ? I also want to know from the hon. Minister whether

[Translation]

Government propose to enhance the dwelling unit cost, in view of increase in prices, because as per my information, at present, each unit under this scheme costs about Rs. 12500/- and it is not possible to construct a dwelling unit with this amount ?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, regarding the last question raised by the hon. Member, I would like to say that all the Chief Ministers have requested to enhance the unit cost from Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 20,000 and from Rs. 15,800 to Rs. 22,000. Based on that, in the Chief Ministers' Conference we decided to adopt the recommendation in the Chief Ministers' Conference. Yesterday, we have also issued orders enhancing the unit cost from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 22,000 and from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 22,000. We have circulated this order to all the State Governments...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you. Let me get one clarification myself.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would seek a clarification from the hon. Minister the hon. Member of Parliament wants to know whether M.P. will have a role in it and if so, the details thereof.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him reply first.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to his reply ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentleman, please sit down. Let him reply. Do you not want to listen to his reply ?

(Interruptions)

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Before the hon. Minister replies, I want one clarification.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Minister, Please reply.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, this housing scheme is meant for construction of houses for the specific groups who are living below the poverty line. Based on that, we have given the guidelines. There are vigilance committees, there are monitoring committees, and there are DRDAs ...*(Interruptions)* Regarding the MPs quota and other things, it is a policy decision. He will examine the same and take a decision...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : How can it be a policy decision?...*(Interruptions)* It is in the Seventy-Fourth Amendment of the Constitution. Barring some States, there are provisions to the effect that MPs can take part in the Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Committee meetings. Sir, they have the specific right and responsibility as to what should be the role in implementing the programme. The only desire of the hon. Members of the House is that the hon. MPs should be involved in indicating and selecting the beneficiaries under the scheme. Why do you not announce this? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am with you.

[Translation]

Sir, the hon. Minister has said that in the conference of chief Ministers it was unanimously decided to enhance per unit cost to Rs. 22,000 for hill areas and Rs. 20,000

for other areas. So may I know whether this amount is being given to the States?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the basic thing is that whatever amount is specified there, will be given. Basing on that we can say what will be the unit-cost and how much should be enhanced and so on. For this purpose, we have put up the file to the Planning Commission. That decision was taken at the Chief Ministers' Conference. Basing on that, our Ministry will give orders to the concerned States*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow all of you.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to share some information with this House about Madhya Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to give information or seek information ?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I shall ask for the information there after.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I am asking the question. The hon. Minister has said that MPs are consulted and the decision is taken by the collector. But in Madhya Pradesh, Indira Awas Schemes are sanctioned by district panchayats without taking opinion from any quarter. Nor are these schemes discussed in the Governing Body of the D.R.D.A. Will the hon. Minister issue directions to the concerned States to provide for mandatory consultation with area M.P.s in the sanction of Indira Awas Schemes and IRDP Schemes ?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I will examine this.

[Translation]

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has enumerated three guidelines for selection of beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana. The target groups in order of priority are paid to be those (i) Whose houses have been gutted in the fire (ii) who are freed bonded labourers and (iii) whose houses have been washed away by floods. But the power to select the beneficiaries vests with the collectors. The collection in Andhra Pradesh are politicising this scheme. Ministers and MLAs are selecting the beneficiaries.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is your question ?

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : This system should change under Indira Awas Yojana. The Ministers and MLAs have no power to distribute the dwelling units. The guidelines are being flouted. I would like that MPs should be involved in the selection of beneficiaries.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I have already informed that in 1995-96, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had assured that there would be no violation of the programme.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : They are violating.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : If there is any violation in any particular area, you give a representation and I will examine it....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am coming to this side. Yes, Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Would you please permit me ? He has called my name.

Sir, my claim to this question arises from the fact that since 1978 when Food for Work Programme started, I was all along associated in West Bengal with that. Upto now the situation is that prior to 1978 there were no regular elections to Panchayats. Thanks to the former regime, now, after every five years there are panchayat elections and the devolution of power system has come into existence.

The fact is that the beneficiaries are selected at the lowest level of the Panchayati System, that is, the Gram Panchayat System. Then they are sent to the Panchayat Samitis and finally the Panchayat Samitis send them to DRDA. This is the procedure being followed and no better procedure can be imagined in the sense that MPs are not as intimate as the Gram Panchayats are.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Be brief please.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : My question therefore is, since this is quite a happy experience and perhaps the best kind of experience in India, will the Minister in the guidelines insist that this experience should be followed in the rest of the country ?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, basing on the Seventy-second and the Seventy-third amendment of the Constitution regarding Panchayati System, we have given lot of powers to Gram Panchayats on the basis of the basic units. We know what is going on in a particular village, who are the poor people who are below poverty line, etc. We are giving powers to Gram Panchayats to select the beneficiaries on the basis....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DUTTA MEGHE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you look to thier not to us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I look to both sides.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him ask the question.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You ask your question, Mr. Jag Mohan.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Sir, are we not elected by the people ? Is it only the MLAs who are to select the beneficiaries ? When we go to the villages, people ask us whether we raised their matter in the House or not.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have to give chance to each section of House, those who are sitting in the last rows, sitting in the front rows, sitting on the left side, right side and in the centre also. You take your seat first.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This way you cannot force me. Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Jag Mohan.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, I am asking a question on an entirely different aspect and that is regarding Building Construction and Material Technology Council. The main objective of that Council is to introduce new techniques of construction which makes the house more safe, more durable and the cost less expensive. I would like to know what work has been done by this Council to ensure that better and modern technology is applied so that more houses are constructed with the same cost. I am saying this because a lot of money is provided for the Building Construction and Material Technology Council for this. The fundamental issue is, if you are able to reduce the cost you will be able to construct more houses in the same outlay.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are thinking of establishing the National Building Construction Council. It is under examination. For constructing good quality houses by using local materials and other things, we are planning to establish this Council. That is under examination...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN : I want to know what work has been done in the last few years...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, it is under consideration...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, this is a highly laudable project. We are all very happy that more and more amount is being given to this project. For IAY, earlier the voluntary organisations were also involved. Now also they are involved. The voluntary organisations had to put in the applications to the CAPART. That was the procedure. As that procedure was taking a lot of time, the earlier Government constituted another Committee, the Baker Committee, and that Baker Committee was allowed to take the applications. Many of Members of Parliament from Kerala and other States had asked many organisations to give the applications to that Committee. Many had given their applications in lump. Thousands of applications were there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please be brief.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : So, some applications were before the CAPART and some applications were before

the Baker Committee. I would like to know what the Government is going to do to see that all the applications are taken at a place where the implementation could be done early.

I may also request the Government to give the highest priority to this project because this is the most important project which the Government has put forward. This is going to help a lot of people and millions and millions of people are to get a house by this project. Please consider my request.

My question is, whether the Government can put in efforts to immediately allow all the applications and also involve the Members of Parliament in this regard because this is a Central scheme, where all the Members of Parliament are involved. I would like to get a reply from the hon. Minister to both the questions...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, all the applications have been forwarded to CAPART. What the hon. Member has said is correct. I am looking into it for speedy implementation...*(Interruptions)* All the applications have been forwarded to CAPART for sanction and everything. Last year, CAPART sanctioned 30,000 houses...*(Interruptions)*

DR. Y. S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, more than 300 Members of Parliament have given a representation to the Prime Minister seeking involvement of the Members of Parliament in the selection of the beneficiaries. Right now, only the MLAs have been selecting the beneficiaries in the Districts. Especially in Andhra Pradesh, the Members of Parliament have got nothing to do with this. When we go to the people, people ask, 'when the MLAs are giving houses, what are you doing ?' As some members were saying, the Gram Sabhas have got nothing to do with this. Especially in Andhra Pradesh, we have been totally neglected and only the MLAs are selecting the beneficiaries for these projects including the IAY. And only as per the dictum of the MLAs, the beneficiaries are being selected.

Sir, I will tell you that in one particular Hanjan colony, 'A' is selected, 'B' is selected, 'C' & 'D' are eliminated, and 'E' & 'F' are selected. I will tell you that in some of Assembly Constituencies, wherein the Congress people had not been elected in the last ten or twelve years, not a single Congress man got a house. This is not correct...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, the hon. Minister is misleading the House. Let the Prime Minister reply to this question...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Before the hon. Prime Minister replies I would like to ask a question...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether there is any proposal to provide reservation for women in Indira Awas Yojna?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please sit down ? Are you not prepared to listen to the Prime Minister also? Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday I have received the representation from majority of the Members of Parliament with regard to the selection of the beneficiaries that they should be involved. This will be examined. Only one point that I would like to make it clear is that after the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution, regarding Panchayats the powers have been delegated to the Panchayats, the Gram Sabhas.

In Karnataka also, even the MLAs have not been involved. In fact, you might have read it in the newspapers that when I was the Chief Minister, there was a binig uproar in the House that the MLAs should be involved in everything and it was not the question of mere the selection of beneficiaries by Gram Sabhas. But the Act requires necessary amendments for that.

We will call all the Opposition Leaders and I will take a decision in this regard. If need be, we may have to bring in certain amendments to the existing Act. I will discuss with all the Opposition Leaders and on the advice of the Opposition Leaders, if necessary, suitable modifications will be made in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This Question has taken more than 35 minutes.

[Translation]

Self-Employment Scheme

+

*202. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

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

(a) whether the Government have introduced a scheme for setting up small industries under self-employment scheme by the young persons in rural areas and as per the scheme half of the amount of expenditure was to be provided as Government subsidy and the other half was to be provided as loan;

(b) If so, the detailed outline of the scheme;

(c) whether targets for each year were also fixed under the scheme;

(d) if so, the targets fixed for the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the achievement made thereof, separately;

(e) whether any flaws have come to notice regarding the implementation of the scheme; and

(f) if so, the details and reasons therefor and the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d). No, Sir, However, pursuant to the recommendation of an Expert Committee for revamping of IRDP, a new category of beneficiaries i.e. literate (read upto Class VIII) unemployed, but trained rural youth living below the poverty line, will be covered under the programme, wherein each will be provided with subsidy amounting to 50% of the project cost or Rs. 7500 whichever is lower. The scheme introduced is not for setting up of small industries but viable economic enterprises including those in the ISB sector. Target approach has been dispensed with under IRDP as a whole in keeping with the recommendations of the Expert Committee to ensure quality performance.

(e) and (f). No, Sir. Since the scheme has been launched with effect from this year only.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a very important question but the Government has not shown the amount of seriousness it deserved. The unemployed youth who have done entrepreneurship are not given priority in small scale industry can these people not be given priority in small scale industry ? Today, the entire nation is exercised over the prevailing unemployment situation. Parents are worried about their unemployed wards. Land holdings are fragmented. There is pressure on land. The people who depended in holdings are facing unemployment. The Government has, no doubt, created some attractions by giving fifty per cent subsidy, but the limit has been maintained at Rs. 7500/-. Is it not like making a mockery of the unemployed youth by giving a more subsidy of Rs. 7500/- in these days of galloping inflation ?

Secondly, the hon. Minister has admitted that no targets have been fixed. How can we think of a scheme without target ? May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will fix some targets and priority to ensure that unemployed youth get suitable employment and also provide for utility management ?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Hon. Deputy, Speaker Sir, a modification has been made in the IRDP programme recently due to the recommendation of the Experts Committee. We have implemented its recommendations. The first recommendation implemented is that the subsidy amount for trained educated rural youth belonging to the families below the poverty line has been enhanced. This is a special innovative programme which we are implementing from

this year onwards after the Experts Committee has given its recommendations. Under this scheme, a maximum subsidy of Rs. 7500 is given to the educated youths (up to matriculation).

The second one is also a special scheme which we are implementing from this year onwards based on the recommendations of the Experts Committee, i.e. financial ceiling for group activities. If five or more persons, who are below the poverty line, can come together as a group and come out with a scheme like purchasing of a tractor or whatever it may be, they can be helped. This is new scheme. We are implementing these two schemes for providing self-employment to the rural poor. These two schemes are more useful for the unemployed youth in the rural areas particularly educated unemployed and other group of people.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I wanted to know whether a sum of Rs. 7500/- is sufficient for doing entrepreneurship? Secondly, whether basic needs based infrastructure has been developed for the growth of trade? We have seen that neither shops nor any other facility is given in urban areas to the people provided with subsidy. So, may I know whether the Government are raising the basic infrastructure and why some targets have not been fixed? Whether he is prepared to fix the targets and if so, the details thereof?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, Rs. 7,500 is only the subsidy amount, but the investment can be much higher and but put together it is feasible.

As far as categories in the I.R.D.P. are concerned, we are giving subsidies to the tune of Rs. 4,000, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 6,000 respectively to the small and marginal farmers and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. This is a new innovative scheme based on the Experts Committee recommendations and we are giving specially Rs. 7,500.

As far as the existing schemes are concerned, we are giving only Rs. 4,000 Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 to the small and marginal farmers and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. Other than that, this is a special scheme. Under this scheme, we are giving Rs. 7,500 as a subsidy.

As far as the second scheme is concerned, we are giving one lakh twenty five thousand rupees as a subsidy to four or five persons, who are below the poverty line, who can come together as a group or 50 per cent of the total cost of the project.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has not said anything about infrastructure. He should enlighten us in this regard.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, based on the Experts Committee's recommendations, we have enhanced the infrastructure from 10 per cent to 20 per cent in plain areas; from 10 per cent to 25 per cent in North-Eastern States. This is also being implemented from this year onwards.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, the Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme has been virtually eliminated during the last five years. In 1993-94, 25.38 lakh families got the assistance. It was reduced to 21 lakh in 1994-95 and in 1995-96 it has been reduced to 20 lakh.

Similarly, under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, 10,258 lakh mandays were created but they were reduced in 1994-95 to 9,000 lakh mandays and then 8,000 lakh mandays in 1995-96.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this reduction, one year after the other, is going to result in total liquidation of these schemes. Are you going to increase it again and reach the old target?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, since the inception of the scheme upto 31st March, 1996, so far, four hundred and ninety lakh and eighty six thousand families were benefited under the I.R.D.P. However, what the hon. Member has said is correct. In 1993-94, 25.39 lakh families were benefited; in 1994-95, 22.14 families were benefited.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It is going down every year and virtually closed.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Yes. In some States, 50 per cent is borne by the Centre and 50 per cent by the States. In some audit reports, some utilisation certificates were not reaches to the Centre. That is why, we are not releasing these funds. Based on that, those amounts will come to the opening balance of the next year. We are giving targets more than the projects they achieve including this opening balance. That is the difference.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Sir, the scheme of self-employment for the rural unemployed is an extremely good scheme. If it is implemented properly, it can do a lot. But the difficulties arise at the ground level. When these young men go to the banks they are asking security for the loan. This is not provided for either in the Act or in your scheme. The banks are not cooperating, they are not giving loans to the people and are demanding security. Will the hon. Minister look into this matter and see that these poor people get the money without any security so that they can do the work in their rural areas?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, what the hon. Member has said is correct. So many banks are not cooperating. We received complaints also. We will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI BASANT SINGH KHALSA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the scheme which aims at providing employment to rural youth is commendable, but the benefit of it should go to all the youths of the country during the militancy period in Punjab, the Government used to preach repeatedly that rural youths would be provided self-employment. The youth sold the small land holdings they had and set up small industries. Just now, Bhatia Ji Spoke of draw backs of banking system. It is there. But, Punjab is facing acute power shortage. Power is available for 24 hours in urban areas but it is not available in rural areas. We have two thermal power plants in Punjab which face shortage of coal the hon. Prime Minister has solved this problem to some extent.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is a very important issue, but it has very little relevance to this question although, I do not say it is not related... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASANT SINGH KHALSA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the question is of setting up of small industries in rural areas to generate self-employment, but without electricity, nothing can be done. I would like to know whether Government would commit itself to providing electricity for 24 hours to these industries ?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, it is not related to my Ministry. It is linked with Power, Small-scale industries and Industries Departments. A separate question should be put.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has given answer by not replying.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, Livestock—poultry and dairy—is a very intensive employment generating project. I would like to know whether livestock is included in the self-employment project and if so how many projects are continuing and how many are in the waiting list. I would like the hon. Minister to answer it straightaway.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, these schemes like rural self-employment and other innovative projects like self employment for the youth and to group of people are introduced only from this year onwards. We are giving the projects from this year onwards. So, there is no pendency. These are new schemes and we are implementing them from this year onwards.

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, I have asked whether the live stock like poultry and dairy are included in it or not.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, it is about livestock. The Animal Husbandry Department has to reply.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Sir, just now a very important question has been raised by hon. Member Shri Bhatia,

But the crux of the whole problem is that in all the schemes of self-employment, entrepreneur scheme, D.R.D.A., I.R.D.A. or whatever be the scheme, the Committee recommends the cases to the nationalised banks and in those recommendatory Committees there are representatives of the lead banks also. But after that, when the cases go to the nationalised banks then the banks adopt their own discretion. They not only ask for security but do not advance the loan without bribe or corruption.

May I ask the hon. Minister, whether he is considering that when the lead bank representative is already there on the recommendatory Committee why should there be any discretion with the banks, particularly when the areas are fixed and targets are fixed? There should be no discretion and whatever cases are recommended by these Committees when their agencies are fixed, be it for self employment or entrepreneur scheme, these cases should be considered for advancing of loans.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, from time to time, we are giving directions to the Chief Managers of the banks to implement the district plans. Whatever plans they take up at the district level, they must achieve those targets. There is no compromise on it. From time to time, we are giving directions to them. (Interruptions)

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my question is something different.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a very important scheme whereunder our rural youth and the people living below poverty line are getting employment. But the items produced by these industries do not find easy marketing. May I know from the honourable Minister whether Government propose to provide some marketing facilities to these people ? Whether contract and evaluation method adopted by the Finance Ministry in respect of this scheme is working satisfactorily ? Is there any Lacuna ? Whether the contract evaluation scheme prepared by an NGO is still continuing and if not whether the Government will consider operating the scheme

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we will consider the suggestion given by the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is alright that you have sent the information to concerned banks but I would like to say that bank managers ask for bank deposits before the cheques issued to the beneficiaries are honoured. I had myself distributed loan cheques in my area. They

say the loan will be given only against the bank deposit. This complaint is about every bank in Gujarat ...*(Interruptions)* Whether the hon. Minister will send instructions to bank managers not to insist on deposits in clearing the loan cheques and also disburse full amount of loan. The operation of small touts be stopped.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I will call a meeting of the concerned officers and give the necessary directions to them. This type of complaints are coming from so many States that there is some problem with the banks.

[Translation]

Launching Satellites

*203. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Satellites launched by India so far;

(b) the details of cost and achievements by each of these Satellites;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch more Satellites in future; and

(d) if so, the details of progress made in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME PLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(a) Twenty-five satellites have been launched by India so far.

(b) Details of cost and achievements of these satellites are given in the Annexure.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The follow-on satellites in the INSAT series, INSAT-2D and INSAT-2E, Planned for launch by the end of 1996 and 1997, respectively, are in an advanced stage of development and fabrication.

The follow-on satellites in the IRS series, IRS-1D and IRS-P4, planned for launch during 1997-1998, are under fabrication.

Two experimental communication satellites, namely, GSAT-1 and GSAT-2 are planned for launch by first two developmental launches of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) during 1997/98 and 1998/99, respectively.

ANNEXURE

Details of cost and achievements of satellites launched by India

S.No.	Satellites	Cost (in Crores)	Launch Date	Achievements
1	2	3	4	5
1	Aryabhata	5.09	19.04.1975	Successful. First Indian satellite. Provided technological experience in building and operating a satellite system. Launched by Russian launch vehicle Intercosmos. Free launch.
2	Bhaskara-I	7.95	07.06.1979	Successful. First experimental remote sensing satellite. Carried TV and microwave cameras. Launched by Russian launch vehicle Intercosmos. Free launch.
3	Bhaskara-II		20.11.1981	Successful. Second experimental remote sensing satellite similar to Bhaskara I. Provided experience in building and operating a remote sensing satellite system on an end-to-end basis. Launched by Russian launch vehicle Intercosmos. Free launch.
4	Ariane Passenger Payaold Experiment (APPLE)	17.97	19.6.1981	Successful. First experimental communication satellite. Provided experience in building and operating a three axis

1	2	3	4	5
				stabilised communication satellite. Launched by the European Ariane launch vehicle. Free launch.
5.	Rohini Technology Payload (RTP)		10.08.1979	Unsuccessful. Intended for measuring in flight performance of first experimental flight of SLV-3, the first Indian launch vehicle. Could not be placed in orbit due to launch vehicle failure. Indigenous developmental launch.
6.	Rohini (RS.-1)	2.62 (Total cost of Rohini series)	18.07.1980	Successful. Used for measuring in-flight performance of second experimental launch of SLV-3. Indigenous developmental launch.
7.	Rohini (RS.-D1)		31.05.1981	Successful. Used for conducting some remote sensing technology studies using a landmark sensor payload. Launched by the first developmental launch of SLV-3. Indigenous developmental launch.
8.	Rohini (RS.-D2)		17.04.1983	Successful. Identical to RS-D1. Launched by the second developmental launch of SLV-3. Indigenous developmental launch.
9.	Stretched Rohini Satellites Series (SROSS-I)		24.03.1987	Unsuccessful. Carried payload for launch vehicle performance monitoring and for Gamma Ray astronomy. Could not be placed in orbit due to failure of first developmental flight of Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV). Indigenous developmental launch.
10.	Stretched Rohini Satellite Series (SROSS-2)	13.26 (Total cost of SROSS series)	13.07.1988	Unsuccessful. Carried a remote sensing payload of German space agency in addition to Gamma Ray astronomy payload. Could not be placed in orbit due to failure of the second developmental flight of ASLV. Indigenous developmental launch.
11.	Stretched Rohini Satellite Series (SROSS-C)		20.05.1992	Successful. Launched by third developmental flight of ASLV. Carried Gamma Ray astronomy and aeronomy payload. Indigenous developmental launch.
12.	Stretched Rohini Satellite Series (SROSS-C2)		04.05.1994	Successful. Launched by fourth developmental flight of ASLV. Identical to SROSS-C. Still in service. Indigenous developmental launch.
13.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-1A)		10.04.1982	First operational multi-purpose communication and meteorology satellite procured from USA. Worked only for six months. Launched by US Delta launch vehicle.
14.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-1B)	468.57 (Total cost of INSAT-1 series)	30.08.1983	Successful. Identical to INSAT-1A. Served for more than the design life of seven years. Launched by US Space Shuttle.
15.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-1C)		21.07.1988	Same as INSAT-1A. Served for only one and a half years. Launched by European Ariane launch vehicle.

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-1D)		12.06.1990	Successful. Identical to INSAT-1A. Launched by US Delta launch vehicle. Still in service. The cost of Rs. 468.57 crores includes launch services and insurance for INSAT -1 series of satellites.
17.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-2A)	527.94 (Total cost of INSAT-2A & INSAT-2B)	10.07.1992	Successful. First satellite in the second generation Indian-built INSAT-2 series. Has enhanced service capability compared to INSAT-1 series. Launched by European Ariane launch Vehicle. Still in service.
18.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-2B)		23.07.1993	Successful. Second Satellite in INSAT-2 series. Identical to INSAT-2A. Launched by European Ariane Launch vehicle. Still in service. The cost of Rs. 527.94 crores includes launch services and insurance.
19.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-2C)	1265.80 (Total cost of INSAT-2C, INSAT-2D & INSAT-2E)	07.12.1995	Successful. Has additional capabilities such as mobile satellite service, business communication and television outreach beyond Indian boundaries. Launch by European launch vehicle. Still in service. The cost of Rs. 1765.80 crores includes launch services and insurance. INSAT-2D and 2E are yet to be launched.
20.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1A)		17.03.1988	Successful. First operational remote sensing satellite. Launched by a Russian Launch Vehicle Vostok.
21.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1E)	105.29	29.08.1991	Successful. Same as IRS-1A. Launched by a Russian Launch Vehicle, Vostok. Still in service.
22.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1E)		20.09.1993	Unsuccessful. Carried remote sensing payloads. Could not be placed in orbit due to failure of first developmental launch of PSLV. The cost of Rs. 105.29 crores includes the foreign procured launch cost of IRS-1A and IRS-1B. IRS-1E was launched indigenously by PSLV.
23.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-P2)	17.90	15.10.1994	Successful. Carries remote sensing payload. Launched by second developmental flight of PSLV. Still in service.
24.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1C)	235.85	28.12.1995	Successful. Carries advanced remote sensing cameras. Launched by Russian Molniya launch vehicle. Still in service. Cost of Rs. 185.85 Crores shown includes that of IRS-1D satellite which is yet to be launched. The cost also includes the foreign procured launch cost of Rs. 50 crores of IRS-1C.

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-P3)	28.75	21.03.1996	Successful. Carries remote sensing payload and an X-ray astromoy payload. Launched by third developmental flight of PSLV. Still in service.

[Translation]

DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether all the satellites launched so far were made in India and if not how many of them were made in India and whether India possesses the technical know-how there of, and also the names of the satellites developed abroad ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Initially four out of twenty five satellites were developed in foreign countries. Now we have developed 21 satellites indigenously.

DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : May I know the number of satellites out of them, for which foreign assistance was received.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, we import some components for these satellites and some components are indigenously developed. If the hon. Member wants I can give details about four satellites developed many years ago....(Interruptions).

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : The question is whether foreign assistance was obtained in the development of satellites made in India ?

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : The hon. Member wants to know the amount of foreign assistance involved in the satellites developed by India.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : When sophisticated equipments like satellites and launch vehicles are developed it is necessary to import some components from abroad.

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : May I know whether foreign technique was made use of in the indigenously developed satellites and if so, in how many satellites it was made use of ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : In the four satellites developed earlier....(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This is a very vital question and it will be better if the hon. Prime Minister enlightens the House on the subject because I feel, the hon. Minister has not done his home work properly. This is a very important question....(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please speak one by one.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : He is not able to give proper answer. Had he given satisfactory answer I would not have felt concerned. I have some knowledge of science and this satellite science. I will therefore,

request him to give information to this House. The Minister is not replying to the question relevantly. The reply is totally different from the question asked.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : This is not so.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The question is : what percentage of components Government imports. This can be replied, but he does not want to reply it.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The four old satellites ... (Interruptions).

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : He wants information about 21 satellites Government has now launched and not about the old ones. The details about these old ones has already been published in the press. The simple question is the percentage of components imported the percentage developed indigenously and whether any foreign assistance was obtained for launching these satellites ? He should give a straight reply to thier questions.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I want to give the answer to his question. The four old satellites were made by Ford Aerospace....(Interruptions). You are asking question and I am answering. You must listen to me.

We spent Rs. 300 crore on them. If the hon. Member has the courtsey to see the answer it is given in Annexure 1. Information has been given therein in respect of the satellites we have launched so far.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : He has said that Rs. 300 crore were spent on the first four satellites....(Interruptions).

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Please see column-3.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He means to say that Rs. 300 crore were spent on the first four satellites. The break up of expenditure involved in them is Rs. 5.9 crore, Rs. 7.95 crore, Rs. 17 crore....(Interruptions).

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : In the first four ones ... (Interruptions).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am also talking about the first four satellites which were launched in 1975, 1979, 1981 and 1981.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The hon. Member should note that we are discussing 21 satellites ... (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He says that Rs. 300 crore were spent on the first four satellites but the question is about all the satellites....(Interruptions).

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would like to tell hon. Members...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : More than Rs. 1000 crore have been spent on all the satellites. How can he say Rs. 300 crore ? Each satellite has cost Rs. 300 crore. What reply he is giving ? The hon. Prime Minister is not responding, it is his portfolio.

[English]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The hon. Member wants information on 25 satellites...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Have you received the cryogenic engines and technology from Russia in order to launch a satellite into the geosynchronous orbit? ... (Interruptions). There is no time for you to give reply to my question. You should be relevant.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The hon. Member wants information on 25 satellites. Out of 25 satellites, we have got four satellites with major import. They were got fabricated abroad. They have been got from abroad. (Interruptions).

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Did you understand my question?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : They do not have this technology.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Have you got a cryogenic engine from Russia as promised in order to launch the satellite into the geo-synchronous orbit? I think you did not understand my question.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Can I answer that question?....(Interruptions).

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Do you know what the cryogenic engine is for ? Everybody talks and nobody cares about it.. (Interruptions).

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : If the hon. Member sits down, I will answer that question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

New Drugs to Treat Cancer

*204. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) Whether the Department of Science and Technology, the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad and the Ranbaxy Research Laboratories have signed an agreement to jointly undertake a project for development of new drugs to treat cancer; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Agreement was signed in May, 1996 to undertake jointly a project to develop a new drug for treating cancer. The agreement incorporates clauses such as modalities of collaboration, financial arrangements, duration of the project, monitoring of the project.

The estimated expenditure on the project is of the order of Rs. 89.70 lakhs.

Clearance to Power Projects

*205. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a large number of power projects including fast track projects are languishing far behind the schedule in the process of final clearance of the Government;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure speedy clearance and timely implementation; and

(d) the proposed projected and actual foreign investment in power sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). For 29 power projects including the fast track Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Station, detailed project reports have been received by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for obtaining the statutory techno-economic clearance. A list of such projects is enclosed in the given statement. For according techno-economic clearance, CEA has sought details of other clearances inputs from the project-developers. For public sector projects, the investment approval is usually accorded after the techno-economic clearance is granted, while for private projects, the final Power Purchase Agreements and Central Government Counter Guarantees wherever already assured, are given thereafter. Several steps have been initiated to streamline the procedures for grant of various clearances including techno-economic clearance by CEA.

(d) 50 expressions of interest from foreign investors, including NRIs, involving an investment of about Rs. 1,40,000 crores have been received and are under various stages of consideration

STATEMENT

Schemes for which DPR have been received and are under examination in Central Electricity Authority

State/Scheme	Capacity (MW)
1	2
Himachal Pradesh	
1. Karcham Wangtoo HEP	1000
2. Malana Hep	86
Jammu & Kashmir	
3. New Ganderbal HEP	45
4. Parkhachik Panikhar St. I & II HEP	60
5. Uri HEP St. II	240
Uttar Pradesh	
6. Vishnuprayag HEP	400
7. Srinagar HEP	330
8. Rosa TPP (Ph. I)	500
Haryana	
9. Yamunanagar TPS	700
Gujarat	
10. Jamnagar TPP PK. I	500
11. Surat Lignite TPP	250
12. Ghoga Lignite TPS	240
13. Pipavav GTPP	615
14. Coastal TPS	1000
Madhya Pradesh	
15. Korba (West) TPP Ex.	420
16. Korba (East) TPS	1050
Maharashtra	
17. Patalganga CAPP	410
18. Chikaldera HEP	400
19. Uran GTPP Expn.	400
Andhra Pradesh	
20. Vizag TPS	1040
21. Ramagundam Extn.	520
22. Simhadri TPS	1000
23. Hyderabad Metro CCGT St. I	650
Karnataka	
24. Yelahanka DGPP Extn.	46.8
Bihar	
25. Maithon R/B TPS	1000
26. Mejia TPS II	420

1	2
Orissa	
27. Sindol HEP	320
28. Duburi TPP	500
29. Talcher STPS-II	2000

Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline Project

*206. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMD PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position of Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline Projects;

(b) the reasons for the slow progress in the execution of the project;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline was commissioned in phases from December, 1995 to June, 1996 and the entire Pipeline from Kandla to Bhatinda is in operation.

(b) The reasons for the slow progress in execution of the Projects are, slow progress in detailed design and engineering, delay in procurement of materials, delay in mobilisation and slow progress of main-line and station construction, delay in mobilisation and execution of Perennial Canal Crossings (Horizontal Directional Drilling) and slow progress in Telecommunication, Telesupervisory (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System - SCADA), Instrumentation works etc.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 1872.13 crores is incurred on this project upto 30th June, 1996.

(d) The balance work is expected to be completed by Sept' 96.

[Translation]

Drinking Water in Delhi

*207. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether potable drinking water is not available in various villages of National Capital Territory of Delhi;

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

(c) the details of remedial steps taken in this regard alongwith the likely time by which the potable drinking water will be made available in these villages of Delhi;

(d) the details of Central assistance given to the Government of Delhi during the last three years; and

(e) the achievements made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :
(a) No, Sir.

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

(d) Central assistance of Rs. 19.70 lakh was released during 1993-94 under Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. No assistance was given to the Government of Delhi during 1994-95 and 1995-96 as no request for assistance was received.

(e) The expenditure reported in this regard was Rs. 10.82 lakhs.

[English]

Construction of Residential Flats

*208. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to construct residential flats in Metropolitan cities, in a large way, keeping in view the hardships of Central Government employees including the employees under the special pool waiting for Government accommodation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have felt the need to expedite the allotment of accommodation to such employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Construction of houses for Central Government employees eligible for allotment of accommodation from the General Pool is taken up under the Central Plan Scheme of construction of General Pool Residential Accommodation. Individual proposals for construction of General Pool Housing are initially considered by the Prioritisation Committee in the Department of Urban Development taking into account the level of satisfaction, availability of land, commitment of funds required for on-going projects and funds available for new projects. Based on these considerations, construction of General Pool accommodation is being undertaken in Metropolitan cities where the demand is high and the percentage of satisfaction is low.

(c) and (d). Apart from stepping up the construction activities subject to plan allocations, the following steps

have been taken to expedite the allotment of Government Accommodation :

(i) Streamlining the system by means of which allotments are made strictly according to the waiting list.

(ii) Initiation of timely action for vacation of houses from those who are no longer eligible for Government Accommodation.

(iii) Taking timely for cancellation/eviction against unauthorised occupants including those involved in subletting of Government Accommodation.

Crude Oil Production

*209. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has scaled down the crude oil production targets during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the production target fixed for 1995-96; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the production keeping in view the fact that the country is struggling to conserve foreign exchange to meet the import requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) to (c). The ONGC has projected crude oil production of 31.092 MMT during 1996-97 compared to the target of 33.316 MMT fixed last year. The reasons for lowered projections by ONGC are -

- Reduction in anticipated production from the major fields of BRBC, especially Bombay High and Neelam, due to unexpected reservoir behaviour, not in conformity with earlier predictions.
- Subdued activities in ERBC due to continued adverse operating conditions.

(d) Various steps taken to increase indigenous production of crude oil are -

- (i) Development of new fields and additional development of existing fields.
- (ii) Implementation of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Schemes and extension of some of EOR schemes from pilot scale to full scale field application.
- (iii) Implementation of certain specialised technology such as extended reach drilling, horizontal and drain hole drilling.

- (iv) Obtaining the services of international experts wherever considered necessary.
- (v) Encouraging the participation of private/joint venture companies in the oil exploration and development programmes.
- (vi) Maintenance of reservoir health through workover operations, pressure maintenance methods/stimulation/artificial lift operations.
- (vii) Enhancing exploration efforts through 'Accelerated Programme of Exploration' (APEX) launched in 1994.

Distribution and Transmission Losses

*210. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing Transmission and Distribution losses in the country;

(b) if so, various factors leading to the Transmission and Distribution losses;

(c) the average T&D losses in the country during last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the losses and to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir, Government is aware of the high level of T&D losses in the country. However, a reduction of about 2% in the T&D losses has been achieved during the first 3 years of the VIII Plan.

(b) T&D losses in the system occur due to a variety of technical & commercial reasons. The technical losses are caused by energy dissipation in the conductors and equipment used for transformation, transportation and distribution of power, inadequate Transmission & Distribution network. Commercial losses are caused by pilferage of energy, metering related errors, unmetered supply etc.

(c) T&D losses as a percentage of energy available for supply for the years 1991-92 to 1993-94 are given below :

1991-92	22.83%
1992-93	21.80%
1993-94	21.41%
1994-95	20.85% (Provisional)

(d) Power distribution falls within the purview of State Governments and SEBs. Electricity Departments are responsible to take necessary steps for reduction of losses. However, the Government has advised the utilities to improve their T&D system through a variety of short terms & long term measures, install capacitors

for reactive compensation, carry out energy audits to pinpoint system-elements responsible for high losses, control theft and take suitable other measures for reduction of T&D losses.

IRS-1C Satellite

*221. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IRS-1C Satellite has been put to optimum use and is functioning well;

(b) if so, the information/data received from three sensors;

(c) whether these data/information have been passed on to all the user agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) The IRS-1C satellite provides data from its 3 cameras as follow :

- Linear Imaging Self-Scanner (LISS-3) provides data in visible, and near-Infra Red spectral bands with spatial resolution of around 23.5 metres as well as in Short Wave IR (SWIR) band with a resolution of around 70 metres. The sensor provides data with a swath of 141 kms covering the entire country every 24 days.

The data from LISS-3 is used for generating information related to Crop acreage and production estimation, land and water resources management, forest monitoring, landuse planning, etc.

- Panchromatic (PAN) Camera provides data with a resolution of 5.8 metres and a swath of 70 kms. The PAN Camera also has stereo viewing capability with a revisit capability of every 5 days.

Data from PAN is used for getting information for urban planning, land and water resources planning, cartography, etc. to scales of around 1:12,500 and to generate digital elevation information required for micro-level planning.

- Wide-Field Sensor (WiFS) provides data in visible and near-IR region with a spatial resolution of 188 metres and a wide swath of around 810 kms. WiFS data covers the whole country every five days. The data from WiFS is used for generating information related to monitoring of crop status and

growth profile, drought, assessment, floods mapping, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. The IRS-1C data/information is supplied by the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad to various remote sensing data users in the Central and State departments as well as to State remote sensing centres, academic institutions, public and private sectors. Besides, under an agreement between ANTRIX Corporation of Department of Space and EOSAT Company of USA, Ground Stations in USA and Germany have been equipped to receive and disseminate IRS-1C data for users in Northern America and Europe respectively.

(d) The data/information are being used by various users for several remote sensing application projects in the country, under the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) of Department of Space in coordination with Central and State user departments. The highlights of the major application projects are the following :

Mapping the type and extent of wastelands at micro-level,

Mapping of landuse/cover,

Soil mapping,

Preparation of hydrogeomorphological maps for identifying ground water prospect zones,

Monitoring of agricultural drought at district level,

Mapping of type and extent of forest cover,

Pre-harvest crop acreage and production estimation for major crops,

Near real-time mapping of flood inundation and damage assessment for major floods, Geological mapping for mineral prognostics.

• Preparation of coastal zone maps.

Monitoring of command areas for improved irrigation management.

Urban Planning,

Environmental Impact assessment,

Integrated Mission for Sustainable Development to arrive at local specific developmental plans for land and water resources.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

*212. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed by the Government for releasing the LPG connections by the year 1996-97;

(b) whether the procedure started recently to release new LPG connections to the wait listed persons all over the country has been suspended for indefinite period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the present policy regarding release of LPG connections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) The target for releasing LPG connections during 1996-97 has not been finalised so far. However, the Government has approved adhoc enrolment of 6 lakh new LPG customers during the first quarter of 1996-97 and proposes to enrol a total of 20 lakh new LPG customers during 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Due to increased demand and expected lower product inventories in the coming peak season during 1996-97, it has been decided to put on hold any new LPG enrolment w.e.f. 1.7.1996 temporarily till such time new LPG import facilities at Kandla and Mangalore are commissioned and stabilised. However, new LPG enrolment would continue for the priority categories like Taj Trapezium area, Hilly markets, releases under Tatkal scheme and against MP/Government priorities, priorities of PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the distributors to be newly commissioned. After commissioning of new import facilities at Mangalore and Kandla in October, 1996, there will be enhanced enrolment of customers through increased imports of LPG.

(d) New LPG connections are released, in a phased manner, throughout the country, depending upon the availability of LPG, total new customer enrolment, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability.

[English]

Retirement Gratuity

*213. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have raised the ceiling on the maximum amount of retirement gratuity/death gratuity from Rs. 1 Lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakh under the Central Civil Services (Pension), 1992;

(b) if so, the date from which it has been given effect to and the basis thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to extend the same benefits to public sector undertakings/corporations.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of the recommendations made by the Fifth Central Pay Commission in its Interim Report, orders were issued for raising the ceiling on the maximum amount of retirement gratuity/death gratuity for the Central Government Employees from Rs.1 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakhs which are effective from 1st April, 1995.

(c) to (e). The payment of gratuity and other retirement benefits to the Central Government employees are governed by the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. The issues relating to payment of gratuity to the employees of Public Sector Undertakings will be considered by the Ministry of Industry, keeping in view the relevant rules applicable to them.

Export Oriented Food Processing Industries Units

*214. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be please to state:

(a) the number of applications received for setting up of hundred percent export oriented consumer food processing industries in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the number of such applications cleared, year-wise ;

(c) the number of applications still awaiting approval; and

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b). Two applications have been received for setting up of 100% export oriented Consumer Industries Units in food processing sector in Gujarat. Year-wise break-up is as follows :

Year	Applications		
	Recd.	Cleared	Rejected
1993 - 94	Nil	Nil	Nil
1994 - 95	Nil	Nil	Nil
1995 - 96	02	02	Nil

(c) and (d). In view of the above, does not arise.

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

*215. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM :

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of recommendations of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board made in its report in regard to the safety of the nuclear installation;

(b) whether the same have been accepted and implemented by the Atomic Energy Commission; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) made recommendations relating to safety upgradations required in the nuclear establishments in the country with particular reference to the following :

- improvements or modifications to emergency core cooling system;
- more evaluation and inspection of the integrity of zircaloy pressure tubes in Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors;
- improvements to further reduce the collective radiation dosage of workers;
- improvements to lower potential for leakage from radioactive waste management system;
- evaluation of structural response to earthquakes for some facilities; and
- improvements to fire prevention and flood protection systems etc.

(b) and (c). The recommendations of the AERB and the responses of the concerned nuclear installations have been considered by the Atomic Energy Commission. The Atomic Energy Commission has directed the AERB and the nuclear installations to formulate detailed action plans by Mutual consultations. The plans already so formulated have been taken up for implementation, significant among these are: TAPS-II Core Shroud Inspection (completed and found to be in accordance with safety requirements)• Enmasse Coolant Channel replacement and Upgradation of Emergency Core Cooling System in RAPS-II

Natural Gas

*216. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of natural gas at present being produced in Assam;

(b) the quantum of gas being flared up daily in the various oil fields in the State;

(c) whether the Government propose to utilise the flared up gas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). Currently, 5.31 MMSCMD of natural gas is being produced in Assam of which 0.69 MMSCMD is being flared.

(c) and (d). The flaring is proposed to be reduced to the technically minimum level by setting up the required facilities for compression and transportation.

Diversion of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana Funds

*217. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be please to state:

(a) the names of States where there have been underutilisation of funds under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and other poverty alleviation programmes being implemented by the Union Government;

(b) the extent of underutilisation of funds, State-wise and programme-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure full utilisation of funds under the above programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) and (b). Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are major poverty alleviation programme being implemented by the Centre in various States. The extent of utilisation of funds by the States during 1995-96 in respect of these programmes is given in the statement I to III enclosed.

(c) Centre has taken various measures a for fuller utilisation of funds by States such as close monitoring of progress through periodical reports, through meetings with Senior Officers of the State, visit to States by Senior Officers of the Central Government through Area Officers Scheme, fixing of quarterly targets for utilisation of funds, timely requisition of funds by States etc.

STATEMENT-I

Financial progress under JRY during 1995-96

S. No.	States/UTs	Resources Available (U.B.+ release)	Resources Utilised	Unutilised Balance as on 1.4.1996
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40676.28	34556.90	6885.41
2.	Arunachal Pr.	454.14	357.12	97.02
3.	Assam	12393.42	9583.33	2810.09
4.	Bihar	97852.00	62281.95	35570.38
5.	Goa	523.59	363.47	160.12
6.	Gujarat	17042.69	12824.42	4218.94
7.	Haryana	4353.90	3304.78	1049.12
8.	Himachal Pr.	1708.18	1001.19	706.99
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3949.37	2534.38	1414.99
10.	Karnataka	29830.54	24908.76	4921.78
11.	Kerala	9731.61	8888.24	843.37
12.	Madhya Pradesh	56643.69	42377.25	14206.44

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Maharashtra	53287.73	39801.56	13485.74
14.	Manipur	768.65	506.22	262.43
15.	Meghalaya	1003.48	200.28	803.20
16.	Mizoram	246.17	284.56	0.00
17.	Nagaland	969.76	264.07	705.69
18.	Orissa	38523.25	28671.48	9852.77
19.	Punjab	2848.91	403.38	2440.53
20.	Rajasthan	23915.78	18204.39	5711.39
21.	Sikkim	645.55	618.83	326.76
22.	Tamil Nadu	37798.98	39415.70	332.96
23.	Tripura	903.19	788.23	594.95
24.	Uttar Pradesh	102162.11	83562.16	19599.75
25.	West Bengal	40198.57	30442.80	9790.00
26.	A. & N. Islands	151.14	161.26	60.67
27.	D. & N. Haveli	95.85	33.18	60.77
28.	Daman & Diu	101.72	55.02	61.70
29.	Lakshadweep	102.67	40.86	61.81
30.	Pondicherry	309.07	199.85	109.22
Total		579189.86	446690.62	135263.26

U.B. = Utilised Balance
Includes IJRY

STATEMENT-II

Financial performance under employment assurance scheme (EAS) during 1995-96 (Provisional)

(Rs. in lakh) (As on 9.7.96)

S. No.	States/UTs	Total Available Funds	Expenditure	Unspent Balance
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19321.80	12249.54	7072.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2824.77	1956.55	868.22
3.	Assam	13324.10	9822.98	3501.12
4.	Bihar	27914.60	12901.12	15013.48
5.	Gujarat	11837.57	5751.65	6085.92
6.	Haryana	5504.62	3814.72	1689.90
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1113.76	455.55	658.21
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	10683.95	6715.49	3958.46
9.	Karnataka	16722.36	12144.91	4577.45
10.	Kerala	2664.92	2241.90	423.02
11.	Madhya Pradesh	33501.25	22951.66	10549.59
12.	Maharashtra	18611.64	10295.49	8316.15
13.	Manipur	1743.09	1337.11	405.98
14.	Meghalaya	1246.62	499.80	746.82
15.	Mizoram	152.66	2023.87	-451.21
16.	Nagaland	2949.98	1470.39	1479.59
17.	Orissa	16578.71	13133.80	3444.91
18.	Rajasthan	22684.19	14770.06	7914.13
19.	Sikkim	494.19	778.31	-284.12

1	2	3	4	5
20. Tamil Nadu	12029.93	7581.23	4448.70	
21. Tripura	1950.00	1321.03	628.97	
22. Uttar Pradesh	27139.35	16731.98	10407.37	
23. West Bengal	14399.53	9929.64	4469.89	
24. A. & N. Islands	45.48	10.28	35.20	
25. D. & N. Haveli	50.33	20.17	30.16	
26. Daman & Diu	21.54	13.05	8.49	
27. Lakshadweep	214.06	44.33	169.73	
All India	267145.00	170966.61	96178.39	

STATEMENT-III

Financial Progress under IRDP during 1995-96
(Provisional)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	States/UTs	Total funds available	Utilisation	Unspent balance as on 1/4/96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10694.66	8624.01	2070.65
2.	Arunachal Pr.	908.81	582.56	326.25
3.	Assam	4727.41	3409.02	1318.39
4.	Bihar	17813.99	10784.51	7029.48
5.	Goa	122.44	97.14	25.30
6.	Gujarat	3162.36	3077.68	84.68
7.	Haryana	2008.89	1663.74	345.15
8.	Himachal Pr.	217.47	443.17	-225.70
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1060.66	728.07	332.59
10.	Karnataka	8339.76	5574.60	2765.16
11.	Kerala	2964.35	2268.90	695.45
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15002.40	11305.57	3696.85
13.	Maharashtra	11768.81	9837.30	1931.51
14.	Manipur	433.30	312.64	120.66
15.	Meghalaya	485.27	301.54	183.73
16.	Mizoram	299.22	291.00	8.22
17.	Nagaland	369.16	13.60	355.56
18.	Orissa	9059.83	7266.29	1793.54
19.	Punjab	790.37	731.71	58.66
20.	Rajasthan	5888.78	4730.24	1158.54
21.	Sikkim	175.53	146.25	29.28
22.	Tamil Nadu	7483.08	6909.76	573.32
23.	Tripura	1004.03	766.73	237.30
24.	Uttar Pradesh	26930.44	19266.98	7663.46
25.	West Bengal	13403.56	6693.99	6709.57
26.	A. & N. Islands	14.46	36.29	-21.83
27.	D. & N. Haveli	8.51	15.17	-6.66

1	2	3	4	5
28. Daman & Diu		20.61	6.56	14.05
29. Lakshadweep		5.13	4.38	0.75
30. Pondicherry		63.23	49.20	14.03
Total		145226.52	105938.60	39283.92

* Worked out in the Ministry.

[Translation]

Strategy to Use Ash

*218. SHRI SOHANVEER : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to use the ash of Thermal Power Stations to make bricks, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) There is no specific scheme for manufacturing of bricks by using flyash generated from the thermal power stations. The Government is, however, encouraging the use of flyash for manufacturing of various types of building and construction materials including bricks, with the dual purpose of enhancing the utilisation of flyash as a viable raw material as well as saving the top clay from fertile land used for brick manufacturing. The production and use of building materials based on industrial and agricultural wastes, which includes flyash, has been emphasised in the National Housing Policy.

(b) The following concrete steps have been taken by the Government for increased utilisation of flyash in the construction sector :-

(i) Support to research and development of process technologies for making clay flyash bricks and sand-lime flyash bricks. National laboratories like Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee and Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI), Dhanbad have developed these technologies.

(ii) The Bureau of Indian Standards have formulated Indian Standards on both types of flyash bricks.

(iii) To encourage wide spread production of flyash bricks, Government has given excise duty exemption on bricks and other building

materials using 25% or more of flyash as raw material.

- (iv) To promote use of flyash in brick-making, Government has also given custom duty exemption on critical machinery required to be imported from abroad for manufacturing of flyash bricks.
- (v) All thermal power stations have been advised by the Department of Power, Ministry of Energy to give flyash free of cost to the manufacturer of flyash based bricks and other building materials.
- (vi) The Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) has prepared and widely disseminated technology profiles for establishing brick production units.
- (vii) The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has incorporated specifications of flyash bricks in their schedule for wider applications in their building projects.
- (viii) Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) and National Housing Bank (NHB) are extending term-loan facilities and equity participation to promote setting up of flyash based brick plants.

(c) The utilisation of flyash in construction works is an on-going activity and will continue in future. The question of time-bound implementation of any particular schemes does not arise.

(d) With the rising need of bricks and other construction materials for housing and building activity more and more manufacturing units in the private and public sectors are expected to make sizeable investment, which is difficult to estimate or anticipate.

[English]

Eco-Friendly Packaging

*219. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to promote eco-friendly packaging for food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when it is likely to be effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (c). Yes Sir. With a view to distinguish environment friendly products from others, Government have introduced a scheme of Eco Mark Labelling, which is administered by Bureau of Indian Standards under BIS Act 1986. Under Eco-Mark, the product shall have to be packed in such packages which are made from

recyclable or bio-degradable packaging materials. The scheme is in operation from the year 1993-94.

With a view to encourage use of eco-friendly packaging materials like glass, aluminium packaging materials, paper board etc., Government have reduced excise duty. Ministry has also sponsored a research project for use of aluminium containers for packing processed fruits & vegetable products, processed meat and fish products etc.

Under this Act eco-Friendly labelling of food products like edible oils, tea and coffee has been notified on 30th August, 1994. Packaging materials like paper & plastics and laminates of aluminium, jute, paper & plastics have also been notified on 6th September, 1995. Food products like infant food, weaning food and some processed fruits & vegetable products have been notified on 6th September, 1995.

[Translation]

Consumption of Power

*220. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita annual consumption of power in the country as compared with the developed countries;

(b) whether power is not being generated as per the requirement; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The per capita consumption of power in India during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 283.10, 298.96 and 318.84 KWH respectively. The per capita consumption of power in few developed countries during 1992 is indicated in the statement enclosed.

(b) During the year 1995-96, the energy requirement in the country was 389.7 BUs against which the availability at busbars of Generating Stations was 354 BUs, which represents an energy shortage of 9.2%.

(c) Various measures under taken to improve the power supply in the country include expediting the commissioning of new generation capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, implementation of better demand side management and energy conservation, besides transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.

STATEMENT

Annual Per Capita Consumption (In KWH) in a few Developed Countries

S.No.	Country	(Year 1992) Consumption in KWH
1.	Japan	7,192
2.	France	7,140
3.	Sweden	16,655
4.	U.K.	5,933
5.	Australia	9,043
6.	U.S.A.	12,160

Source : Energy Statistics Year Book—A .U.N. Publication

[English]

N.T.P.C.

1589. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any unit of NTPC in Gujarat which supplies power to Gujarat Electricity Board; and

(b) if so, the per unit cost thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The per unit cost of power supplied from the Stations of National Thermal Power Corporation in Gujarat to Gujarat Electricity Board is as under :-

S.No.	Name of the Plant	Per unit cost
1.	Kawas	147.21 paise/kwh
2.	Gandhar	219.54 paise/kwh (provisional)

Sewerage System

1590. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme for the improvement of sewerage system in Darjeeling Town has been sent by the West Bengal Government to the Centre for its clearance and allotment of financial support from the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). A project report for improving the Sanitation, drainage,

solid waste management etc. in respect of Darjeeling area (at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.68 crores) was received from the State Government by the Planning Commission in December, 1995 for Central Assistance under the Hill Area Development Programme. The scheme is being examined from the technical angle by this Ministry.

Shortage of Power in J&K

1591. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the financial losses suffered by power sector in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) whether the Government are aware that no bills are being issued in J&K for domestic consumption;

(c) if so, since when and the details thereof;

(d) the revenue recovered therefrom by the State during the period, district-wise and year-wise;

(e) the amount paid by the State for the purchase of electricity from outside the State during the period; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the supply of power in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Financial losses during the last 3 years are as follows :-

1993-94	(-) Rs. 293.24 Crores
1994-95	(-) Rs. 330.93 Crores
1995-96	(-) Rs. 402.97 Crores (anticipated)

(b) In Jammu region bills are furnished to the domestic consumers bi-monthly. In remote areas, the periodicity of billing is slightly higher.

(c) Due to the prevailing security situation in Kashmir Valley it has not been possible to furnish the bills for the last 5-6 years.

(d) The revenue recovered by the State during the last three years is as under :-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Jammu	Kashmir	Total
1993-94	31.43	13.61	45.04
1994-95	33.115	12.609	45.724
1995-96	36.47	11.497	47.967

(e) The amount paid by the State for purchase of electricity from outside the State during the period is as under :-

1993-94	126.860 Crores
1994-95	126.799 Crores
1995-96	209.991 Crores

(f) The steps taken by the Government to improve supply of power are as under :-

- (i) In Kashmir region : The 220 KV Kishanpur-Pampore Transmission Line and Receiving Station at Pampore have been commissioned.
- (ii) In Jammu region : 120 KVA 220/132 KV Receiving Station Hiranagar has already been commissioned but is under stabilisation. Similarly augmentation of 132/133 KV Bari Brahmna Grid Station is being contemplated.
- (iii) Revamping of distribution systems of both the regions has been undertaken in consultation with CEA.
- (iv) Renovation of old distribution system in hilly districts of Jammu & Kashmir by replacing wooden poles by steel tubal poles/PCC poles has been undertaken.
- (v) Rural Electrification works comprising construction of Receiving Stations and energisation of villages is a continuous process and is financed by REC of India.

Sewerage Project

1592. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a project of Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage II is pending with Union Government for final clearance :

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the level at which it is pending as on date; and

(d) the reasons for delay and the time by which this project is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (d). The Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage II is under examination of this Ministry for technical clearance. The State Government was asked in June, 1995 to furnish clarifications regarding the financing plan, inter-se priorities and also to obtain clearances of the Central Water Commission, conduct environmental impact study, prepare report for diversion of forest land,

etc. The State Government's response to the aforesaid issues is still awaited. Hence, no definite time for clearance of the project can be indicated.

Generation of Electricity

1593. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to harness the by-products of refineries to generate electricity;

(b) whether the Cochin Refinery Limited has submitted a scheme for generation of electricity with the by-products and gas of the Refinery; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Some of the Oil Companies are considering the feasibility of generating electricity from heavy petroleum stock being produced by them.

(b) and (c). The Cochin Refineries Limited has submitted a proposal for setting up a 500 MW power generation project at Ambalamugal based on the residual stream available at the refinery as fuel at an estimated cost of Rs. 1600 crores.

[Translation]

Administrative Tribunals

1594. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Administrative Tribunals working at present in the country;

(b) the number of posts lying vacant in each Administrative Tribunal the time from which they are lying vacant; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the time by which they are likely to be filled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) There is one Central Administrative Tribunal and eight State Administrative Tribunals in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamilnadu and West Bengal set up under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

(b) Statement I and II are enclosed in two parts, one for Central Administrative Tribunal and the other for State Administrative Tribunals.

(c) In so far as vacancies in the Central Administrative Tribunal are concerned, selections

against all the vacancies upto 20.7.1996 caused due to demitting of office by incumbents are being processed for appointment and these vacancies are expected to be filled shortly.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members in State Administrative Tribunals are appointed by the

President on the basis of proposals of respective State Governments. Proposals against some of the vacant posts as received from concerned State Governments are being processed and appointment orders will be issued when these are finally approved. Proposals against remaining vacant posts are awaited.

STATEMENT

Central Administrative Tribunal

Vice-Chairman		Judicial Member		Administrative Member	
Bench	Date of Vacancy	Bench	Date of Vacancy	Bench	Date of Vacancy
1. Patna Bench	31.07.1995	1. Jodhpur	04.12.1994	1. Jodhpur	01.09.1996
2. Bombay Bench	30.09.1995	2. Hyderabad	15.04.1995	2. Ernakulam	22.03.1996
3. Delhi Bench	10.02.1996	3. Ahmedabad	27.04.1995	3. Delhi	23.06.1996 (Due to Death of Incumbent)
4. Guwahati Bench	01.03.1996	4. Ernakulam	23.08.1995		
5. Cuttack Bench	23.03.1996	5. Delhi	01.09.1995		
6. Chandigarh Bench	10.04.1996	6. Bangalore	12.09.1995		
7. Ahmedabad Bench	28.06.1996	7. Patna	15.12.1995		
8. Madras Bench	20.07.1996				

STATEMENT-II

State Administrative Tribunals

Name of the Tribunal	Name of Post	Vacancies Reported by the State Governments	
1	2	3	
(1) Andhra Pradesh Administrative Tribunal	Chairman	16.7.1995	
	Vice-Chairman	3.7.1996	
	Administrative Member	25.4.1996	
	Judicial Member	15.10.1995	
(2) Himachal Pradesh Administrative Tribunal	No Post is Vacant		
(3) Karnataka Administrative Tribunal	Administrative Member	24.3.1996	
(4) Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal	Chairman	19.2.1995	
	Administrative Member	30.3.1992	
	Judicial Members	(i) 13.11.1995 (ii) 31.3.1996	
(5) Madhya Pradesh Administrative Tribunal	Chairman	10.2.1996	
	Administrative Members	(i) 10.6.1994 (ii) 8.7.1994 (iii) 23.11.1994	
		Judicial Members	(i) 25.7.1995 (ii) 8.9.1995 (iii) 23.3.1996
			(6) Orissa Administrative Tribunal
	(7) Tamilnadu Administrative Tribunal		Administrative Member (i) 5.6.1996

	1	2	3
(8) West Bengal Administrative Tribunal		Chairman	(i) 29.2.1996
		Vice-Chairman	(i) 16.1.1995
		Administrative Member	(i) 16.1.1995
		Judicial Member	(i) 25.11.1995

[English].

Property Conversion Policy

1595. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any changes have been introduced/ proposed to be introduced by the Government in Property Conversion Policy;

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

(c) whether objections have been raised against such changes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMETARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Keeping in view the observations of Delhi High Court and representations received, modifications in the property conversion policy have been done pursuance to which 50% remission in conversion fee in the case of original lessees in rehabilitation colonies, 33.13% in the case of ready built flats and 25% to the other lessees has been announced.

(c) and (d). The Apex Association of D.D.A. colonies had taken up the matter for free conversion on 50 sqm. flats and had also raised this matter earlier as well. On examination it was revealed that construction of flats cannot be equated with normal type of construction because of density consideration and the number of units as could be put up in a Group Housing Society Complex on a given size of plot. Therefore, while determining conversion fee in the case of ready built flats, the entire area of the complex divided by number of units is taken into consideration and flat rate of conversion fee prescribed. However, while allowing remission in conversion fee allottees/lessees of ready built flats have been put in an advantageous position by allowing remission of 33.13% as compared to 25% to allottees of other properties.

Water Contamination Cases

1596. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing water contamination cases in several States and more particularly in Karnataka;

(b) If so, the steps taken to prevent contamination of drinking water in these States; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMETARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) In several States including Karnataka the surface and ground water are affected by the discharge of untreated/partially treated waste water from the municipalities and industries.

(b) and (c). For preventing pollution by discharge of Municipal Waste Water, the National River Action Plan has been initiated whereby the waste water from the Municipalities is to be trapped and treated before discharge.

Polluting industries have been directed to install pollution Control Systems failing which legal action is taken by the State Pollution Control Board concerned.

Under the National River Action Plan (Phase-I) eight Municipalities located on or near the river banks in Karnataka have been identified and action has been initiated for sewage collection, interception and installation of sewage treatment plant. Govt. of India has given administrative sanction for Rs. 27.00 Crores for taking up the work. The expenditure is to be shared by the Govt. of India and Govt. of Karnataka.

[Translation]

Development of Bareilly

1597. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the schemes being implemented for the development of Bareilly city of Uttar Pradesh which has been included in the National Capital Region, and

(b) the details of the schemes which have been proposed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMETARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Bareilly town has been identified as one of the counter magnets outside the NCR as per Regional Plan-2001. The development programmes in counter magnet towns are taken up by the State Governments through their agencies and are supplemented by the schemes

financed, jointly by the N.C.R. Planning Board and the State Government. The following two schemes in Bareilly have been supported by the NCR Planning Board :-

(i) Rampur Road Residential Scheme

The scheme envisages proposals for acquisition of 50ha of land at a cost of Rs. 8.575 crores in the first phase with a provision for 2,200 plots and 22 Group Housing plots to accommodate 4000 dwelling units.

(ii) Rampur Road Transport Nagar

This scheme envisages acquisition of 28ha of land at a cost of Rs. 3.15 crores with a provision for 268 transport agencies, 30 commercial plots, parking for 275 trucks and 60 shops in addition to two dormitories. Moreover, 16 more plots for facilities such as way-bridge, Railway station etc., are also proposed to be provided.

[English]

Urban Problems

1598. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the action being taken by the Government to check the high rate of population growth and to reduce the number of people migrating from villages to cities;

(b) the State-wise amount spent by the Government during the last three years under the Nehru Rojgar Yojana and the number of unemployed who have been made self-dependent ;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to alleviate the rising urban unemployment ;

(d) if so, whether the Government have ascertained the number of urban unemployed ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ;

(f) the achievements made so far under the sanitation, rehabilitation schemes eradication of slums and development of Jhuggi-Jhopris ; and

(g) the scheme launched for solving the housing problem in the cities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (g). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Restoration of 1/3rd Commuted Portion of Pensions

1599. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since studied the Supreme Court judgement dated December, 15, 1995

regarding restoration of 1/3rd commuted portion of the pension in the case of those Central Government employees who had opted for lumpsum payment of admissible pro-rata pension at the time of their absorption in Public Sector Undertakings ;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter ;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be decided;

(d) whether these Government employees are being presently denied the benefit of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS); and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, The question of implementation of the Supreme Court Judgement dated 15.12.1995 in the writ petition No. 11855/85 for restoration of 1/3rd commuted portion of pension in the case of those Government Servants who had opted for lumpsum payment of admissible pro-rata pension at the time of their absorption in Public Sector Undertakings is under consideration of Government in consultation with the concerned authorities and a decision in the matter would be taken at an early date.

(c) Orders will be issued as soon as a final decision is taken in the matter.

(d) and (e). Do not arise in view of reply at (b) above.

Night Duty Clerk

1600. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of clerks are functioning in night in some offices of Government of India, particularly in Delhi;

(b) the particulars of such offices, mode of recruitment adopted by them, the nature of duty and scales of pay;

(c) whether all clerks deputed on night duty either under Union or State Government have been provided residential telephones by their respective offices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). The information regarding the number of clerks (LDCs / UDCS etc.) deployed on night duty in Central Secretariat and allied

offices is not centrally monitored. However, based on the functional requirements of Ministries / Departments/ offices, generally one or two clerks/ peons are engaged on night duty. No recruitment is specially made in respect of night duty staff and the concerned clerks etc. continue to draw their grade pay while deployed on night duty. They are, in addition, paid Night Duty Allowance which is based on Over-time Allowance payable for 50/ of extra hours of duty performed by them in addition to 8 1/2 hours of normal duty subject to the fulfilment of other conditions for grant of Over-time Allowance.

The duties performed by the Resident (Night Duty) Staff are of intermittent nature and they are generally required to attend to occasional telephone calls, receive telegraphic / telex wireless messages and receipt/ delivery of urgent/ important Dak etc.

(c) to (e) The information regarding the provision of residential telephones to such staff by the Ministries/ Departments/State Governments is also not centrally monitored. The Department of Personnel & Training has not staff. They are issued any orders to provide residential telephones to such deployed on night duty as per schedules issued by concerned Ministries/ Departments etc. in advance for prescribed periods and are not required to be called for duty at short notice.

Construction of Houses

1601. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of houses constructed by Delhi Development Authority during 1992-93, 1993-95, 1994-95, 1995-96, category-wise and area-wise;

(b) the reasons for the short fall in the construction of the houses during 1994-95 and 1995-96 over the years;

(c) the number of houses required to be constructed annually and the number of houses actually constructed; and

(d) the total shortfall of houses in Delhi and the manner in which the Government propose to meet the shortfall and by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). The number of houses constructed by DDA during the years, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 is as under :

Year	No. of Houses Cnstructed.
1992-93	7876
1993-94	8661
1994-95	6844
1995-96	2298

Area-wise and category-wise details of these houses are given in the enclosed statement

DDA has reported that some shortfalls occur due to the following reasons:

- i. Delay in external electrification;
- ii. Delay in provision of basic amenities;
- iii. Occaional shortfall of building materials;
- iv. Contractual problems;
- v. Land constraints and due to court stays, encroachments and litigation, etc.

(a) and (d). No. scientific estimate has been made in regard to the existing housing shortage in Delhi. However, in so far as DDA is concerned, 43,394 registrants are awaiting allotment under MIG/LIG categories. it is expected that these registrants will be allotted flats in a period of two years, subject to availability of land, infrastructure and other basic amenities. Besides, DDA has plan to allot 400 plots in Dwarka & Narela to the co-operative group housing societies for construction of 33,000 dwelling units.

STATEMENT

Houses Completed during the Year 1992-93

Zone	SFS	MIG	LIG	Janta:EWS	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
East Zone	-	288	332	504	1124
South West Zone	1257	232	-	120	1609
South East Zone	48	44	-	47	139
Rohini	536	-	1400	-	1936
North Zone	72	544	660	976	2252
West Zone	28	148	384	256	816
Total	1941	1256	2776	1903	7876

1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Houses Completed during 1993-94</i>					
West/Dwarka	128	597	119	63	907
North	376	416	624	-	1416
Rohini	928	1503	1788	-	4219
East	54	168	266	768	1256
South East	-	-	708	-	708
South West	155	-	-	-	155
Total	1641	2684	3505	831	8661
<i>Houses Completed during 1994-95</i>					
East Zone	912	552	-	-	1464
South West Zone	24	201	-	-	225
South East Zone	-	-	48	-	48
Kalkaji Extn. Pkt. A. II	-	-	-	-	-
North Zone	80	504	784	-	1368
West Zone	1224	884	613	374	3095
Rohini	-	144	500	-	644
Total	2240	2285	1945	374	6844
<i>Houses Completed during 1995-96</i>					
South West	8	-	-	-	8
East	165	852	224	-	1214
West	-	498	236	-	734
Rohini	-	315	-	-	315
Total	173	1665	460	-	2298

Conference of State Ministers

1602. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the issues discussed in the conference of State Ministers in charge of pensions held in November, 1995 and the decisions arrived at the conference; and

(b) the steps taken to implement the decision in general and particularly in the matter of speedy disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). A State level Conference of State Ministers of 17 States on Pension Administration was held on 9.11.95. The discussions in the meeting helped to focus emphasis on the need for coordinated and continuous interaction between the States and Centre for pension Policy formulation and establishment of effective machinery for redressal of pensioner's grievances. The desirability of having an

accurate data base relating to number of pensioners of greater use of computerisation for accounting of pension work was appreciated by all the states. A Committee has also been constituted in the Department of Pensions & Pensioners Welfare to look into the issue of transfer of pension work from Accountants General to State Governments.

Oil Wells

1603. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Oil Wells discovered during the past two years;

(b) Whether any of them have been given to private parties for exploitation.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the ONGC wants these wells back under its control for their exploitation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) During the past two year (1994-95 and 1995-96) oil was discovered in the following wells/structures :-

Well/Structure	Basin/area
B-15-2	West Coast (Offshore)
B-193-1	West Coast (Offshore)
WO-16-1	West Coast (Offshore)
WO-15-2	West Coast (Offshore)
B-15A-1	West Coast (Offshore)
GS-23-1	Eest Coast (Offshore)
Pundi-2	Cauvery (Onland)
Kizhvelur-1	Cauvery (Onland)
Khamboi-1	Cambay (Onland)
Bhekulajan	Assam
Rajali	Assam
Borhapjan	Assam
Rungaliting	Assam
Tamulikhat	Assam

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Gas to Jaisalmer

1604. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the rate fixed by the Union Government for the supply of gas to Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government have notified the revised gas rate for HBJ pipeline and other gas wells;

(c) whether the nitrogen percentage is about 40-40 per cent which is contributing to power generation has to be borne by the State government; and

(d) if so, the reasons and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) to (d). The price of natural gas excluding royalty, taxes and transportation charges is RS. 1850 per thousand cubic metres in Rajasthan as well as other parts of India except the North-Eastern States. The transportation charge along the HBJ pipeline is Rs 850 per thousand cubic metres. The gas supplied to RSEB, Ramgarh has a large percentage of inert gases. RSEB, Ramgarh is allowed a reduction in the price on this account.

Plight of Kashmiri Pandits

1605. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-American Kashmiri Forum had

written to Assistant Secretary of State, Assistant Secretary for Democracy Human Rights and Labour and Shatuck whose office issues the Human Right Reports, for inclusion of Kashmiri Pandits' plight to be in Right Reports;

(b) if so, whether the Government had invited the delegation of Kashmiri Pandits, consisting of representatives from Panun Kashmir and another Pandits organisations for political dialogue recently;

(c) if so, the matter discussed therein; and

(d) action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Union Home Minister had held discussions in Feb., '96 with the political parties from Jammu & Kashmir including Kashmir migrant groups for initiating the political process in the State. Holding of elections in the State as a part of this process was particularly discussed. Different political parties and migrant groups had diverge views on holding elections in the State. Taking various views into consideration, however, Parliamentary elections were held in the State peacefully and successfully. Kashmiri migrants also voted through the facility of postal ballots.

Electronic Hardware Industry

1606. DR. T. SUBPARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the electronics hardware industry is reworking its strategy to attract more foreign investment in the absence of resources or cutting edge technology;

(b) if so, whether the hardware industry has not done well because of the huge entry costs; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government to attract foreign investments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Electronics Hardware Industry has not submitted any such strategy paper to the Government of India, Department of Electronics.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The measures already taken by the Government to attract foreign investment are given in the enclosed statement.

Measures taken by the Government to attract foreign investment :

(i) Policy initiatives like exemption from locational limitations, abolition of licensing

except for four specific items, abolition of phased manufacturing programme and amendment to the MRTP Act to facilitate investments.

- (ii) Liberalisation of Export-Import Policy by allowing free access to imported capital goods, value based advanced licensing scheme etc.
- (iii) Rationalisation of fiscal policy especially in the areas of duty structure, corporate taxation etc.
- (iv) Introduction of the Software Technology Park Scheme which seeks to provide infrastructural facilities for small software houses keen to enter the export market. The scheme also gives the flexibility to set up private STPs which can be done by bigger companies taking advantage of the duty free facilities offered for import of CG etc.
- (v) Introduction of Electronics Hardware Technology Park Scheme (EHTP) designed to meet the specific requirements of a globally oriented electronics sector. This would provide a flexible policy environment that would greatly facilitate doing business and making referential access to the vast Indian domestic market as an incentive for export production in the country.
- (vi) Encouraging foreign collaboration for investment and technology. This includes automatic approval for foreign direct investment upto 51% foreign equity in high priority industries and automatic permission for foreign technology agreements in such industries with certain ceiling on payments.
- (vii) Encouragements to NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies predominantly owned by NRIs to invest in India. This includes automatic approval upto 100% equity in priority industries.
- (viii) Implementation of a quality infrastructure programme called the Standardization, Testing & Quality Certification (STQC) Programme to promote the quality of Indian electronic goods.
- (ix) Participation in and sponsoring of seminars, exhibitions, business delegation etc. abroad and in India.
- (x) Establishment of a Software Services Support and Education Centre to improve the quality of Indian Software.

Construction of Service Personnel Quarters

1607. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a request from the NDMC for allotment of 1.5 acres of land in DIZ area (Havlock Square) for construction of service personnel quarters, for the 'dhobis' (Washermen) has been pending in the Ministry for a long time;

(b) whether this long delay has caused a great deal of frustration amongst the 'dhobis' and also led to illegal encroachments and insanitation in the NDMC; and

(c) the time by which the allotment of land is likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) . Allotment of land to N.D.M.C. in DIZ Area has been made vide this Ministry's letter No. J-13019/1/94-LD (USLTI) Dated 12.7.1996.

Problems faced by Coastal People

1608. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of pathetic conditions of persons residing near the sea-areas in Mumbai, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and steps being taken to safeguard their lives and property ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). The State Government of Maharashtra has informed that they are aware of the pathetic conditions of persons residing near sea-areas in Mumbai and that while no study has been undertaken in this regard, certain preliminary works have been carried out by the Housing and Special Assistance Department of the State Government.

(c) As Urban Development is a State subject, necessary steps in this regard are to be undertaken by the-State Government. No proposal has been submitted by the Government of Maharashtra for urban development assistance from the Government of India.

Closure of Golan and Lokagan Vallies

1609. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Golan and Lokagan Vallies are not

open for grassing purposes of cattle of Gujjars and Bakerwalas of district Baramullah and Kupwara;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much grass raising areas (bakes), in the district of Baramullah and district Kupwara has been used for the Gujjar, Bakerwala and local people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. These places fall near LOC and the grazing facility, if allowed, can be misused by militants for egress and ingress.

(c) 18 'Bahaks' in Baramullah District and 10 'Bahaks' in Kupwara District are open to Bakarwals/ Gujjars and local people for grazing purposes.

Arsenic-Free Water

1610. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the proposal for supplying 'arsenic-free water' for various districts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposals of the State Government accepted by the Union Government; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Gujarat.

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

Atomic Energy Commission

1611. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board is answerable to the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board independent from the AEC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB),

constituted under the Atomic Energy Act (33 of 1962) to carry out regulatory and safety functions envisaged under Section 16, 17 and 23 of the Act, shall be responsible to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and shall send reports periodically to the Chairman, AEC on safety status including observance of safety regulations and standards and implementation of the recommendations. It will also submit an Annual Report of its activities to Chairman, AEC. Appeals against decisions of the AERB shall lie with the Atomic Energy Commission whose decision shall be final.

(c) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board already enjoys functional independence.

(d) The AERB has the authority to impose restrictions/enforce suspension of the operation of any facility for non-compliance of its directives.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Approval to U.P. Projects

1612. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent some schemes to the Planning Commission for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their locations; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c). A Medium Irrigation Project i.e. Patharal Medium Irrigation Project at revised estimated cost of Rs. 31.66 crores located at District Jhansi covering Gross Command Area and Culturable Command Area of 3772 hectares and 3509 hectares respectively has been received in the Planning Commission through Ministry of Water Resources as Irrigation Projects are not directly sent to the Planning Commission. The Project had been duly recommended by Technical Advisory Committee. The concurrence of State Finance Department and other related details to be complied by the State Government are awaited in the matter. As soon as the compliance from the State Government is received, the project will be considered for investment approval by the Planning Commission.

Another Project on Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation costing \$ 100 million to be posed for World Bank Assistance has also been received through Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment. The project is to combine the concept of health

education, safe drinking water supply and environmental sanitation facility (sullage drains and low cost sanitary latrines) and strengthening of various institutional set up to achieve the aim of living conditions of rural community. The location of the project area spread over 13 districts of U.P. which includes 8 hill districts, namely, Dehradun, Tehri, Chamoli, Pauri, Pithorgarh, Uttarkashi, Nainital and Almora and 5 Bundelkhand districts, namely, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Banda, Kamirpur and Jalaun covering total 1000 villages. The project has already been approved by the World Bank for \$ 59.6 million loan for this project on 26.6.1996.

An outlay of Rs. 2500 crores for roads and bridges under the category of external aided projects in the 9th Five Year Plan has been requested. The total length of selected package is 2680 kilometres, out of which 258 kilometres require widening, 1405 kilometres needs widening & strengthening and 1017 kilometres needs strengthening.

[English]

Central Assistance to Food Processing Industries

1613. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :
 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :
 SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA
 MEHTA :
 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

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

(a) whether the Government have drawn any plans to develop Food Processing Industry in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance sought by various States, separately, for setting up of Food Processing Industries during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the assistance provided to various States during the above period; and

(f) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (f). Ministry of Food Processing Industries are operating several developmental Plan Schemes for the overall development of food processing industries. Under the Plan Schemes financial assistance is extended to State Government Organisations, Joint Sector/Assisted Sector Units/Cooperatives/Voluntary Organisations etc. for upgrading or setting up or enlarging food processing facilities, developing backward linkages with farmers, marketing support, for setting up pork, poultry and other meat and meat processing facilities, tuna and other fish processing,

setting up of cold-chain, Research & Development in food processing and packaging and training of manpower in certain sectors etc.

The Plan Schemes being operated by this Ministry are not State specific and cover different segments such as Fruits & Vegetables Processing, Meat & Poultry Processing, Grain Processing, Fisheries etc. The financial assistance provided by this Ministry for the proposals received from different states of the country including assistance for Research & Development, Manpower development etc. during the last 3 years has been as under :

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1993-94	38.52
1994-95	29.74
1995-96	40.87

Integrated Rural Development Programme

1614. SHRI RAJU RANA :
 SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received the report from the Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank of India on implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme;

(b) if so, the main recommendations by the Committee;

(c) the details of recommendations accepted by the Government; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. An interim reports has been submitted by the Committee.

(b) and (c). The main recommendations made by the Committee in its interim report and those accepted by the Government are :-

(i) Greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institution in the implementation of the IRDP.

(ii) Selection of the families below poverty line for assistance under IRDP should be from those with skills, aptitude and experience in handling assets. Others could also be provided assistance under IRDP, subject to acquiring or upgrading their skills under TRYSEM or other related training programmes.

- (iii) Switchover from present front-end subsidy to back-end subsidy.
- (iv) Measures for better recovery of IRDP loan.
- (v) Realistic repayment schedules and increasing the security free limits.
- (vi) Need to meet working capital requirement.
- (vii) Stress on better planning and development of infrastructure.
- (viii) Increase in the level of per family assistance by providing larger credit and higher subsidy.
- (ix) Encouragement of group activities.
- (x) Modification of traditional target-oriented approach.

(d) Instructions to implement the recommendations have been issued by Government of India and Reserve Bank of India respectively to all the concerned.

[Translation]

Improvement and Reorganisation of Administrative set-up

1615. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the measures contemplated by the Government to improve and reorganise its administrative set-up;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a reforms commission/committee to look into the existing lacunae in administrative set-up and suggest remedial measures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIAN) : (a) The Government has taken several measures from time to time to improve and reorganise its administrative set-up to promote administrative efficiency. A number of specialised bodies have been set-up from time to time to suggest appropriate reforms in administration. Some of the important measures taken by the Government are the following :

- Steps for improving procedures and methods for recruitment, training, development, promotion and transfer of Government employees;
- Steps under the programme of Responsive Administration for simplification of procedures, delegation of authority, enforcement of

accountability and prompt and sympathetic redressal of public grievances;

- Strengthening of vigilance machinery and launching of a three-pronged strategy comprising preventive vigilance, surveillance and detection and different punitive action for talking corrupt practices in public administration.

(b) and (c). At present, there is no such proposal before the Government.

[English]

Clearance to Project

1616. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited of the news-item captioned "Inefficiency costs Centre a whopping Rs.17,000 Cr." appearing in 'The Financial Express', New Delhi dated May 3, 1996;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the positive measures being taken to avoid delays in the clearance of the Central mega projects resulting in massive time and cost overrun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes Sir. The amount of Rs.17000 crores mentioned in the news item refers to the sum of difference between the approved cost and the anticipated cost (as on 29.2.96) of mega and major projects in the Central sector. This cannot be entirely attributed to 'inefficiency'.

(b) The external factors outside the control of the project authorities such as exchange variations, Price escalation, change in duties and levies etc. also contribute significantly to the cost overrun beside the change of scope and delays.

(c) and (d). Govt. is very much concerned with the time any cost overrun of projects. Details of steps taken by Govt. to streamline for preparation of the original estimates and implementation of projects is enclosed in statement.

STATEMENT

Steps taken by the Government to Streamline for preparing the original estimates and implementation of projects

- (i) Two-Stage project approval to ensure adequate preparation, environmental and

other clearances and infrastructure planning at stage-I before a project is finally approved for implementation at stage-II.

- (ii) Intensive monitoring of projects at various levels. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and help the management in taking remedial measures.
- (iii) Indepth critical review of the progress by the project authorities and administrative Ministries.
- (iv) Setting up of Task Force/Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.
- (v) Close follow up by the Department of Programme Implementation, concerned administrative Ministries and project authorities with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.
- (vi) Inter-ministrial coordination and interation.
- (vii) Emphasis on preparation of realistic project implementation plan.
- (viii) Review by the Committee of Secretaries of the specific projects facing constraints.

[Translation]

Shortage of Houses

1617. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted or is proposed to be conducted with regard to the shortage of houses in the rural areas;

(b) whether it has been ascertained blockwise as to how many additional dwelling units are required in the backward and poor areas of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As per the estimates, there is a housing shortage of 14.5 million houses in rural areas. Out of this, 14.5 million houses, 10.31 million houses would need upgradation and 4.19 million houses would need to be built. A programme for the construction/upgradation of these houses will be phased in the

following manner:

Year	House to be	
	Built	Upgraded
	(In lakhs)	
1996-97	10.5	25.8
1997-98	10.5	25.8
1998-99	10.5	25.8
1999-2000	10.4	25.7
Total	41.9	103.1

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Backlog of SC/ST

1618. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of SC/ST persons provided employment in Central services during the last five years;

(b) whether any backlog of posts reserved for them remain unfilled;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the backlog is expected to be cleared; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIAN) : (a) The information is not centrally maintained.

(b) and (c). Under the 5th Special Recruitment Drive for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, As on 01.04.95, 17,228 backlog vacancies were identified for being filled up. Of the vacancies assessed under the Drive, according to reports received upto 30.06.96, 8,879 Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates have since been recruited.

(d) and (e). The Unfilled reserve vacancies were reported to be mainly due to non-availability of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates with requisite specialised skills or technical qualifications. Government have since launched the Sixth Special Recruitment Drive in 1996 for filling up backlog vacancies, as on 01.07.1996.

Report of Watch Asia

1619. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the report

of "Watch Asia" of Human Rights Agency on terrorists activities in J&K;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). The latest report of Human Rights Watch Asia entitled "India" India's Secret Army in Kashmir: New Patterns of Abuse Emerged in the Conflict" released on 19.05.96 is full of baseless allegations and observations. The report attempts to discredit all those who have discarded the path of violence and terrorism and returned to the democratic method of seeking redressal of grievance. The report helps the cause of terrorists and their mentors across the border. Apart from the general allegations, certain specific allegations of violations by security forces have also been described in the report. Detailed response refuting the various allegations made therein alongwith facts in respect of individual cases mentioned in the report has been sent to our missions aboard on 10.06.96 for countering the propaganda.

Oil Refineries

1620. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number and places of oil refineries functioning at present;

(b) the installed capacity of all the centres separately;

(c) whether Indian Oil Corporation have any plan to open more offices in the country particularly in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). The details are as under :-

Name of the Company	Location of the refinery	Capacity (MMTPA)
1	2	3
1. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC)	1. Guwahati	1.0
	2. Barauni	3.3
	3. Koyali	9.5
	4. Haldia	2.75
	5. Mathura	7.5
	6. Digboi	0.5
2. Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd. (HPCL)	1. Bombay	5.5
	2. Visakah	4.5

	1	2	3
3.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd. (BPCL)	Bombay	6.0
4.	Madras Refineries Ltd. (MRL)	Madras	6.5
5.	Cochin Refineries Ltd. (CRL)	Cochin	7.5
6.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL)	Bongaigaon	2.35
7.	Crude Distillation Unit of MRL	Narimanam	0.50
8.	Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited	Mangalore	3.0

(c) and (d). IOC have no plan to open any new office in the country, particularly, in Kerala.

Oil Pool Account

1621. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact Rs. 4,000 crores were withdrawn from the Oil Pool Account in 1993-94 to show a lower fiscal deficit in budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds withdrawn was paid back to the Oil Pool Account;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e). Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Disposal of Letters form M.P.s

1622. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the punishment prescribed for such officers who do not follow the instructions in regard to the disposal of the letters from Members of Parliament as contained in para 57 and 60 of office instruction of the Central Secretariat rules;

(b) whether the Government have issued any instructions in this regard;

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) All officers in the Ministries/ Departments of Government of India are expected to observe the guidelines laid down in para 57 and 60 of the Manual of Office Procedure. Any violation of the procedure is dealt with as per the disciplinary procedures.

(b) to (d). Yes. The Government have issued instructions calling for replies to be given promptly to letters received from Members of Parliament and have asked the Ministries/Departments to see that the instructions are observed scrupulously. They have also been asked to devise a monitoring system to ensure that the replies to the Members of Parliament are sent expeditiously as laid down in para 122 of Manual of Office Procedure.

Kerosene Distribution

1623. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the distribution system of kerosene to various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken and likely to be taken to check the blackmarketing of kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c). The Government periodically revises the distribution system of kerosene. Apart from allowing growth in the allocation of kerosene to various States, the Central Government has also requested the State Governments to rationalise the system of retail distribution to identify points of diversion and to take steps to plug the loopholes to prevent black-marketing of kerosene, so that it reaches the targeted groups in time and in desired quantities and at prescribed prices.

(d) In order to check black-marketing of kerosene, steps such as furfural doping of kerosene, blue dyeing of kerosene, sample testing by Mobile Laboratories and surprise inspections by field officers of Oil Companies and State authorities are undertaken.

LPG Agencies

1624. SHRI PITAMBAR PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies working in the

State of Bihar and the number of proposals for setting up of these agencies in the State pending for clearance;

(b) the names of the places in the State where new LPG agencies are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the time by which the pending agencies are to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c). As on 1.4.1996, 195 LPG distributorships were functioning in Bihar. In order to meet the growing demand, additional 95 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1994-96 for Bihar. Selection of distributors is made through Oil Selection Board. It generally takes 1-2 years for commissioning of distributorships from the date of advertisement.

Roads in Uttar Pradesh

1625. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA :
 SHRI RAM SAGAR :
 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA :
 SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

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

(a) whether Union Government propose to provide additional assistance for the construction and metallization of roads in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to connect all the villages by roads in the country during the Eighth Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether availability of transportation is first step towards development; and

(h) whether rural unemployment will also be effected by it and the migration of labourers will also be checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). This Ministry does not propose to provide additional assistance for the construction of roads in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) to (f). The Eight Plan (1992-97) envisages linking of all villages with population 1000 and above (on the basis of 1981 census) with all weather roads.

(g) and (h). Rural roads play a significant role in opening up rural areas, accelerating socio-economic development and achieving the objective of Integrated Rural Development.

[English]

Cogentrix Power Project

1626. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Cogentrix Power Project and the salient features thereof;

(b) whether there will be any adverse effect on the interest of the farmers and fishermen in the region therefrom; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof and the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The 1000 MW (4x250 MW) coal based Mangalore TPS located at Nandikur, Dakshin Kannara District in Karnataka is being put up by Mangalore Power Company (promoted by M/s Congentrix Energy Inc., USA and M/s China Light & Power Company, Hong Kong). The project was accorded techno-economic clearance subject to certain conditions by the Central Electricity Authority at an estimated completion cost of US\$ 751.574 Million + Rs. 1580.89 crore. The project is expected to be completed within a period of 42 months from the date of financial closure.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) As replied at (a) above.

Enron Project

1627. SHRI SURESH KODIKUNNIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded counter-guarantee to the Enron Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including their terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms & conditions of Government of India (GOI)'s counter guarantee to Government of Maharashtra's State guarantee for specified payment obligations of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board to Dabhol Power Company (DPC) under the Power Purchase Agreement for the Phase-I of the Dabhol Power Project, inter-alia, include :

- The GOI's obligation is that of a secondary obligor ;
- The Guarantee shall expire at the earliest to occur of several specified events;

- The guarantee shall not exceed Rs.1500 crores in relation to any one financial year subject to suitable adjustments on account of inflation, change in taxation and rupee devaluation.

- The Termination Payment shall at all times be limited to only outstanding foreign debt which is further limited to US\$ 300 Million.

- Settlement of disputes provides conciliation proceeding as the first mechanism. Any dispute which remain unresolved through conciliation shall be resolved by Arbitration.

- Arbitration shall be in accordance with the provisions of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

[Translation]

Cooking Gas

1628. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applicants from Bihar in the waiting list for cooking gas registered with the various companies of the Government of India; and

(b) the time by which these applicants are likely to get L.P.G. connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b). The number of waitlisted applicants with the distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies as on 1.4.1996 in Bihar is 3.72 lakhs.

Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible. The plans has been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of exiting production sources, putting up new plants and augmenting supply through higher imports. New import facilities for LPG are under construction at Kandla and Mangalore which are expected to be commissioned in October, 1996. With this, the availability of LPG shall be increased through enhanced imports. New bottling plants and more LPG distributorships are being opened by Government Oil Companies to cater to higher demand. The entire waiting list is expected to be cleared by 2001 A.D.

[English]

Oil Refineries

1629. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of oil refineries whose capacity have been enhanced during the last years; and

(b) the details of the capacity of Barauni Oil Refinery situated in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Details of enhancement in the refining capacity of the refineries during the last 3 years is given below :-

Refinery	Capacity Enhancement	Year
I.O.C. Guwahati	0.15 MMT	1993-94
C.R.L. Cochin	3.00 MMT	1994-95
B.R.P.L. Bongaigaon	1.00 MMT	1995-96

(b) The installed capacity of Barauni Refinery is 3.3 MMTPA.

[Translation]

LPG Agency

1630. DR. BALIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of such places in Uttar Pradesh where Government propose to set up Petrol/Diesel Pump and LPG agency;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up LPG Agency in Lalganj, Dhekaya and Mubarakpur Bazar in Ajamgarh;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d). Retail Outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships are opened at places Meeting Oil Industry's economic viability norms. Accordingly, 172 retail outlet dealerships and 156 LPG distributorships have been included in the RO Marketing Plan 1993-96 and LPG marketing Plan 1994-95 respectively for U.P.

There is no proposal at present to set up LPG distributorship at Lalganj, Dhekaya and Mubarakpur Bazar.

Super Thermal Power Station

1631. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARAMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up Super Thermal Power Station at Tandwa in district Chapra in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Potable Water

1632. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the scheme of the Union Government for making available potable water in the country particularly saline water affected areas of Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any short or long term programme by providing special grants to the State Governments and local bodies to make available pure and Table water; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the potable water will be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). Under the Sub-Mission meant for improving water quality on control of brackishness, schemes are taken up for providing potable drinking water in the saline water affected areas and other States/Union Territories.

75% of the approved cost of the projects is provided as Central assistance and the balance 25% is to be met by the State Governments for schemes taken up under the Sub-Mission in the rural areas. According to the survey of status of quality of drinking water supply in rural habitations, there were 56,739 habitations affected with salinity in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The concerned States have been advised to formulate specific action plans to supply potable water for implementation during Ninth Five year Plan Period.

[English]

Foreign Banks

1633. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ONGC has given the mandate to four foreign banks for arranging a loan of 1.82 million dollars;

(b) if so, the details of the foreign banks; and

(c) the purpose for which the loan is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). ONGC has given the mandate to consortium

of the following four banks for arranging a loan of Japanese Yen 20 billion:-

- (i) BA Asia Limited Honkong.
- (ii) IBJ Asia Limited Hongkong.
- (iii) Societe Generale Asia Limited, Honkong; and
- (iv) Union Bank of Switzerland, Honkong.

(c) The above loan is being arranged to refinance the following earlier loans -

- (i) Syndicated loan of Japanese Yen 10 billion drawn in August, 1989.
- (ii) Suppliers Credit of Japanese Yen 15912.126 million drawn in Nov., 1993 (present outstanding amount is 11934.09 million).

ONGC propose to replace their earlier loans through fresh unguaranteed loans to save on interest and guaranteed charges.

Power Supply to Gujarat

1634. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the cost of power generation per unit by Atomic Power Stations of Tarapur and Kakrapar and at what rate same is supplied to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : The unit Energy Cost of electricity from Tarapur Atomic Power Station is 63.31 paise/Kwh and from Kakrapar Atomic Power Station is 217.54 paise/Kwh as of June, 1996. The Gujarat State Electricity Board is also charged the same rates for supply of power from these power stations.

[Translation]

Fire Incident

1635. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of fire incidents in several petroleum/oil depots in the National Capital Territory of Delhi have taken place during the last three years;

(b) if so, the depot-wise details of the same for the last three years, till date;

(c) the total financial loss as a result thereof and the steps taken by the Government to stop the recurrence of such incidents causing the loss of life and property;

(d) whether any committee was set up to look into the same; and

(e) if so, the details of the conclusions submitted by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e). There were two fire incidents in the oil

installations in the National Capital Territory of Delhi during the last three years. There was a small fire at 10.00 hrs. on 23-12-1995 in the electric panel in the switch room of the IOC's Railway Siding at Shakurbasti. The fire was extinguished immediately by the IOC employees. There was no financial loss. The Chief Terminal Manager who investigated the incident concluded that the fire was caused by short circuit.

The second fire incident took place at around 07.27 hrs. on 30-5-96 at the tank wagon gantry at the IOC's LPG Bottling Plant at Tikrikalan. The fire was controlled within four minutes by the IOC employee on duty. There was no loss of life. One employees suffered 30% burn injuries and four others suffered minor injuries. The loss of property was worth Rs.8000/-.

[English]

Smuggling of Petroleum Products

1636. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of smuggling of petroleum Products from Mahe in Union Territory of Pondicherry have been reported to the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with preventive measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. No cases of smuggling of petroleum products from Made in the Union Territory of Pondicherry have been reported to the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Gas Connection

1637. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons on the waiting list for LPG gas connection in Bareilly (U.P) and the time by which the waiting list is proposed to be cleared; and

(b) the year for which the persons on the waiting list are being given connection at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). As on 1.4.1996, 39602 applicants from Bareilly (U.P.) were in the waiting list of distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies for LPG gas connection.

Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible. Plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants and augmenting supply through higher imports. New import facilities for LPG are under

construction at Kandla and Mangalore which are expected to be commissioned in October, 1996. With this, the availability of LPG shall be increased through enhanced imports. New bottling plants and more LPG distributorships are being opened by Government Oil Companies to cater to higher demand. The entire waiting list is expected to be cleared by 2001 A.D...

[English]

Implementation of Projects

1638. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pace of progress in the country has become very slow due to the delay in the implementation of different projects;

(b) if so, whether Government have felt the need to streamline the procedure in order to reduce the delay in clearing these projects; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Delay in the project implementation is one of the reasons which have been affecting the pace of progress in the economic development of the country.

(b) Government has taken certain steps to streamline the procedures to reduce the delay in implementation of projects.

(c) The details of the steps being taken to reduce delay in the implementation of projects is enclosed in the Statement.

STATEMENT

Steps taken by the Government to streamline for preparing the original estimates and implementation of Projects

- (i) Two-stage project approval to ensure adequate preparation, environmental and other clearances and infrastructure planning at stage-I before a project is finally approved for implementation at stage-II.
- (ii) Intensive monitoring of projects at various levels. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and help the management in taking remedial measures.
- (iii) In-depth critical review of the progress by the project authorities and Administrative Ministries.
- (iv) Setting up of Task Force/Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract

packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.

- (v) close follow up by the Department of Programme Implementation, concerned administrative Ministries and project authorities with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.
- (vi) Inter-ministerial coordination and interaction.
- (vii) emphasis on preparation of realistic project implementation plan.
- (viii) Review by the Committee of Secretaries of the specific project facing constraints.

Solar Power Programme

1639. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch commercialisation of solar power programme in the country at a large scale; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). A large scale Integrated Solar Combined Cycle (ISCC) Power Project is proposed to be set up in Rajasthan which will include a 35 MW Solar Thermal Power Plant. Global Environmental Facility (GEF) has accorded 'in principle' approval to provide grant assistance of US\$ 45 million towards the incremental cost of the solar power component. In response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the Government of Rajasthan, Letters of Intent (LOI) have been issued by the State Government to three companies for setting up of solar power projects of aggregate capacity 300 MW based on Build-Own-Operate-maintain (B-O-O-M) basis. Government of Uttar Pradesh has also invited offers for setting up of 5-50 MW Solar power project by private developers on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (B-O-O-M) basis. Two partially grid connected Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Power Plants of 100 KW capacity each have already been set up in Uttar Pradesh with financial support by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

Monsoon Trends

1640. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item "Monsoon Plays Hide and Seek" appearing in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi, July 3, 1996; and

(b) if so, the Monsoon Trends predicted by the Meteorologists, as per latest information available with his Ministry?

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

(b) The India Meteorological Department has predicted a normal monsoon in the country in 1996, normal being defined as within $\pm 10\%$ of the long period average value for the country as a whole for the period from June to September.

The present rainfall trend is towards a normal monsoon as per the long range forecast of the India Meteorological Department.

Privatisation of Oil Fields

1641. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have repivatised some oil and gas fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to privatises the exploitation of some gas and oil fields;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals of the Government in that regard; and

(e) the policy of the Government on the privatisation of oil/gas fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b). Government of India so far approved the award of contract for exploration/development of the following blocks/fields under production sharing arrangement with private participation.

Exploration blocks

1. GN-ON-90/3	Pranhita Godavari onshore basin.
2. KG-OS-90/1	Krishna Godavari offshore basin.
3. GK-ON-90/2	Gujarat Kutch onshore basin.
4. RJ-ON-90/1	Rajasthan onshore basin.
5. CY-OS-90/1	Cauvery offshore basin
6. RJ-ON-90/4	Rajasthan onshore basin.
7. RJ-ON-90/5	Rajasthan onshore basin.
8. BB-OS/5	Bombay offshore basin.
9. CY-OS/2	Cauvery offshore basin.
10. KG-OS/6	Krishna Godavari offshore basin.
11. GK-OS/5	Gujarat Kutch offshore basin.
12. CB-OS/1	Cambay offshore.

13. CB-ON/7	Cambay onshore.
14. CB-ON/2	Cambay onshore.
15. RJ-ON/6	Rajasthan onshore.
16. CB-OS/2	Cambay offshore.

Discovered oil & gas fields

Hazira	Gujarat
Cambay	-do-
Bhandut	-do-
Matar	-do-
Sabarmati	-do-
Indrora	-do-
Bakrol	-do-
Lohar	-do-
Dholka	-do-
Wavel	-do-
Baola	-do-
Asjol	-do-
PY-1	Cauvery offshore
Mid & South Tapti	Bombay
Panna	-do-
Mukta	-do-
Ravva	Krishna-Godavari.
Kharsang	Arunachal Pradesh.
Ratna and R-series	Bombay offshore.

(c) and (d). Bids have also been received for 36 exploration blocks under the 7th, 8th and joint venture bidding rounds as well as for 16 small sized and 6 medium size discovered fields.

(e) The reasons for offering these blocks/fields for private participation include :

- i. To supplement the Oil exploration activities of ONGC/OIL.
- ii. Marginal economics of some of the fields.
- iii. Low reserves of the small fields offered.
- iv. To augment total investment in exploration and development.
- v. To help augment the oil/gas production by way of quickly putting these fields on production.
- vi. For the application of enhanced oil recovery processes.
- vii. To induct the latest managerial and technological practices.

CAPART

1642. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds from CAPART are being

sanctioned to organisations directly associated with officers of the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details of procedure adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). CAPART provides financial assistance to voluntary agencies having at least three years experience after registration as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 or under the corresponding State Act, or as a Trust registered under Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920, for undertaking rural development projects. While considering project proposals for financial assistance, inter-alia, the technical feasibility and economic viability of the project proposal and the administrative capability of the voluntary organisations are also taken into account. Also, CAPART have a system of pre-funding appraisal, close monitoring of projects through Monitors, periodical returns, etc., to ensure that the funds granted are properly utilised.

CAPART has reported that it does not have any information as to the voluntary agencies assisted by it with which officers of the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment may be directly associated.

Food Processing Industries in North-Eastern Region

1643. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of food processing industries with their locations, set up in Assam in particular and the entire North-Eastern region in general;

(b) the major constraints coming in the way in setting up such industries in the region;

(c) the steps taken to overcome these impediments;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up some such industries in the region during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (e). Since food processing industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, details of the all food processing industries set up all over the country including those in Assam and North Eastern region are not maintained centrally.

Food processing industries include different segments such as fruits & vegetables processing, grain processing, meat & poultry processing, etc. The constraints faced by these industries in the North-Eastern

Region inter-alia include infrastructural bottlenecks, lack of entrepreneurship in the region, high transport cost, inadequate market for value-added processed food products, inadequacy of processing variety of raw materials at reasonable prices over a longer period of time.

This Ministry does not set up any industry directly. With a view to encourage setting up/upgrading/enlarging food processing industries including that in North-Eastern region, Government have taken various steps which inter-alia include declaration of food processing industries as a high priority industry, delicensing almost all food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those reserved for small scale industries, providing fiscal reliefs, promoting domestic, foreign and NRI investments, etc. This Ministry is also operating a number of schemes which include providing assistance to State Government organisations, cooperative bodies, voluntary organisations, etc. for setting up or enlarging food processing facilities, development of backward linkage with farmers, marketing support, setting up of pork, poultry, meat & poultry processing facilities, setting up of cold chain, research and development in food processing, packaging and training of manpower in certain sectors.

Keeping the special difficulties in the North-Eastern region, assistance level for setting up/grading food processing industries in that region has been kept higher in our Plan schemes. Assurances have already been extended for setting up meat & poultry units in the public sector & cooperative sector units in North-Eastern region and also setting up of fruits & vegetable processing units in cooperative sector and Food Processing Training Centres in the Public and voluntary sectors.

Hyderabad Fuel Complex

1644. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nuclear Fuel Complex in Hyderabad is going ahead with its expansion planning;

(b) whether a Committee appointed by the Government in 1995 has strongly opposed it;

(c) if so, the details of objections raised by the Committee; and

(d) the reasons for ignoring the views of this Committee?

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

(b) No, Sir.

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

Supply of Natural Gas to Rajasthan

1645. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the supply of natural gas to Rajasthan is not being made available;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assured to supply @ 289 KL/Day of High Speed Diesel till the time natural gas is made available to Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). Natural Gas is currently being supplied to Chambal fertilisers, Gadepan, NTPC, Anta, Samcor Glass and RSEB, Ramgarh in Rajasthan.

(c) to (e). Pending adequate supplies of natural gas to RSEB, Ramgarh, 500 KL of HSD for start-up and 8000 KL of HSD per month from February to June, 1996 was allocated to the project.

Mini ITIs

1646. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up mini Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) at block levels, where ITIs are not in operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has proposed to set up Mini-Industrial Training Institutes at block levels. States can initiate steps for setting up of Mini ITIs in a phased manner in blocks where no NGO/Govt. run ITIs are available or planned to be established by any agency of the State or Central Government or NGOs. Each Mini ITI would cater to 3-4 selected trades/enterprises relevant to the locality. Mini ITIs are to be managed and run by the DRDAs under the overall guidance of the Directorate of Technical Education of the State for maintaining certain standards of Training.

TRYSEM Trainees will be admitted in Mini ITIs. However, with the approval of DRDAs, others also can be admitted, if sufficient TRYSEM trainees are not available.

The non-recurring expenses for setting up of Mini ITIs will be met from the provisions under TRYSEM

infrastructure to be shared by Government of India and State on 50:50 basis. State Governments will meet the recurring expenses.

Government of India sanctioned setting up of 242 Mini ITIs in 8 States and released Rs.1961.06 lakhs towards Central share for meeting non-recurring expenditure during 1995-96.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Drinking Water

1647. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided financial assistance for solving the drinking water problem in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States in which drinking water problem would be solved with the financial assistance of World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The World Bank has provided financial assistance for improving/augmenting drinking water supply in some parts of the country.

(b) A list of projects funded by the World Bank is given in the statement enclosed in the given statement.

(c) The names of the States in which drinking water problem would be improved with the financial assistance of the World Bank are as under :-

Urban Water Supply

- (i) Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad & Secunderabad)
- (ii) Tamil Nadu (Madras)

Rural Water Supply

- (i) Maharashtra (In the districts of Satara, Pune, Ahmednagar, Sangli, Thane, Aurangabad, Beed, Latur, Buldhana and Chandrapur).
- (ii) Karnataka (Bangalore, Mandya, Mysore, Shimoga, Dhakshina, Bellary, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar, Belgaum, Tumkur and Hassan).
- (iii) Uttar Pradesh (Tehri, Deoria, Jhansi, Bijonor, Dehradun, Pithorgarh, Nanital, Chamoli, Uttar- Kashi, Pauri, Tehri, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Almora, Hamirpur, Banda, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra and Allahabad).
- (iv) Punjab (Bhatinda, Mansa, Faridkot, Ropar, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur).

(v) Tamil Nadu (Chengai, North Arcot-Ambedkar, South Arcot-Vallar, Villupuram, Trichy, Thanjavur, Quaid-e-Milleth, Madurai,

Dindigul, Pasumpori, Thirunelveli, Chidambran, Kanyakumari, Salem, Coimbatore and Periyar).

STATEMENT

List of Water Supply and Sewerage/Sanitation Project completed with financial assistance of the World Bank.

S.No.	Project (Area)	Cost (Rs.in crores)	World Bank Assistance (US\$ Million)	Year of Completion
1.	Bombay Water Supply & Sewerage Phase-I (Bombay)	185.00	5.0	1979
2.	Maharashtra Water Supply & Sewerage (6 towns and 22 villages)	86.00	48.0	1988
3.	Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage (Janandhar, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Moga, Patiala, Bhatinda, Rajpura & Pathankot)	67.00	38.0	1988
4.	U.P. Water Supply & Sanitation (Kanpur, Agra, Varanasi, Allahabad & Lucknow)	60.00	40.0	
5.	II Bombay Water Supply & Sewerage (Bombay)	640.00	196.0	1988
6.	Rajasthan Water Supply & Sewerage (Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota & Bikaner)	137.76	80.0	1988
7.	Gujarat Water Supply & Sewerage (Anand, Godra, Nadiad, Bhavnagar & Jamnagar)	207.33	72.0	1991
8.	Tamil Nadu Water Supply & Sewerage (Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem, Kancheepuram, Sankarankoil, Pollachi, Pudukkottai, Manapparai, Thiruvannamalai, 44 small towns & 476 rural habitations)	321.86	73.0	1994
9.	Kerala Water Supply & Sanitation (Quilon & 7 Rural developing areas)	127.88	30.11	1994
10.	Madras Water Supply & Sanitation (Madras)	205.00	69.0	1996
11.	III Bombay Water Supply & Sewerage (Bombay)	800.00	145.0	1996
12.	Gujarat Urban Development (Water Supply) (Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajokt, Jamnagar, Bhavnagar, Anand and some rural areas)	208.00 (98.58)	62.0	1995
13.	U.P. Urban Development (Water Supply) (Varanasi, Allahabad, Lucknow, Bareilly, Muradabad, Gorakhpur, Aligarh, Saharanpur, Gaziabad, Dehradun, Nainital, Jhansi and Meerut)	463.86 (195.66)	150.0	1996

[English]

Jamiya Masjid, Srinagar

1648. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Historical Masjid (Jamiya Masjid, Srinagar) was attempted to be burnt recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any case has been registered to the police in this regard; and

(d) if so, the aim and main culprits behind it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBARAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d). As per the information received from the State Government, in the early morning on 30.6.1996 fire appeared at the eastern gate of the historical Jamia Masjid, Srinagar. The Security Guard on the road side and some Namazies who noticed the same, raised an alarm and also extinguished the fire. Partial damage was however caused to the eastern gate of the Masjid. A case has been registered on the incident and investigation taken up. However, at 2130 hrs. on 1.7.1996, one person by name Ab. Hamid Ahanger resident of Roshanpura Mohalla, Srinagar was caught red-handed while he was attempting to put on fire the northern gate of the Jamia Masjid. He was handed over to the Police. The person is reported to be insane. No damage was caused to the gate.

Poor Result of Schools

1649. **SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether many Government Higher Secondary Schools in Jammu & Kashmir have secured low percentage in the Examinations conducted by the State Board of School Education during last year and also in the current year; and

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted to find out the reasons for poor results and the outcome of such an inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBARAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has been regularly reviewing the working and performance of Government schools. Comparison of these schools with schools in the private-sector cannot be a fair indicator of performance as the students of private-sector schools (which are mostly in urban areas) belong generally to the elite classes and also depend greatly on private tuitions. However, steps like introduction of refresher/orientation courses for teachers on a regular basis and filling up of posts of teachers have been taken up. As a result of these steps, performance of Government Higher Secondary schools is gradually improving.

IAY

1650. **SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY :** Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the houses collapsed fully or partially in natural calamities have been reconstructed through IAY funds; and

(b) the details of the funds released for this purpose to Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Central assistance under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) is released to States for construction of houses of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers and non-SC/ST rural poor living below poverty line. In some States, releases made under IAY have been utilised for construction of houses for the rural poor affected by the natural calamities. However, no specific releases under IAY have been made to the State of Andhra Pradesh for construction of houses for the people affected by the natural calamities.

Clearance to Urban Projects of Gujarat

1651. **SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sanitation and water supply projects for urban areas of Gujarat pending with Central Government for clearance;

(b) whether any clearance/approval was given to projects located in the State in 1995-96; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) One water supply and three sanitation projects for urban areas of Gujarat are in a preliminary stage and require comprehensive details from technical and financial angles from the State Government before clearance can be given by the Central Government.

(b) and (c). The water supply schemes of Barwala and Surajkaradi at an estimated cost of Rs.90.94 lakhs and Rs.18.20 lakhs respectively were approved by the Central Government under the centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme in January, 1996. The cost is to be shared by the Central and State Government in equal proportion.

Sharing of Power

1652. **SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the demand in sharing of power made by the Government of Rajasthan from Ravi-Beas System; and

(b) the steps taken to fulfill the demand of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). An agreement was reached among Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and the

Central Government on 10.5.1984 for making a reference to the Supreme Court on the question of entitlement of Haryana and Rajasthan to a share in the power generated in the Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukerian Hydel Project, Thein Dam Project, Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) Stage-II and Shahpur Kandi Hydel Scheme; and in the case of there being such an entitlement, to determine the share of each State.

This has been a subject Matter of discussion in various inter-state meetings held by the Ministry of Water Resources. However, no consensus could be reached. The Northern Zonal Council has now been approached to persuade the States concerned to arrive at an amicable settlement.

Unauthorised Constructions

1653. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unauthorised constructions made in the Government colonies at New Delhi;

(b) the number of complaints received by various civic bodies in this regard, during the last three years from bonafide residents of the colonies in which the unauthorised constructions have come up;

(c) the action taken by the Government to demolish the unauthorised constructions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (d). About 2200 unauthorised structures exist in Government colonies. These include jhuggis, shops, religious structures etc. but do not include unauthorised constructions made in Government quarters. Whenever a pocket of encroached land is required for a public purpose, action to remove the encroachment is taken in accordance with the general policy laid down for removal of such encroachments and after a physical survey is conducted. Instructions have been issued to the field staff to be vigilant and to prevent fresh encroachments.

[Translation]

Power Shortage in U.P.

1654. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute shortage of power causing great difficulties to the public of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Uttar Pradesh faced an energy shortage of 14.3% during April-June, 1996 as against the average of 6.8% in the Northern Region and an All India Average of 11.2%.

(b) Various measures taken to improve the availability of power in Uttar Pradesh include capacity addition, maximising generation from existing capacity, implementation of an R&M programme, reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures and obtaining assistance from neighbouring States/Systems.

[English]

Decline in Hydro-Electric Power Generation

1655. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the share of hydro-power in the total power generation of the country while the potential for tapping of energy is the largest in the hydro-electric power section;

(b) whether any panel has been constituted by the Planning Commission to chalk out a policy for the improvement of Hydro-electric Power Sector;

(c) if so, whether the Panel has submitted its report, details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The share of hydro-electric potential in the total installed capacity of the country was 50.62% in 1963 and has thereafter declined to 25.19% as on 31.3.1996. Central Electricity Authority has assessed the total hydroelectric potential of the country at 84044 MW at 60% load factor of which 12475.07 MW at 60% load factor (14.84%) has been developed and about 5879 MW at 60% load factor (6.99%) is under various stages of development.

(b) to (d). An Inter-Ministerial Group was constituted by the Planning Commission in May, 1992 to identify new hydel projects to be taken up in the 8th Five year Plan and suggesting an action plan for implementation of these projects expeditiously. The first meeting of the Group was held in September, 1992. Subsequently, the National Development Council (NDC) Committee on power was set up in 1993 which also considered the question of increasing the share of hydel power in the total installed capacity. As a result, no further meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group to identify new hydel projects was held.

National Renewable Energy Policy

1656. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Renewable Energy Policy has since been finalised;

(b) if not, when it is likely to be finalised;

(c) the approximate percentage of the total requirement of the power for the country to be met through this source by the end of the year 2000; and

(d) the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). The National Renewable Energy Policy, being formulated by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, has not been finalised. The Policy will be finalised after consultation with concerned Ministries, State Governments and other agencies, since to policy is likely to have wide ranging implications.

(c) The share of renewables in the total generation capacity is tentatively proposed at 5% by end of the 9th Plan in the draft policy.

(d) By the end of the 8th Plan, the percentage is expected to be nearly 2% of the total installed capacity in the country.

[Translation]

Rural Development in U.P.

1657. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the union Government to the Uttar Pradesh Government for rural development;

(b) whether the Union Government issues any guidelines to the State Governments while allocating the said amount;

(c) the rate of rural development in Uttar Pradesh and the reasons for such a low rate of development in Bundelkhand region;

(d) the number of villagers benefitted under rural Development programmes and the percentage of downtrodden and backward class out of them; and

(e) the number women benefitted in Uttar Pradesh through Rural Development Programme and the percentage of downtrodden women out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), and Accelerated Rural Water Supply

Programme (ARWSP) are major Rural Development Programmes being implemented by the Centre in various States including the State of Uttar Pradesh. The amount allocated by the Union Govt. to the State of Uttar Pradesh for rural development under the above programmes and the number of persons and women benefitted are given below:-

Programme	Among allocated (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of persons benefitted	No. of women benefitted (lakh)
I.R.D.P.	20316.50	355916 (No. of families assisted)	1.31
J.R.M.	68271.83	1532.66 (lakh mandays)	364.29
A.R.W.S.P.	11182.00	16.99 (lakh persons)	Programme is not gender specific

Detailed guidelines on implementation of each of the programmes including proper utilisation of funds and achievement of targets are issued to States from time to time.

[English]

Ban on Fishing Trawlers

1658. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

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

(a) whether the Government have imposed a ban on foreign trawlers restricting them from fishing in Indian Waters and the ban is likely to continue after the monsoon to avoid the ensuring seize of major ports proposed to be laid by the fishermen all over the country;

(b) if so, the preventive measures proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the any function under the Joint Marine Venture earlier agreed upon continues inspite of this ban;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the names of the countries across the world where there is ban in force on deep sea fishing by mechanised trawlers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (e). The Government of India has offered

to ban deep sea fishing during the breeding seasons in the EEZ off the coast of a maritime State; this ban would be conditional and co-terminus with a similar trawl ban imposed by the concerned State Government. Accordingly, on the request of the State Government of Kerala and Karnataka, the Central Government has imposed a ban on operation on operation of all deep sea fishing vessels, including joint venture vessels, in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the coast to Kerala and Karnataka. The ban is co-terminus with a similar ban imposed by the Government of Kerala and Karnataka on operation of mechanised fishing vessels in coastal waters. The ban on deep sea fishing is effective upto 30th July, 1996 in case of Kerala and upto 31st August, 1996 in case of Karnataka.

(f) It would not be possible to obtain this information from all the coastal countries in the world. However, many such countries impose periodic bans regarding areas and/or specific gears and/or specific target species in the area of marine fishing.

[Translation]

Atomic Energy

1659. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is frequent break-down of atomic power plant at Kota;

(b) the date on which the reactors were set up in Kota for the generation of atomic power, the amount spent thereon the the power generation capacity thereof;

(c) whether these atomic reactors have stopped functioning now and the latest technology to revive these reactors is not available in the country; and

(d) whether it would be possible to generate power through these atomic reactors in future and if so, the extend of possibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YODINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Unit-1 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) at Kota which had been facing interruptions in the past is presently shutdown from February 1994 due to a minor but difficult heavy water leak from the Over Pressure Relief Device located in an inaccessible area. Unit-2, which had been performing well registering an overall capacity factor of about 60% and an availability factor of about 72% has been shutdown from 1st August, 1994 for inservice inspection and eventual enmasse replacement of coolant channels and upgradation of systems.

(b) RAPS-1 was set up at a cost of Rs.73.77 crores with an initial capacity of 220 MWe and was commissioned in 1992. RAPS-2 with the same capacity

was set up at a cost of Rs.102.54 crores and was commissioned in 1980. Power Level of RAPS-1 was restricted to 100MWe since 1987 and RAPS-2 to 200 MWe w.e.f. 1.4.1991.

(c) and (d). The Scheme of fixing the leak at RAPS-1 based on indigenous technology is being worked out and the integrity of the coolant channels is under assessment in view of these factors the question of continued operation of RAPS-1 is under review based on techno-economic considerations. Technological capability has been developed indigenously to carry out enmasse coolant channel replacement is RAPS-2. Defuelling of the coolant channels has already been completed and cutting and removal of channels are progressing satisfactorily. The Unit is expected to be recommissioned in 1998 with a generation capacity of 200 MWe.

N.T.P.C.

1660. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the annual turnover of National Thermal Power Corporation during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) whether the turnover has increased during each successive years;

(c) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(d) the target set for turnover during the year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR.S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). The details of annual turnover of National Thermal Power Corporation during the last three years and the percentage of increase in the turnover during each successive year are as under :-

Year	Turnover (Rs. Crores)	Increase(%)
1993-94	5918.33	-
1994-95	6359.84	7
1995-96	8258.71 (provisional)	30

(d) The target of turnover for the year 1996-97 is Rs.8740.98 crores.

[English]

World Bank Report

1661. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has brought out a report on power situation in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) whether the Government have examined this report; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on the observations made by the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Power Sector on Central List

1662. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the experts have suggested that vital power sector should be exclusive domain of Centre and measures should be initiated to take this out of the concurrent list of the Centre and States; and

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard are being worked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Poverty Alleviation

1664. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the role, India's private corporate sector is playing in alleviating poverty;

(b) whether this sector has in any way helped in building up economic and social capabilities of the poor;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government in changing the mindset of the private corporate sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YODINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). The Government follows a three-pronged attack on poverty, i.e. (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker section of the Society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on

poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset-building for the poor. The private corporate sector plays an important role in accelerating the rate of economic growth in the country, thereby leading to economic activity and employment through backward and forward linkages. However, the direct attack on poverty is almost entirely in the Government.

(c) The Government applies monetary and fiscal instruments to channelise investment and output of the private corporate sector in the desired direction. There is a National Fund for Rural Development which attracts donations for rural development projects with tax concession. In addition, efforts are made towards persuading corporations to take up a greater burden of social responsibility. A number of large private corporations have become involved in various village development schemes and social forestry.

Development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

1665. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central assistance is given to the State Agencies for development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance given to Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) in the years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, the target fixed and the achievements made so far;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the IG, Registration, Bihar has cancelled the Registration of BREDA and the Central Government are still extending financial assistance to an illegal institution; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of financial assistance given to Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, the targets fixed and achievements are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The IG, Registration, Bihar vide his order dated 20.7.1993 had cancelled the Registration of Bihar Renewable Energy development Agency (BREDA). On an appeal filed by BREDA, Member, Board of Revenue, Government of Bihar vide his order dated 7.12.1993, set aside the order of the IG, Registration. Therefore, the Central Government is not supporting any illegal institution.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. Programme No.	Physical target/achievement and financial Assistance								
	1992-93			1993-94			1994-95		
	Physical		financial assistance (Rs. in lakh)	Physical		Financial assistance (Rs. in lakh)	Physical		Financial assistance (Rs. in lakh)
	target	Achievement		Target	Achievement		Target	Achievement	
1. Biogas (Family type) (Nos.)	3500	3502	58.98	3000	2674	55.06	3000	1063	Nil
2. Community/Institutional Biogas Plants (CBP/IBP) (Nos.)	6	Nil	2.50	5	Nil	Nil	2	2	Nil
3. Improved Chulhas (Nos.)	80.000	81.097	187.34	1.50.000	76.231	51.00	80.000	29.968	66.05
4. Intergrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP)	No targets	-	12.52	No targets	-	10.22	No targets	-	-
5. Solar Thermal Extension Programme (collector area in m ²)	1830	Nil	20.3	Not allocated	1004	0.66	Not allocated	Nil	1.50
6. Water Pumping Wind Mills	No target	-	-	No target	-	Nil	No target	-	9.50

Southern Gas Grid

1666. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Kerala to take steps to clear the Southern gas grid;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government so far to clear this project;

(c) the estimated cost of the Southern Gas Grid;

(d) the names of the major beneficiaries of this project; and

(e) the names of the countries which have proposed to supply gas to this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has signed an Agreement on Principal Terms with Oman and has commissioned the feasibility study for the Iran-India pipeline. A proposal for setting up an LNG terminal in Southern India has been received from the Gas Authority of India Limited.

(c) and (d). The cost and the names of major beneficiaries will be known after a specific project is drawn up.

(e) Natural gas from Oman/Iran and LNG from the Middle-East/South East Asia could be fed into the Southern Gas Grid.

Pooyamkutty Power Project

1667. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have received any assurance from the Government of Canada for getting Financial assistance to Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions of the Canadian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Investigation against Employees of Kendriya Bhandar

1668. SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases under investigation against the employees of the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) the number of cases finalised and action taken;

(c) whether the case of shortages in the branch stores/godowns still continue unabatedly;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of cases of shortages that have come to light during the last three years, year-wise, indicating the amounts involved therein and how do that compare with the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) 12 cases.

(b) 3 cases.

(c) and (d). There have been some cases of shortages in the availability of goods in the godowns/stores due to pilferage, damages in handling, delays on the part of manufacturers/distributors for various reasons like transportation problem, production hurdles etc.

(e) A statement showing the number of cases of shortages due to pilferage etc. and the amount involved, during the last 5 years, year-wise is attached. Information for the period prior to that is not readily available with Kendriya Bhandar. It will be observed therefrom that the shortages as a percentage of the turnover have shown a declining trend.

STATEMENT

No. of Cases of Shortage and the Amount involved during the last 5 years, year-wise.

Period	No. of cases of shortages	Amount (Rs./lakhs)	Shortages as % to turnover
1991-92	45	3.60	0.06
1992-93	68	4.18	0.05
1993-94	90	4.93	0.05
1994-95	78	3.97	0.04
1995-96	60	3.85	0.03

Free Home Delivery

1669. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All-India LPG Distributors Federation has threatened to curtail free home delivery of cylinders unless their commission was immediately raised; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of Gas to Rajasthan

1670. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BAHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil India Limited/Gas Authority of India Limited has assured to supply gas at 5.5 lakhs standard cubic meter to Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the assurance is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) and (b). 5.5 lakhs Standard Cubic Metres per day has been allocated to the Ramgarh Power Project of Rajasthan State Electricity Board.

(c) Supply of gas to RSEB, Ramgarh commenced in November, 1994 and is scheduled to reach the level of 5.5 Lakhs Standard Cubic Metres per day by April, 1997.

[Translation]

Electronic Software Park

1671. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up 3 electronic software park in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YODINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal under consideration with the Department of Electronics (DOE) to set up a Software Technology Park in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The DOE has already set up a Software Technology Park at Noida which is presently serving the needs of the northern region. Besides this, National Small Industry Corporation (NSIC) has also set up a Software Technology Park near Okhla which is also providing infrastructural services to software exporting units.

[English]

Supply of LPG

1672. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the private companies at present engaged in supply of LPG in the country;

(b) the number of consumers supplied with LPG by private companies during 1995-96; and

(c) the total number of registered consumers with public sector LPG companies at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Under the Parallel marketing System, private agencies have been allowed to import LPG by using/ setting up their own facilities and distribution network for sale of such imported LPG at market determined prices. No permission is required to be obtained from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for undertaking parallel marketing. So far, 16 parties have imported LPG as per details given below:-

- (1) M/s. Essar World Trade.
- (2) M/s. Hindustan Domestic Oil & Gas Co.
- (3) M/s. Jay Cylinders.
- (4) M/s. Bharat Shell.
- (5) M/s. Shri Shakti LPG.
- (6) M/s. Aegis Chemicals.
- (7) M/s. Kabsons Industries.
- (8) M/s. Palril.
- (9) M/s. Boomi Gases.
- (10) M/s. Mahagas.
- (11) M/s. Asia LPG.
- (12) M/s. SPIC.
- (13) M/s. Refiance Petroleum.
- (14) M/s. Feena Petroleum.
- (15) M/s. Indo-Gulf Fuels Limited.
- (16) M/s. Indore Gases.

Most of the LPG imported by the above parties has been sold in bulk to industrial and commercial consumers.

(b) Under the parallel Marketing scheme the private parties are free to have their own marketing policies and network. Government has no information about the number of consumers to whom parallel marketers sell their product.

(c) As of 1.4.1996, about 257 lac LPG customers are waitlisted with the Public Sector Oil Companies marketing LPG in the Country, for LPG connection.

Kaiga Atomic Power Plant

1673. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the present position with regard to the establishment of Kaiga Atomic Power Plant in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government propose to shift the project to a different location;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the new location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YODINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Work on the construction of Kaiga Atomic Power Project consisting of 2 units of 220 MWe each is progressing. About three-fourth of the work of the project has been completed as of May, 1996 and the units are expected to be commissioned during the year 1998-99.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Rural Electrification

1664. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam and other North-Eastern State have sought financial assistance from the Union Government for rural electrification;

(b) if so, the amount of financial assistance provided by the Union Government for this purpose during each of the last three years;

(c) the time by which all the villages in Assam are likely to be electrified;

(d) whether any target has been fixed in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (f). The financial allocation approved by the Planning Commission for Rural Electrification in the North-Eastern States for the last 3 years is as follows :

(Rs. Crores)

S. States No.	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. Assam	12.50	13.00	66.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	18.50	14.00	11.00
3. Manipur	12.50	10.60	12.95
4. Meghalaya	6.50	6.00	5.24
5. Mizoram	9.00	7.20	7.80
6. Nagaland	1.00	1.00	1.00
7. Tripura	15.50	13.00	6.00

No Time limit or target has been fixed for 100% Electrification of villages in Assam.

As rural electrification is a continuing process, the electrification of all villages will depend upon availability of resources power supply position in the State, a proper network of transmission and distribution systems and the targets fixed by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Government.

Software Industry:

1675. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of software industry in the country during the last three years;

(b) the private and public sector companies involved in the production and export of software at present;

(c) whether there is a vast scope to promote the export of software;

(d) if so, the possibilities explored in that regard; and

(e) the programmes drawn for 1996-97 financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YODINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The performance of the software industry for the last three years is given below :-

Year	(Rs. in crores)	
	Domestic	Export
1993-94	695	1,020
1994-95	1,070	1,474
1995-96	1,690	2,650 (estimated)

(b) There are about 250 major software exporting companies, including 3 from the public sector.

(c) to (e). The Government has initiated the following steps to boost software exports :-

- To provide High Speed Data Communication Infrastructure facility to software exports, the Department of Electronics has established 7 Software Technology Parks (STPs) at Bangalore, Pune, Bhubaneshwar, Gandhinagar, Thiruvantapuram, Noida and Hyderabad. The Government is also encouraging State Governments to set up STPs.

State Government of West Bengal and Rajasthan have set up STPs at Calcutta and Jaipur respectively. State Government of Punjab and Goa have also initiated steps to set up STPs in their respective States.

- Strengthening of manpower Development Programme both in terms of quantity and quality to meet the growing requirements of the Software industry. In the past, the Department of Electronics (DOE) has supported 254 institutions for Degree/Diploma Level courses in Computers.

In order to bring standardisation in the quality of education in the non-formal sector, DOE is implementing a voluntary scheme, namely, Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses (DOEACC) under which institutions in the non-formal sector (both private and public) on meeting specified norms and criteria are given accreditation for conducting specified levels of computer courses - 'O' (Foundation), 'A' (Advanced Diploma), 'B' (Graduate) and 'C' (Post-Graduate).

- Promote Computerisation in the country which would provide a base for building of skills and for demonstration of capabilities
- Legal protection of software through the Copy Right Act.
- Launching of Export promotion Campaigns

The programmes drawn for the 1996-97 are as follows:-

- Capacity Augmentation by increasing the bandwidth of the existing High Speed Data Communication Channels at the STPs set up by the DOE to meet the growing requirements of the exporting units.
- Organise Software Export Promotion Seminars/Conferences in USA alongwith the Software Industry Association and Indian Mission abroad.
- Participate in the international exhibitions - Comdex Fall 96 and CeBIT 97.
- Organise Seminars for creation of awareness on use of legal software and Intellectual Property Rights protection of software, alongwith Software Industry Association.

Contamination of Ground Water

1676. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "FATAL THIRST : 1 M. DRINK TOXIC WATER" appearing in 'The Economic times', New Delhi dated July 1, 1996;

(b) if so, whether drinking water in the seven districts in West Bengal contains more arsenic a litre than the safe limit prescribed by the World Health Organisation;

(c) if so, whether any long-term or short term plan has been formulated to eradicate this worst arsenic contamination of ground water in these 7 districts, particularly the 24-Parganas (South), which is poverty-ridden and does not have any industry;

- (d) if so, its broad features; and
(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Drinking water in eight districts in West Bengal contains arsenic more than safe limits prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

(c) to (e). As per information received from Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, the Government of West Bengal has prepared a perspective plan at a total cost of Rs. 750 crores indicating long term and short term measures to tackle arsenic contamination. The replacement of tubewells by deeper ones, construction of new piped water supply schemes and construction of Sanitary protected Rig Wells and Rain Water Harvesting Structure for immediate relief and establishment of surface water based piped water supply schemes, establishing new spot sources for solving the problem on long term basis are some of the salient features of the perspective plan. The perspective plan includes a project aiming to cover six arsenic affected block of South 24 parganas district based on surface water of river Hooghly at a cost of Rs.228 crores to benefit 13.56 lakhs people. A task force comprising of experts of Govt. of India and State Govt. have been set up under the PHE Deptt. to monitor various activities related to arsenic contamination.

As regards urban areas, no proposal/scheme for removal of arsenic contamination has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

Mega Power Projects

1677. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra for setting up of mega power projects of 2500 MW in the States based on Oman Gas pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith proposed sites; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Monitor of Projects

1678. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ongoing projects being monitored by the Government;

(b) the number out of them which have cost overruns of over 50% including their approved cost and now their anticipated cost; and

(c) the details thereof, Ministry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) As on 31.3.1996, 401 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above in the Central sector, were being monitored by the Government.

(b) As on 31.3.1996, 64 projects were having cost overrun of 50% and more with reference to their latest approved cost.

(c) The Ministry-wise number of projects, having cost overrun of 50% and more, is given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Ministry	No. of Projects with 50% and more cost overrun
1. Atomic Energy	1
2. Civil Aviation	1
3. Coal	4
4. Fertiliser	1
5. I and B	1
6. Steel	2
7. Petro. and Natural Gas	4
8. Power	14
9. Heavy Industry	1
10. Railways	25
11. Surface Transport	9
12. Others (implementation by PWD)	1
Total	64

LPG Agencies

1679. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received

from the State of Kerala for the sanction of Gas Agencies and Petrol/Diesel Pumps to the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation; and

(b) if so, the Union Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the existing policy, State owned/controlled Corporations are eligible to apply in response to advertisements under 'Open' category. The criteria relating to income, residence and multiple dealership norms are not applicable to them. State Government has been advised in the matter accordingly to apply against advertisements.

NCR Finance Corporation

1680. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an NCR Finance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Water Supply and Sanitation

1681. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam submitted proposals to Union Government for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation schemes for financial assistance:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government to that effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The details of the schemes received from the State Government of Assam and their present status are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of Project	No. of Schemes	No. of Habitations	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakh)	Date of receipt	Status of project
Assam						
1.	Schemes for coverage of no source SC/ST habitations	1	5668	Rs. 2400.00	28.2.95	State Govt. was requested to furnish information on Action Plan status of habitation and water quality data to justify the installation of Iron Removal plants. The information is still awaited.
2.	Project for W/S scheme in Excess iron areas of Wazira and Charaideo Civil sub div. of Sibsagar Distt.	1	82	Rs. 94.59 Lakh	13.2.96	Scheme is under examination.

[Translation]

Industries under R.D.P.

1682. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the number of Women benefited in

Uttar Pradesh through Rural Development Programmes and the percentage of the down-trodden out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : During the year 1995-96 the number of women benefited in Uttar

Pradesh through various development programmes is given below :

Name of the Scheme	Total Women benefited
A. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	(Lakh Mandays generated)
1. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	333.95
2. Employment Assurance Scheme	30.34
3. Intensified Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	73.43
B. Integrated Rural Development Programme and Allied Programme	(Lakh beneficiaries)
1. Integrated Rural Development Programme	1.31
2. Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment	0.38
3. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	0.23
C. National Social Assistance Programmes	(Lakh Nos.)
1. National Maternity benefit scheme	3.01

Under the rural development programme the benefits have been provided to the poor women. The Ministry does not monitor the percentage of poor women who are down-trodden.

[English]

Implementation of Minimum Programme

1683. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister has given directions to the various Departments in regard to minimum programme agreed to by all the parties of the Government;

(b) if so, the priorities that have been earmarked;

(c) whether all the priorities that have been agreed upon have been undertaken by the various Ministers for its implementation; and

(d) if so, the details of the programmes and the progress being made in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Various Departments have been asked to work out the details of policies and programmes announced by the Government and contained in the Common Action Minimum Programme.

In a recent Conference of Chief Ministers organised on 4th-5th July 1996, on the initiative of the Prime Minister, the provision of seven basic minimum services to all our people in a time bound manner was endorsed. These seven minimum basic services are as under :

- (i) 100 percent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.
- (ii) 100 percent coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas.
- (iii) Universalisation of primary education.
- (iv) Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families.
- (v) Extension of Mid-day-Meal programme in primary schools to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections.
- (vi) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.
- (vii) Streamline the Public Distribution System with focus upon the poor.

Within these, the first three basic services are to be provided within the next two to three years. However, States which have satisfactory results in these areas could select any other component from the identified seven minimum basic services for prioritisation.

In addition, Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the area of urban and rural poverty alleviation and employment, development of desert and drought prone areas and those for the Welfare of SCs, STs, minorities and disabled persons would be continued as such but States would have greater freedom and flexibility in the implementation of these programmes. The funds under the remaining CSS would be pooled and basic state entitlement ratios would be worked out on the basis of allocations made to the States in 1995-96. The States would be free to select from amongst these centrally sponsored schemes those which they would like to implement in keeping with their specific priorities and needs. Further, the States annual entitlements under all centrally sponsored schemes would be increased by 15-20 per cent each year.

In the context of the recommendations made in the Chief Ministers Conference, the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation, in consultation with the different Central Ministries, is working out the details regarding revisions in the guidelines and procedures.

Decentralisation of Planning Process

1684. DR. T. SUBBARMU REDDY : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the non-Governmental Organisations

have urged the Government for decentralisation of the planning process;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the various suggestions given by these organisations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the decentralisation of planning process is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d). Decentralised planning is a continuous process. While there is no formal proposal with the Planning Commission from the NGOs on decentralised planning, as a response to various demands from different quarters to take planning to the grass-root level, Government of India have taken a significant step through enactment of 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts. These Constitution Amendment Acts confer constitutional status on the Panchayats and Municipalities for undertaking planning within their respective areas of jurisdiction. Action to give effect to the above constitutional provisions is at different stages in the various States.

Employment to Youths

1685. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

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

(a) the number of youths in rural areas provided employment during the year 1995 and the current year so far, separately;

(b) the number of youths likely to be provided employment in the year 1996;

(c) the number of unemployed persons registered in the employment exchange in the Orissa State as on June 30, 1996; and

(d) the financial and physical achievements made upto May 31, 1996 as against the targets fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). This Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), under which training in relevant skills is provided to rural youth belonging to below poverty line families to enable to take up self wage employment.

2. The financial and physical achievements as well as employment provided under TRYSEM in the year

1995-96 and current year 1996-97 (upto May, 1996) is as under :

Year	Financial		Physical	
	Total allocation	Expenditure	No. of trained Youth	No. of trained Youth employed
	(Rs. in lacs)			
1995-96	9025.00	9327.43	287273	136271
1996-97	9025.00	276.23	15354	2727

* Physical targets under TRYSEM are not being prescribed by Central Government since 1995-96.

3. As per the latest information made available by Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGET) the number of job seekers in Orissa State, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the live Register as 31.3.1996 was 940.9 thousands.

Safe Water Supply in Aligarh

1686. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Aligarh City is facing a serious threat of epidemic due to severe water contamination;

(b) whether a study sponsored by an international institute for environment and development has found that 94 per cent of the City's water supply is contaminated; and

(c) the measures being taken to ward off the threat of epidemic, especially during the rainy seasons and also ensure clean water supply and safe drainage system in the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such report is available with the Aligarh Municipal Corporation.

(c) Daily chlorination of safe and potable drinking water supplied to the city and regular testing of residual chlorine in the different parts of the city are being done by the Water Works Staff of the Aligarh Municipal Corporation. Efforts have also been made through wide publicity to eliminate leakages in the system.

Supply of Coal Tar

1687. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and Indian Oil Corporation have entered into an

agreement with the State Government of Bihar for supply of Coal Tar:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether deliveries were not made at the points of delivery as decided in the agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof:

(e) whether the quantity of Coal Tar reaching the destination were less than the terms of agreement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f). Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. have not entered into any agreement with the Government of Bihar for supply of Coal Tar. However, supplies of Bitumen to the various Departments such as State Public Works Departments of the Governments of States including Bihar, are made against DGS & D Rate Contract. The product is supplied against the supply orders released by the concerned Departments, as per the DGS & D rates, which is common for all the States.

N.T.P.C.

1688. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has taken up an ambitious plan to become a 25000 MW plus company by the year 2002 by installing a number of coal and gas based power plants:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the NTPC has worked out any strategy to achieve this target; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present installed capacity of the NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d). National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) presently has an installed capacity of 16795 MW. The details of these projects are as follows :

S. No.	Name of the Project	Location	Installed Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project.	Uttar Pradesh	2000
2.	Rihand Super Thermal Power Project.	Uttar Pradesh	1000
3.	National Capital Power Project.	Uttar Pradesh	840

1	2	3	4
4.	Feroz Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Project Stage-I.	Uttar Pradesh	420
5.	Dadri Combined Cycle Gas Power Project.	Uttar Pradesh	817
6.	Anta Combined Cycle Gas Power Project.	Rajasthan	413
7.	Auraiya Combined Cycle Gas Power Project.	Uttar Pradesh	652
8.	Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project-I.	Madhya Pradesh	1260
9.	Korba Super Thermal Power Project	Madhya Pradesh	2100
10.	Kawas Combined Cycle Gas Power Project.	Gujarat	645
11.	Jhanor-Gandhar combined Cycle Gas Power Project.	Gujarat	648
12.	Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project.	Andhra Pradesh	2100
13.	Farakka Super Thermal Power Project.	West Bengal	1600
14.	Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project.	Bihar	840
15.	Talcher Super Thermal Power Project.	Orissa	1000
16.	Talcher Thermal Power Station	Orissa	460
Total			16795

NTPC has also drawn up a perspective plan for capacity addition during 9th and 10th Plan period i.e. from the year 1997-98 to 2006-2007. The multipronged strategy adopted by NTPC inter-alia includes expansion of its existing power plants, setting up of new projects at green field sites, taking over of existing under-performing power plants of State Electricity Boards and other utilities, setting up of power projects through joint venture etc. The details of the projects identified for yielding benefits during this 10 years period are as follows :

S. No.	Project	Location	Capacity addition during 9th and 10th Plan (MW)
1	2	3	4
<i>1. Approved and ongoing Projects :</i>			
1.	Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project Stage-II	Madhya Pradesh	1000
2.	Unchahar Thermal Power Project Stage-II	Uttar Pradesh	420

1	2	3	4
3.	Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project	Kerala	400
Sub-Total I			1820
<i>II. New Projects under consideration :</i>			
1.	Faridabad Gas Power Project	Haryana	400
2.	Talcher-II Thermal Power Project	Orissa	2000
3.	Hyderabad Metro Combined Cycle Power Project	Andhra Pradesh	650
4.	Simhadri Thermal Power Project	Andhra Pradesh	1000
5.	Kawas Combined Cycle Power Project Stage-II	Gujarat	650
6.	Rihand Super Thermal Power Project Stage-II	Uttar Pradesh	1000
7.	Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project Stage-III	Andhra Pradesh	500
Sub-total-II			6200
<i>III. New Project proposals under formulation :</i>			
1.	Seepat Super Thermal Power Project	Madhya Pradesh	2000
2.	Anta Combined Cycle Power Project Stage-II	Rajasthan	400
3.	Auraiya Combined Cycle Power Project Stage-II	Uttar Pradesh	650
4.	South Madras Gas Power Project	Tamil Nadu	2000
Sub-total III			5050
Grand Total			13070

Development of Towns in Kerala

1689. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Muvattupuzha municipality in Kerala has been approved under I.D.S.M.T. scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits and amounts sanctioned and given to this municipality under this scheme;

(d) whether other proposals of the State relating to I.D.S.M.T. are pending;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these are likely to be approved and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Muvattupuzha was covered under IDSMT Scheme during the year 1990-91 as per the VII Plan IDSMT Scheme guidelines. A developmental programme costing Rs. 118.46 lakhs was approved for this town. Against the maximum eligible Central Assistance of Rs. 46 lakhs, Rs. 40 lakhs has so far been released to the State Government in two instalments of Rs. 15 lakhs during 1990-91 and Rs. 25 lakhs during 1995-96 respectively, for this town. Till June, 1996, the State Government have reported a total expenditure of Rs. 47.24 lakhs on implementation of approved schemes in this town.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f). During 1995-97, although 2 towns were allocated to Kerala for coverage under IDSMT based on the criterion of the share of Kerala's population in small and medium towns in the country's total population living in such towns, the State Level Sanctioning Committee of Kerala sought release of Central Assistance for 4 towns during 1995-96. Within the available budget, the first three towns proposed by Kerala could be assisted. Thus, Nedumangad the priority town No. 4, could not be considered. It is not possible to indicate the time by which this town will be considered at this stage as allocation of Central funds to Kerala during 1996-97 will depend on availability of budget, provision of State share, furnishing of utilisation certificates for the past releases and the share of Kerala in the available kitty based on the criterion of population. Under the IDSMT guidelines, it will be upto the State level Sanctioning Committee to consider the pending proposals within the budget allocated to the State.

Drinking Water Supply Scheme

1690. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has urged the Union Government to allocate more funds for Urban Drinking Water Supply Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated to Maharashtra under the said scheme during the last three years; and

(c) the details of funds to be allotted during the current financial year for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). No request for allocation of more funds under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) has been received from the Government of Maharashtra. Under this programme, six water supply schemes at a

total cost of Rs. 515.11 lakhs have been sanctioned and Rs. 214.16 lakhs has been released as detailed below :

1993-94	-	Rs. 85.36 lakhs
1994-95	-	Rs. 92.50 lakhs
1995-96	-	Rs. 36.30 lakhs

(c) The allocation for the State of Maharashtra shall be finalised based on allocation for the programme during 1996-97 and share of the State Government in that.

[Translation]

Exploration of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

1691. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the various projects launched by the Government in the National Capital Territory of Delhi for the exploration of the non-conventional energy sources during the last three years as on date;

(b) the locations selected to establish these projects and the amount allocated for this purpose during the said period; and

(c) the amount allocated for the current financial year and the amount spent so far, head-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The Government has been implementing a wide range of non-conventional energy projects/schemes such as solar lantern, solar street lighting, biogas plants, solar restaurant, solar showroom, battery operated vehicles, IREP etc. projects in the National Capital Territory of Delhi during the last three years and as on date.

(b) The solar lantern, street-lighting and community biogas schemes etc. cover the entire National Capital Territory of Delhi. The solar restaurant is located at Delhi Haat and solar show room is located at Cannought Place. The amount allocated for these projects during last three years is given in Statement.

(c) The Ministry does not allocate funds state-wise. Funds are released to the States including to the National Capital Territory of Delhi, under various programmes, based on the proposals received from the States.

During the current financial year, Delhi Energy Development Agency (DEDA) has allocated an amount of Rs. 25 lakhs for SPV lantern programme out of which an amount of Rs. 23.7 lakhs has already been spent so far. Rs. 10 lakhs have been allocated for Community Biogas plants out of which no expenditure has been incurred so far. DEDA has not allocated any funds for the solar restaurant during the current financial year.

STATEMENT

The amount allocated and expenditure incurred for the projects launched during last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)				
S. No.	Name of Project/ Scheme	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	SPV Lantern	20	23.9	32.72
2.	SPV Street Light Programme	18	Nil	3.38
3.	Biogas Programme	29.47	Nil	Nil
4.	Solar Restaurant	Nil	Nil	3.5
5.	Solar Showroom	Nil	Nil	7.20
6.	Wind Pump	1.18	0.77	Nil
7.	Under I.U.E.P. Scheme*	110	68	91.25
8.	Under I.R.E.P. Scheme #	44.19	39.03	60
9.	Special Demostration Project (SDP)	2.45	Nil	Nil
10.	Demonstration project on operation of 200 diesel buses of the Delhi Transport Corporation, Delhi, on dual fuel made of diesel-methanol	Nil	Nil	42.33
11.	Repair of 40 non-functional Battery Buses of DEDA, Delhi (as one time grant)	Nil	Nil	50.00
12.	Development of High Energy Density Batteries by M/s. Reliance Auto Parts Manufacturing Company (P) Ltd., Calcutta and testing them in the Battery Buses of DEDA, Delhi.	Nil	3.28	Nil
13.	NRSE Publicity exhibition, Photographic and vedio coverage arranged by DEDA, Delhi.	11.79	Nil	Nil

* Integrated Urban Energy Programme

Integrated Rural Energy Programme.

[English]

LPG Agencies

1692. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any demand for opening of LPG agencies in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their proposed locations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). Demands for opening additional LPG distributorships are received from time to time from different parts of the country including Assam. The locations meeting Oil Industry economic viability norms are included in the LPG Marketing Plan. Accordingly, 16 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1994-96 for Assam as under :

Rangiya	Karimganj
Nagaon	Chapar
Guahati (2)	Kharupetia
Barpeta Rd	Golaghat

Lanka
Mankachar

Durbri

Lumding

Ramakrishna Nagar

Biswanath Charali

Makum

Selection of the distributors is made through Oil Selection Board.

Land Records

1693. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

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

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Government for computerisation and updating of land records;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard and the total expenditure being incurred thereon;

(c) the State-wise details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to sanction special grants for States for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the date by which the land records are likely to be updated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) So far 223 districts under the Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records have been covered and funds to the tune of Rs. 44.27 crores have been provided to States/UTs.

(c) A Statement giving State-wise details is attached.

(d) and (e). The Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for providing grants to States/UTs.

(f) Updation of Land Records is a continuous process. However, 1st phase of complete data capture on the basis of available records is expected to be completed within three years as per the project guidelines. But as it mostly depends on the effective planning and efforts made up by the State/UT Governments, including their level to level Revenue functionaries. Hence the Government of India can not give a definite time frame.

STATEMENT

S. No.	State/UT	Number of Districts	Total amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	418.00
2.	Assam	8	158.00
3.	Bihar	7	150.00
4.	Gujarat	9	165.00
5.	Goa	Entire State	20.00
6.	Haryana	17	275.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	8	145.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	49.00
9.	Karnataka	9	216.00
10.	Kerala	14	295.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	13	243.00
12.	Maharashtra	20	375.00
13.	Manipur	3	25.00
14.	Mizoram	1	25.00
15.	Orissa	12	252.50
16.	Punjab	5	125.02
17.	Rajasthan	16	293.00
18.	Sikkim	Entire State	32.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	10	243.00
20.	Tripura	3	65.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	22	394.00
22.	West Bengal	14	410.00
23.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Entire U.T. (One unit)	12.38
24.	Delhi	Entire U.T. (One unit)	8.03
25.	Pondicherry	Entire U.T. (One unit)	15.00
Total		223 Project	4427.53

MRTS Project

1694. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MRTS Projects for Delhi is pending finalisation for a long time and as a result the project cost has increased manifold;

(b) if so, the steps taken to expedite the project;

(c) when the project is expected to be launched; and

(d) the likely distance to be covered in different phases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). After the in principle approval of Delhi MRTS Project by the Government of India in July, 1994, follow up actions are being taken towards getting final investment approval of Government in consultation with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. The actions which have already been completed are: preparation of Detailed Projects Report through the Government of National Capital Territory; preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report and Detailed Financial/Economic cost-benefit analyses of the project; registration of a company under the Companies Act in partnership with the Delhi Government to implement the project; posing the project before the OECF (Japan) to provide soft loan assistance for the project; and getting the approval of the Empowered Committee set up under Cabinet Secretary's Chairmanship to facilitate and monitor all matters connected with the implementation of this project. The OECF (Japan) has also got an independent techno-economic appraisal of the project conducted recently and has found the project to be acceptable for OECF (Japan) assistance. However, their decision to sanction loan assistance for this project is awaiting the final investment approval of the Government of India/Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to this project, which has been sought for. The OECF (Japan) has asked for this approval to be conveyed to them by mid-August, 1996, in order to be able to include this project in their 1996-97 Loan Package.

(c) The project is expected to be launched during 1997-98 subject to final investment approval by the Government and availability of the OECF loan for the project.

(d) The first phase of the project will be covering 55.3 Kms. including 11.00 Kms. underground. The details of the second and subsequent phases can be decided only after the implementation of the first phase has been taken on hand.

Development of Backward Areas

1695. DR. ARUN KUMR SARMA :

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes for the development of backward areas in Assam approved by the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released during the above period;

(c) the details of the schemes submitted by the Government of Assam for financial assistance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). Union Government introduced a scheme (Employment Assurance Scheme) for poverty alleviation in 1993-94 in identified backward blocks situated in the drought prone areas, desert areas, tribal areas and hilly areas. Out of 218 blocks in Assam, 142 are covered under the scheme. The funds released towards the scheme during last three years are given below :

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	2587.50
1994-95	5790.00
1995-96	10025.00

No State-wise allocation are made under the scheme, as it is a demand based scheme.

Three growth centres, one each at Charidaur, Balijana and Sonapur, have been earmarked in the State of Assam for which Government of India will provide Rs. 15 crore for each centre. No fund has been released so far as the work on the scheme is yet to start; in two cases projects reports are under formulation and project report in case of one (Charidaur) was received from Government of Assam.

(c) Government of Assam requested the Government of India for equity for the growth centre at Charidaur.

(d) Some questions were raised by the appraising agency for which clarification has been sought from the State Government. A reply is still awaited in the matter.

National Capital Region Plan

1696. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the National

Capital Region Plan so far and that expected to be incurred during the current financial year;

(b) its achievements;

(c) the extent to which it has helped in easing the population burden in the capital;

(d) whether Government propose to continue this Plan till the turn of the century;

(e) if so, the rationale behind this; and

(f) the particulars of the Central Government Offices shifted so far from the capital to the ring towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The total expenditure incurred on the implementation of NCR Plan projects upto May, 1996 has been Rs. 252.71 crores.

The anticipated disbursements during 1996-97 will depend on the availability of funds and demand for implementation of the projects.

(b) NCR Planning Board has financed 89 schemes out of which 46 have been completed and 43 are ongoing. The details of the schemes are as under :

Sub Region	No. of Schemes completed	No. of Schemes ongoing	Expenditure incurred (Rs. crores)
Haryana	12	10	61.92
Rajasthan	24	13	67.11
U.P.	10	16	115.35
Counter Magnet Cities		4	8.33
Total	46	43	252.71

(c) The growth rate of population of NCT of Delhi has declined from 53.00% between 1971-81 to 51.46% between 1981-91, indicating decrease in pressure of population on NCT of Delhi.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The perspective year of National Capital Region Plan is 2001. Regional and Urban Planning exercises have long gestation periods. For achieving the Regional Plan objectives of reducing the pressure of population in Delhi and achieving a balanced and harmonised development of National Capital Region, the implementation of Regional Plan has to continue.

(f) The following Central Government Offices have been shifted outside Delhi during the last 5 years :

(i) The Postal Staff College.

(ii) National Labour Institute.

(iii) National Vocational Training Institute for Women.

(iv) C.P.W.D. Training Institute.

Committee on Land Development and Disposal

1697. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted to consider legal, financial and other issues relating to land development and disposal in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Yes. Sir. A Committee has been constituted to consider issues relating to land assembly, development and disposal in the NCT of Delhi and suggest a policy for involvement of private developers in land development, housing construction and other related activities in the National Capital.

(c) As the Committee is awaiting preparation of background papers by expert agencies, it is not possible to indicate the exact time by which the Committee will submit its final report to Government.

Development of Small and Medium Towns

1698. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the sharing pattern of the Integrated Development of Small and Medium towns scheme between the Centre and the States;

(b) the details of the small and medium towns in the country brought under this centrally sponsored development programme;

(c) the fund allocation made to Karnataka during Eighth Plan for the development of small and medium towns in that State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The sharing

pattern is as follows :

Category of Town & Population	Project cost	(Rupees in lakhs)		
		Central Assistance (Grant)	State Share (Grant)	HUDCO/ Financial institutions Loan/ Other Sources
A (Less than 20000)	100	48 (48%)	32 (32%)	20 (20%)
B (20000-50000)	200	90 (45%)	60 (30%)	50 (25%)
C (50000-100000)	350	150 (43%)	100 (28%)	100 (29%)
D (1-3 lakhs)	550	210 (38%)	140 (26%)	200 (36%)
E (3-5 lakhs)	750	270 (36%)	180 (24%)	300 (40%)

(The figures furnished in parenthesis are percentage in col. 2)

The grant component under the Scheme is shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 60:40 as shown above.

(b) State-wise no. of towns covered under IDSMT from inception of the Scheme till 31.3.96 are given in the enclosed Statement - I.

(c) and (d). The details of funds allocation made to Karnataka during the first 4 years of Eighth Plan (1992-96) are in the enclosed Statement-II. Allocation of funds for 1996-97 is subject to receipt of project reports, utilisation certificates for funds earlier released and implementation of projects as per Scheme guidelines.

STATEMENT

State-wise No. of Towns covered under I.D.S.M.T. Scheme (As on 31.3.96)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Towns covered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
3.	Assam	17
4.	Bihar	35
5.	Goa	6
6.	Gujarat	47
7.	Haryana	12
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	7
10.	Karnataka	68
11.	Kerala	30
12.	Madhya Pradesh	65

1	2	3
13.	Maharashtra	90
14.	Manipur	10
15.	Meghalaya	7
16.	Mizoram	4
17.	Nagaland	6
18.	Orissa	39
19.	Punjab	22
20.	Rajasthan	41
21.	Sikkim	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	93
23.	Tripura	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	73
25.	West Bengal	60

Union Territories

1.	A and N Islands	1
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2
3.	Lakshadweep	1
4.	Pondicherry	6
5.	Daman and Diu	1

Total 828

STATEMENT-II

Year-wise details of Funds Allocations/Releases made to Government of Karnataka during the first Four Years (1992-96) of VIII Plan under the I.D.S.M.T. scheme

A. New Schemes

Year	Name of towns approved for inclusion under IDSMT	Central Assistance released (Rs. in lacs.)
1	2	3
1992-93	Tiptur, Gowribidanur, Badami, Guru-Mitkal, Soundatti, Byadagi, Karwar	120.00
1993-94	Bidar, Haveri, Bellery, Madhugiri, K.R. Nagar, Ilkal, Nippani, Dodda-Ballapur, Bailhongal, Mudalgi, Mulhagal, Lingasugar.	260.00
1994-95	Mandya, Bijapur, Laxmeshwar, Shiggaon, Savanur, Gadag-Betagiri, Kottur, Malur, Shorapur, Kundapur, Siddlagatta.	290.00

1	2	3
1995-96	Arasikere, Hunsur, Gajendragod, Sira, Bangarpet, Koppal	150.00 + 66.00* 216.00
Total no. Towns 36		Total : 886.00

(*Rs. 66.00 lacs released on account of 2nd instalment for Badami, and Gurumitkal (covered during 1992-93) and Bellary town (covered during 1993-94)

B. On Going Schemes (Approved prior to VIII Plan)

1992-93	Chintamani	20.00 (2nd instl.)
1993-94	-	-
1994-95	-	-
1995-96	Ramanagaram Chintamani	20.00 (2nd instl.) 6.00 (3rd instl.)
Total No. of Towns : 2		Total : 46.00
Grand total no. of Towns : (A+B) : 38		
Grant total of Central assistance released (A+B)		932.00

Potable Water Supply

1699. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in some of the metropolitan areas, water level has been declining at an alarming rate and shortage of clean and potable water is resulting in higher incidence of different types of diseases; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to ensure clean and potable water supply in such metropolitan areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) A long term observation of data for Delhi shows decline of more than 4 meters in ground water level in Central Part of Najafgarh Block, Southern Part of city block and Mehrauli Block. In Calcutta decline of the order of 4 to 8 meter has been observed in Eastern and Northern parts. A decline of less than 2 meters has been observed in Madras and Bombay. However, no report on higher incidence of different types of diseases due to shortage of clean and potable water has been received from any State Government/Local Bodies.

(b) Water supply being a State subject, it is the responsibility of State Government/Local Body concerned to provide safe and adequate drink water.

However, as and when the individual cases are referred to Govt. of India by the respective State Governments. The pattern of loan assistance etc. will be considered.

Dulhasti Hydel Power Project

1700. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) when the Dulhasti Hydel Power Project was taken up for execution, its estimated cost, the schedule for its commissioning and its installed capacity;

(b) the amount spent of this project so far and the revised estimates of its cost;

(c) whether the task of Dulhasti was entrusted to French Consortium and if so, the terms of agreement.

(d) when the execution of the project was stopped by the said contractor and the amount paid to the French Consortium so far;

(e) whether some new foreign companies have been approached and if so, their response; and

(f) the number of skilled and unskilled workers rendered jobless with the stoppage of execution of the project by the French Consortium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Dulhasti Hydro-electric Project was taken up for execution by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) in 1989 at an approved cost of Rs. 1262.97 crores. The Project was to be commissioned by July 1994. The installed capacity of the Project is 390 MW (3x130 MW).

(b) An amount of Rs. 1413 crores (approximately) has been spent on the Project uptill June 1996. The revised cost estimate of the Project is Rs. 3,470 crores (April 1996 Price Level).

(c) The execution of Dulhasti Project was entrusted to a French Consortium on a turn-key basis with bilateral assistance with a stipulated time of completion of 57 months.

(d) the French Consortium suspended work in August 1992 contending that the security environment was not conducive for performance of its contractual obligations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was reached between NHPC and the French Consortium in June 1994 envisaging withdrawal of the civil works partner of the Consortium and resumption of work with the remaining four partners. The MOU was subsequently endorsed by the Government of India and Government of France. The amount paid to the French Consortium so far is 33550 Million Japanese Yen and Rs. 106.38 crores (provisional).

(e) The NHPC has floated global tenders for execution of the balance civil works and tenders have been received from Indian and foreign companies.

(f) About 2000 workers engaged by the civil construction Company were affected when the works at the Project was suspended by the Company.

Review of Projects

1701. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME implementation be pleased to state:

(a) whether review of implementation of ongoing major projects in various sectors has recently been undertaken;

(b) if so, the details regarding performance profile-sectorwise upto March, 1996 highlighting the achievements by standard economic indicators;

(c) the names of the top ten projects with excellent implementation record and bottom ten projects having poor performance profile; and

(d) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen monitoring mechanism with a view to

ensuring least possible cost and time over-run of major projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. All the major projects in the Central sector costing Rs. 100 crores and above are being reviewed every month.

(b) The sector-wise profile of these projects highlighting the standard indicators used in monitoring i.e. cost overrun, expenditure already incurred, and time overrun, is given in the enclosed Statement - I.

(c) The list of 10 projects having excellent implementation record i.e. more than 50% of anticipated project time and cost achieved and are still within 10% of cost and time overrun and the list of 10 worst projects i.e. under implementation for more than 12 years and also having excessive cost overrun (more than 300% in each case) are enclosed as Statement - II.

(d) The details of the steps being taken to reduce the delay in the implementation of projects, are enclosed as Statement - III.

STATEMENT-I

Extent of Time/cost overrun in Projects with Respect to Latest Schedule as on 31.3.96

S.No.	Sector	No. of Proj- ects	Total Cost (Rs. crs)		No.	Proj. with cost overrun		No.	Proj. with Time overrun					
			Latest Approved	Antici- pated		Latest Approved	Antici- pated		Latest Approved	Antici- pated				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
					cost over- run (%)	% of Exp. Incurred	No.		%Incr- ease	No.			Range	
1.	Atomic Energy	6	3998.4	5003.9	25.2	57.92	1	711.6	2107.0	196.1	6	3998.4	5003.9	12-36
2.	Civil Aviation	3	1595.1	1667.1	4.5	42.21	1	351.9	423.9	20.5	3	1595.1	1667.1	3-12
3.	Coal	27	9736.7	11464.3	17.7	45.05	9	4404.1	6336.0	43.9	12	4563.8	5310.3	4-48
4.	Finance	1	348.8	348.8	0.0	32.78	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	-
5.	Fertiliser	7	4447.8	4993.3	12.3	48.66	2	1275.6	1821.0	42.8	3	2565.7	2565.7	2-11
6.	Steel & Iron Ore	7	10043.5	12374.1	23.2	63.80	2	6621.6	8952.1	35.2	2	6621.6	8952.1	12-44
7.	Chem. & Petrochem.	5	4168.6	4168.6	0.0	21.60	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2	336.4	336.4	35-35
8.	Petro. & Natural Gas	23	21007.5	22958.6	9.3	38.71	2	2747.5	5073.8	84.7	11	8884.2	11187.5	1-15
9.	Power	34	29918.0	39633.1	32.5	43.15	23	17694.8	27573.2	55.8	24	20413.1	28895.3	1-125
10.	Heavy Industry	1	191.2	307.0	60.5	19.19	1	191.2	307.0	60.5	0	0.0	0.0	-
11.	Railways	46	14196.2	16480.0	16.1	48.20	33	8631.9	11556.5	33.9	25	7102.0	9433.9	3-96
12.	Surface Transport	19	3320.2	4195.5	26.4	28.52	12	1622.4	2497.7	54.0	12	2071.4	2820.5	2-93
13.	Tele-communication	3	353.7	353.7	0.0	1.91	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	-
	Total	182	103325.5	123947.9	20.0	44.61	86	44252.7	66648.3	50.6	100	58151.5	76172.8	

STATEMENT - II

List of top 10 Major projects with excellent implementation record

S.No.	Name of the project	Sector
1.	Salmleshwari OC Sambalpur, Orissa	Coal
2.	Ukni OC Chandrapur, Maharashtra	Coal
3.	Aonla Exp. Bareilly, UP	Fertilizer
4.	Vijaipur Vijaipur, MP	Fertilizer
5.	10th Coke Oven B'ry Bhillai, M.P.	Steel
6.	Polypropylene Plant Vadodara, Gujarat	Chemicals and Petrochemicals
7.	Polybutadiene Proj. Vadodara, Gujarat	-do-
8.	LPG Import Facility Mangalore, Karnataka	Petroleum and Natural Gas
9.	LPG Import Facility Kandla, Gujarat	-do-
10.	Gandhar Dev. Ph. II Gandhar, Gujarat	-do-

List of bottom 10 Major projects having poor performance record

1.	Bagaha - Chitauni	Railway
2.	Dulhasti HEP	Power
3.	Calcutta Underground	Railway
4.	Haldia Fert. Proj.	Fertiliser
5.	Satgram UG	Coal
6.	Talcher - Sambhalp, SER	Railways
7.	Jogighopa Guwahati, NF	Railways
8.	Koel Karo HEP	Power
9.	Kedlawashery	Coal
10.	Yerraguntala Expansion	Heavy Industry

STATEMENT-III

Steps taken by the Government to Streamline for Preparing the Original Estimates and Implementation of Projects

- (i) Two-stage project approval to ensure adequate preparation, environment and other clearances and infrastructure planning at stage-I before a project is finally approved for implementation at stage-II.
- (ii) Intensive monitoring of projects at various levels. This enables the monitoring agencies

to identify constraints and help the management in taking remedial measures.

- (iii) In-depth critical review of the progress by the project authorities and Administrative Ministries.
- (iv) Setting up of Task Force/Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.
- (v) Close follow up by the Department of Programme Implementation, concerned administrative Ministries and project authorities with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.
- (vi) Inter-ministrial coordination and interaction.
- (vii) Emphasis on preparation of realistic project implementation plan.
- (viii) Review by the Committee of Secretaries of the specific projects facing constraints.

World Bank Assistance

1702. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to assist Power Projects in Orissa, Haryana and other States;

(b) the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the assistance proposed to be given to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). World Bank has sanctioned a loan US\$ 2 million each to Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan and a loan US\$ 1.5 million to Bihar, to undertake diagnostic studies for reforming/restructuring the State level power sector in these States with the help of international consultants.

Besides the above Project Preparation Facilities loans, a loan of US \$ 350 million has been negotiated with the World Bank for the Orissa Power Sector Restructuring Project. Requests for such Restructuring Project loans for Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have also been made to the World Bank.

Excise Revenue of Jammu and Kashmir

1703. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the Excise Revenue of Jammu and Kashmir State during the past three years region-wise;

(b) the number of raids conducted and persons apprehended in connection with the distillation and sale of illicit liquor in Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur and Rajouri districts during the said period;

(c) the measures taken to check the increased consumption of liquor especially the illicit one;

(d) the number of Government and private liquor shops and vends that closed down in Kashmir valley and elsewhere in the State in wake of the eruption of militancy, location-wise; and

(e) whether there is any move to reopen such shops/vends?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) The excise revenue recovered on account of liquor in J and K State during the last three years, region-wise, is as under :

(Rupees in lakhs)

	Jammu	Kashmir	Total
1993-94	5010.48	1093.78	6104.26
1994-95	6137.12	1275.27	7412.39
1995-96	8187.02	1320.93	9507.95

(b) The number of raids conducted and persons apprehended in connection with the distillation and sale of illicit liquor in Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua and Rajouri districts is as under :

	Raids conducted	Persons apprehended
1993-94	1200	498
1994-95	1164	555
1995-96	1301	513

(c) To check the menace of illicit distillation, the Excise Department/Police Agency in the State are constantly keeping a close watch over the illicit distillation by conducting extensive raids. As soon as any information is received from any quarter, prompt action is taken by deputing special eradication parties under the supervision of Inspectors/concerned Range Excise and Taxation Officers to apprehend the culprits.

Even in respect of the existing licencees, the State Government has adopted a restrictive policy by raising the licence fee upto ten times in the case of retail vends located in Towns and Notified areas as also two times in the case of vends located in other areas.

(d) District-wise information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The Government and private liquor shops/vends got closed down in Kashmir Valley due to eruption of

militancy during the year 1989-90. None of the licencees has come forward nor made any representation for re-opening his shop in Kashmir Valley. Hence the question of making any move to re-open the shops does not arise.

STATEMENT

Number of Government shops and C.L. Vends Closed due to the Eruption of Militancy

Name of the District	No. of IMFL Vends	C.L. Vends	Hotel with Bar	Bar with Restaurant
1. Srinagar	36	4	8	20
2. Anantnag	10	2	4	1
3. Baramulla	5	4	9	2
4. Kupwara	1	1	0	0
5. Leh	0	1	0	0
6. Doda-Banihal	0	1	0	0
Total	52	13	21	23

Allotment of Land

1704 SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3162 on December 18, 1995 regarding "allotment of land" and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected.

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The National Capital Territory of Delhi had informed this Ministry that One Man Inquiry Committee headed by Shri R.M. Vatsa, IAS (Retd.) was constituted on 16.12.94. No report was submitted by this Committee as the Inquiry Officer had resigned.

No case of sale/transfer has been reported to the authorities. However, there may have been Benami transactions of such land.

As the house sites are allotted at a very nominal lease rent for nine years only and also without realising cost of the land to the weaker sections of the society who do not own any house, by allowing them to transfer or sell these plots, the Government do not want them to be houseless again. Therefore, the permission to sale/transfer is not granted.

[Translation]

TADA

1705. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the TADA cases registered in Jammu and Kashmir during last three years;

(b) the number of persons convicted under the said act;

(c) the number of persons arrested under TADA who were let off or have been released on bail, during the Above period;

(d) the annual expenditure incurred during the last three years in handling the TADA cases in the courts;

(e) the number of TADA accused detenues still in jails; and

(f) the number of TADA cases entrusted to the CBI and the cases which after investigations have been challaned in the court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBARAMONIYAN) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Rise in Poverty

1706. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-items captioned "Rise in poverty, less jobs in post-reform era Survey" appearing in the 'The Observer of Business and Politics', New Delhi dated April 16, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the alternative economic survey for 1995-96 so far as an increase in poverty and a drastic fall in employment growth in the post-reforms period is concerned;

(c) the steps taken to countenance the situation so far as the additional employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes are concerned;

(d) the expected average rate of generation of jobs in the post reform period as compared to the pre-reform period;

(e) whether in view of adequate supply of manpower in the country there is need for labour intensive projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d). The differences between the estimates of poverty by Planning Commission and the alternate Economic Survey are due to the differences in the methodology of estimation adopted. The Planning Commission estimates are based on the methodology given in the Report of the task Force of Projections of Minimum Need and effective Consumption Demand. However, the preliminary estimates of the incidence of poverty measure in terms of the methodology recommended by the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor, and stated to be adopted by the alternate Economic Survey, also do not show a rising trend, over the years. The estimate by this methodology was 39.9% in 1987-88 as compared to the figures of 37.52% reported in the news report. Total annual employment growth in the economy is estimated to have increased to about 7.2 million in 1994-95 as compared to 3.0 million in 1991-94.

(e) and (f). The need for a broad based regionally balanced pattern of industrialisation cannot be over emphasised in India. The more labour intensive is the pattern of growth, the more beneficial it is for the poorest segment of our society. Small and medium enterprises have a major role to play in this respect.

[English]

Drinking Water

1707. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be please to state :

(a) the details of drinking water schemes submitted by the Government of Gujarat for water scarcity areas of Gujarat and fluoride affected villages during the last three years;

(b) the details of such scheme still pending for clearance;

(c) the details of the assistance provided or proposed to be provided for each scheme; and

(d) the time by which the remaining schemes are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The details of drinking water schemes submitted by the Government of Gujarat and the Central assistance approved for each scheme are given in the *Statement*.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of project/ Scheme	Approved Cost (Rs.in lakhs)	Central Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Installation of 11 defluoridation (D.F.) Plants.	85.67	64.25
2.	Installation of 303 D.F. plants in 291 habitations.	1564.88	1173.75
3.	Installation of 3 D.F. plants.	24.773	18.68
4.	Installation of 12 D.F. plants in Mehsana district.	58.85	44.14
5.	5 rural water supply schemes for 117 habitations.	1186.53	889.90
6.	Installation of D.F. plants in 11 habitations.	89.06	66.81
7.	Rural water supply schemes for 24 habitations.	277.64	208.23
8.	Handol regional water supply scheme for 105 habitations.	3287.00	2465.25

Smokeless Chulhas

1708. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was proposal to provide smokeless chulhas to every rural household; and

(b) if so, the details thereof the achievement made so far and targets fixed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) guidelines stipulate that every house constructed under the scheme is provided with a fuel efficient smokeless chulha. Accordingly, since inception till 1995-96 under IAY 29,13,503 houses have been built. Besides, the targets under IAY are fixed on year to year basis. During 1996-97, a target of 11,23,560 houses has been fixed.

Working of CBI

1709. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the

Central Bureau of Investigation came under attack not only from Delhi High Court but also from the hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the recent times;

(b) if so, the action taken to infuse of efficiency and honesty in the CBI;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make CBI an independent agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBARAMONIYAN) : (a) Government are aware that recently the High Court of Delhi in Civil Writ Petition No.789/96 dated 24.5.1996 made some critical observations on the working of the CBI. The Supreme Court confirmed the above orders of the High Court with liberty to the CBI to approach the High Court for expunction/modification of the critical remarks made against it.

(b) On the dismissal of the SLP filed before the Supreme Court against the order of the Delhi High Court in WP (Civil) No.789/96 dated 24.5.96, CBI have complied with the directions of the Delhi High Court in the matter.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The powers of the CBI are derived from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (DSPE Act 1946). These powers enable the CBI to discharge its functions in the scheme of distribution of power between the Centre and the States under the Constitution.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridges

1710. SHRI RAJESH RAJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals regarding construction of bridges on rivers in Bihar under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Land and Houses to Landless

1711. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey of rural landless and homeless labourers in the country particularly in Maharashtra was conducted under Centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) if so, the main findings thereof;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been granted to the State Governments for providing land and houses to such landless labourers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under IRDP, financial assistance inter-alia is provided to landless families for purchase of land. Houses are provided under IAY to rural poor including landless labourers. Since the beginning of IAY in 1985-86 till March, 1995, 29.13 lakh houses have been constructed under IAY in the country with an expenditure of Rs.3641.36 crores.

(d) The question does not arise.

M/s. Noida Power Company

1712. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that M/s Noida Power Company Limited and State Electricity Board had an agreement regarding supply and recovery work in Central Greater Noida area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company had not fully adhered to conditions of the agreement so far; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Ministry for the early recovery of dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Noida Power Company Limited (NPCL) had entered into an agreement with Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) on 15.11.1993 for supply of electrical energy in Greater Noida.

(c) and (d). UPSEB has informed that at the end of January, 1996 an amount of about Rs.18 cores was due from NPCL. NPCL's contractual responsibilities and activities are monitored by Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Development of Delhi

1713. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn a time-bound plan for developing the National Capital Region in accordance with the regional plan policies of reducing the population pressure on Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this goal is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Madam.

The National Capital Region, covering an area of over 32,000 sq.km. comprising NCT Delhi (1483 sq.km.) and parts of the three adjoining States of Haryana (13,413 sq.km.), Rajasthan (4,493 sq.km.) and Uttar Pradesh (10853 sq.km.) is envisaged to be developed in accordance with the policies and programmes enunciated in the Regional Plan 2001 for NCR which is in force since 1989. The Regional plan is a multi sectoral policy framework covering the development of regional infrastructure components of transportation both road and rail, power and telecommunications and also the development of selected townships outside Delhi through extensive land acquisition and provision of internal & external services, housing and economic activities of industries, wholesale trade & commerce. The strategy is for the integrated development of townships alongside the identified Priority towns in the Sub-regions of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh which, with the support of higher order infrastructural facilities, are expected to generate abundant employment opportunities and absorb Delhi-bound potential migrants and consequently reduce the population pressure in Delhi and achieve a balanced, harmonised development of the entire region.

This development strategy is backed-up by an Eighth Plan investment Programme covering the Central and State sectors. While the State sector programmes consist mainly land acquisition and provision of local infrastructure for new townships, those under the Central Sector relate to the development of core infrastructure of rail network, expansion/upgradation of road network, construction of expressways, and better telecommunication facilities throughout the region.

Similar investment planning exercise for the Ninth Five year Plan has also been initiated under the aegis of the Planning Commission whereunder, the Central Ministries of Surface Transport, Railways, Energy and Telecommunications and the Member States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and NCT Delhi are envisaged to structure "NCR Sub Component Plans" for effectively implementing the Regional Plan Programmes within the stipulated time-frame.

Kendriya Bhandar

1714. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the consumer and grocery items are generally not available in the various branches of the Kendriya Bhandar in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto;

(c) whether the items supplied directly by the manufacturers/suppliers to the branches remain in stock and those supplied by the godowns remain out of stock; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to stop the unhealthy and unwanted direct supplies forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). Goods are supplied to the branch Stores as per their requirements. The supply position of the goods at stores is monitored and corrective action is taken wherever necessary.

(c) and (d). Bulk of the items are procured centrally and supplied to the stores through the godowns. There could be occasional shortages in the availability of these goods in the godowns or the stores due to delays on the part of manufacturers/ distributors for various reasons like transportation problem, production hurdles etc. A small number of items mostly manufactured locally are supplied direct to the stores by the approved manufacturers/suppliers after getting the requirements. It is, however, ensured that the stores do not remain out of stock and any build up of excessive inventory is prevented. This marketing and inventory management practice has been found suitable and advantageous to the Kendriya Bhandar and there is no proposal to change it.

Potable Water supply in Andhra Pradesh

1715. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan for providing potable water to all in Andhra Pradesh in view of acute shortage of potable water in the State;

(b) if so, the proposed planning and action taken thereon/target fixed for its achievement; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c). Water supply is primarily a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Government to plan, execute and maintain water supply schemes.

However, the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme provide 50% assistance to State Governments to provide water supply schemes in towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census. No proposal has been received from the State of Andhra Pradesh under this scheme by the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.

The 8th Plan outlay under Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in the State Plan is 295.20 crores. The actual expenditure/outlay for the first four years is as below:-

1992-93	-	60.52 crores (actual)
1993-94	-	56.81 crores -do-
1994-95	-	79.81 crores -do-
1995-96	-	90.93 crores (outlay)

As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, there are 17,777 partially covered habitation in the State and target for 1996-97 is to provide safe water in 3100 habitations. The allocation under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is Rs.66.18 crores for 1996-97, out of which Rs.22.08 crores have been released.

[Translation]

Wind Energy Sources

1716. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of appropriate places selected for Wind Energy generation in National Capital territory of Delhi as on date;

(b) the number of projects sanctioned during the last three years; and

(c) the unit-wise and year-wise amount allocated thereto and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) A minimum annual mean wind speed of 18 Kmph is required for harnessing of wind energy for power generation. According to available data wind speeds in National Capital Territory of Delhi are much lower, on account of which wind power generation is not feasible.

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

[English]

Hydro-Electric Power Projects in Orissa

1717. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Hydro electric power projects under implementation in Orissa;

(b) the target date fixed for the completion of these projects; and

(c) the progress made in respect of upper Indravati and other hydro-electric projects in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Two hydroelectric projects (above 3 MW) are under execution by Orissa Hydro Power Corporation Limited in Orissa. These are the Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project - 600 MW (4x150MW) and the Potteru Hydroelectric Project - 6 MW (2x3 MW).

(b) and (c). Details are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Name of the Project	Scheduled date of commissioning	Present status of works
1	2	3
1. Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project	Unit-I Sept., 1998 Unit-II Jan., 1999 Unit-III May, 1999 Unit-IV Sept. 1999	Most of the civil works relating to dams and dykes have been completed and balance works on head race tunnel, intake structure and Muran dam are in progress. The erection of main turbine generators is under way. The 400 KV switchyard is almost complete and substantial progress has also been made on other electrical works.
2. Potteru Hydroelectric	Unit-I March 1997 Unit-II June 1997	The civil works of the power house.

1	2	3
Project		diversion weir, head race tunnel are under way. The contracts for supply of generator equipment etc. have been awarded and bulk of equipment has already been procured.

CAPART

1718. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects with their locations in Assam sanctioned under CAPART during the last three years; and

(b) project-wise amount sanctioned, released and utilised so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). A Statement giving the details of the projects sanctioned, amount sanctioned and amount released by CAPART to voluntary agencies in Assam during the last three years is enclosed.

CAPART releases the sanctioned amount to the voluntary agency in suitably instalments. On receipt of utilisation certificate for the first instalment of funds, the project is physically evaluated before release of further funds. On completion of the project, the concerned voluntary agency is also required to furnish the utilisation certificate and audited statement of accounts. At this stage, CAPART also conducts final evaluation of the project to ensure that the funds have been utilised properly.

STATEMENT

Details of projects in Assam sanctioned by CAPART during the last 3 years

S.No.	Particulars of the Voluntary agency	Name of Scheme	Amount sanctioned (in Rs.)	Amount released (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1993-94				
1.	Shanti Sadhana Ashram Beltola, Basistha, Dist. Guwahati, Assam.	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	3,60,000/-	3,60,000/-

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Barnisari Yuvak Sangha, P.O. Barnihari, Dist. Nalbari, Assam.	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	1,10,464/-	1,10,464
3.	Swahid Kanaklata Shilpa Kala Kendra, P.O. Kawripathar, Dist. Sonitpur, Assam.	Promotion of Voluntary Action in Rural Development	1,59,500/-	1,59,500/-
4.	Gram Lok Seva Sangh, PO Nizadhamdhama, Dist. Nalbari, Assam	Jawahar Rojgar Yojana	6,20,400/-	-
5.	Barnibari Yuvak Sangh, PO Barnibari, Dist. Nalbari, Assam	Central Rural Saitation Programme	2,02,400/-	-
6.	Aid for Disabled Samiti, P.O. Morigaon, Dist.- Morigaon, Assam.	-do-	1,01,200/-	1,01,200/-
7.	Bahumukhi Krishhi Aur Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Noor Nagar, P.O. Herapoti, Haibargaon, Dist. Nagaon, Assam.	Accelerated Rural Warter Supply Programme	4,86,900/-	92,517/-
8.	Karpungpuli (K) Society P.O./Vill-Chabati, Dist.-Lakhimpur, Assam.	-do-	1,56,250/-	1,56,250/-
9.	Shanti Sadhna Ashram Beltola, Besistha, Dist. Guwahati, Assam.	-do-	5,42,000/-	5,42,000/-
10.	Swahid kankalta Shilpa Kalakendra P.O. Kawri Pathar, Dist. Sonitpur, Assam.	Organisation of Beneficiaries	27,500/-	27,500/-
11.	Pranati Angha Shrihati Vill/P.O./via-Soalkuchi, Dist. Karmrup, Assam.	-do-	27,500/-	27,500/-
12.	Ata Bhawkumari Society Development Association, PO- Sarmtapa, Dist. Barpeta, Assam.	-do-	27,500/-	10,000/-
13.	Northe ast Affected Area Development Society, PO & Vill. Bam Dhekiakhowa, Dist. Jorhat, Assam.	-do-	27,500/-	10,000/-
14.	Makuchi Nabgagran Puthibhard, Vill. Nakuchi, Dist. Barpeta, Assam.	-do-	27,500/-	-
15.	Bahumukhi Krishi Aur Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Noor Nagar, Via Baibarqaon, Dist. Nagaon, Assam.	Watershed Management	4,39,212/-	-
16.	Deshbhakta Rural Development Bhaktar Daba Bazzar, Naligaon Barpeta, Assam	Integrated Rural Development Programme.	1,00,037	57,463/-

1	2	3	4	5
1994-95				
17.	Barkhetri Unnayan Samit, P.O. Mukalamar, Dist. Nalbari, Assam	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	2,55,000/-	
18.	Morigaon Jan Kalyan Samiti, At/PO Morigaon, Dist. Nowgong, Assam.	Jawahar Raozagar Yojana	4,02,000/-	4,02,000/-
19.	Help For Common People Samiti, Vill. Gunamara, PO Jaluguti, Dist. Morigaon, Assam.	-do-	3,08,200/-	3,08,200/-
20.	All India Rural Women Uplift- ment Association, Lanka Gaon, PO Laknka, Dist. Nowgong, Assam	Central Rural Sanitation Programme	1,02,200/-	1,01,200/-
21.	Boloma Yava Vikas Kendra At & PO Doloma, Via Teok, Dist. Jorhat, Assam.	-do-	1,13,850/-	
22.	Voluntary Health Association of Assam, Lakhimi Path, R.G. Baruam Road, Guwahati, Dist. Guwahati, Assam.	-do-	2,20,000/-	2,20,000/-
23.	All India Centre For Urban and Rural Development Bakakhal, Dist. Guwahati, Assam.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme	2,76,200/-	1,43,900/-
24.	Anchalik Gram Unnayan Parishad, At/PO Jania, Dist. Barpeta, Assam.	-do-	2,47,500/-	1,23,750
25.	Gram vikas Haihargaon, Dhing Road, P.O. Sada, Dist. Nowgong, Assam.	-do-	2,55,600/-	
1995-96				
26.	Vidya Vikas Kandra, Up floor, New Natraj Hotel, G.S. Road, Dipur, Guwahati, Assam.	Promotion of Voluntary Action In Rural Development	2,98,200	2,40,200/-
27.	Shanti Sadhan Ashram, "Shantivan", Besistha, Beltole, Guwahati, Assam.	Organisation of Beneficiaries	1,57,500/-	1,57,500/-
28.	Bahumukhi Krishi Aur Samaj Kalyan Samity, Chota Rupathi, Noor Nagar, Harapati, Haibar Gaon, Nagaon, Assam.	Central Rural Sanitation Programme	2,92,800/-	2,92,800/-
29.	Bartezpur Argagami Puthibharal Kukuramara, Kamrun dist., Assam.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme	1,15,623/-	1,15,623/-
30.	Jhalpuguti Agragami Mahila Samity, Jaluguti, Morigaon.	Central Rural Sanitation Programme	1,09,743/-	1,09,743/-

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Manav Kalyan Samiti Rajyeswarpur Part VI, Katagaon, Hailakandi, Cashar.	Central Rural Sanitation Programme	1,16,713/-	59,357/-
32.	Janapriya Club, B. onbhugia, Charchibahi, Morigaon	-do-	2,33,150/-	1,18,075/-
33.	Global Health Immunisation Rangaloo, Jammarpur, Nagaon.	Accelerated Rural Water Programme	1,71,509/-	-
34.	Tamilpur Anchalik Garmdan Sangha, Kumarikata, Nalbari, Assam.	Promotion of Voluntary Action in Rural Development	1,56,000/-	-
35.	Total Rural Development Project, Debachara, Barma, Nalbari.	Rural Housing	3,38,000/-	2,02,800/-
36.	Pranati Sangha, Shrihati, Dist. Kamrup.	Central Rural Sanitation Programme	2,49,950/-	1,24,975/-
37.	Barnibari Yubak Sangha, Barnibari, Barnibari, Nalbari, Assam.	-do-	2,29,425/-	1,14,712/-
38.	Assam Gandhi Samark Nidhi, Marami Paja, Ulubari, Guwahati.	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	2,30,000/-	1,75,600/-
39.	Manav Shakti Jagaran Gopal Bazar, Nalbari.	Central Rural Sanitation Programme.	2,06,240/-	-
40.	Chandmari Youth Club, Leela Chaila, Karimganj.	-do-	1,57,940/-	82,160/-
41.	ambikagiri Nemorial Trust Silpukhuri, Guwahati, Assam.	Promotion of Voluntary Action in Rural Development	1,25,120/-	83,320/-
42.	SHELTER, HQ: Chokpot, West Garoo Hills, Meghalaya Project Site is at Kamrup, Assam.	Rural Housing	4,29,502-50	-
43.	SHELTER, HQ: Chokpot, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya Project Site is at Kamrup, Assam.	-do-	4,29,502-50	-
44.	SHELTER, HQ: Chokpot, West, Garo Hills, Meghalaya Project site is at Kamrup, Assam.	-do-	4,13,595/-	-
45.	Parbatipur Bowakata Samitee Merbil, Harbuti, Lakhimpur, Assam.	Rural Housing	4,29,502-50	-
46.	Parbatipur Bowakata Samitee Merbil, Harmuti, Lakhimpur, Assam.	-do-	4,29,502-50	-
47.	Parbatipur Bowakata Samitee Merbil, Harmuti, Lakhimpur, Assam.	-do-	4,13,595/-	-
48.	Morigaon Mahila Mehfil Morigaon, Assam-5	-do-	4,29,502-50	-
49.	Morigaon Mahila Mehfil Morigaon, Assam-5	-do-	4,29,502-50	-
50.	Morigaon Mahila Mehfil Morigaon, Assam-5	-do-	4,13,595/-	-

1	2	3	4	5
51.	Arunudaya Vikas Samity, Jagibhaktagaon, Mayang, Morigaon-11, Assam.	Central Rural Sanitation Programme	2,29,425/-	-
52.	Global Health Immunisation and Population Control Organisation, Rangaloo Jummarmur, Nagaon, Assam.	-do-	2,29,425/-	
53.	Gram Lok Seva Sangha Dhamdhama, Niz, Dhamdhama, Nalbari, Assam.	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas.	2,42,900/-	-
54.	Harijan Sevak Sangh, Kingsway, Delhi (Kamrup dist.).	Promotion of voluntary Action in Rural Development	7,42,700/-	4,20,000/-

Encroachment

1719. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the hectares of public lands belonging to the CPWd, L&DO and other departments and public undertakings under the Ministry of Urban Affairs which have been illegally encroached/Built upon;

(b) the number of Government projects and development works being held up on account of this and the amount of money involved in it; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) About 37 hectares of land belonging to L&DO and about 644 hectares of land of L&DO transferred to the Delhi Development Authority for care and maintenance are under encroachment. About 39.8 hectares of land belonging to the C.P.W.D. are also encroached. No land belonging to any of the public sector enterprises under the Ministry has been encroached upon.

(b) A project for construction of general pool housing along Sardar Patel marg, sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs.6.00 crores has been held up due to enraochment.

(c) The following steps have been taken to contain prevent encroachment :-

- (i) Fencing and boundary walls are being provided along vacant land vulnerable to encroachment
- (ii) Field Officers have been asked to be vigilant and take prompt action to identify encroachments and get them removed.

12.01 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Before I ask any Member to speak, listen to me, please.

[Translation]

Yesterday an all party-leaders meeting was convened. It was discussed therein as to how issues for zero hour should be selected and how the members be called. It was decided in the meeting that escisting arrangements should continue. Shri Arvind Sharma...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Sir, the Members of Parliament from Orissa are sitting on a *dharana* at the Main Gate of Parliament House. The hon. Railway Minister is here. He should speak to them...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have called Shri Arvind Kumar Sharma to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry to say this. I have already called Shri Arvind Kumar Sharma to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, we abide by your decision. The point is that about 15 to 20 hon. Members of Parliament from Orissa are sitting on

* Not Recorded.

a dharna outside the main Gate of Parliament House. The hon. Railway Minister has met the representatives of all the States. Everybody is satisfied. I will request the hon. Minister to call them sometime, according to this convenience, and have a meeting with them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Is it for the first time, according to them, that Orissa has been neglected?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : May I assure Shri Santosh Mohan Dev and Shri Manoranjan Bhakta that we shall have talks with the hon. Members sitting an 'dharna'...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you a chance.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Orissa is always neglected by Railway Ministers. Last year also, Orissa was neglected by the Railway Minister.

[Translation]

DR. ARVIND SHARMA (Sonepat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Haryana, on the one hand, is facing flood devastations and on the other, drought like conditions are prevailing there. This is likely to have very adverse effect on the ensuing paddy crop. In some areas in Haryana like Rai, 90% Kharif crop account for paddy crop. In some crores areas Gohana and Julana it is 70% Baroda also has 60% paddy growing area. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to issue directions to Haryana Government to supply maximum amount of power to paddy growing areas. In some industrialised blocks, the local executive Engineer, S.D.O. and J.Es are supplying maximum electricity to the Industry, but are neglecting the requirement of poor farmers. I would like to warn that if electricity supply is not accelerated to paddy growing areas, the paddy crop is also going to meet the fate of sugarcane crop. Otherwise also, the paddy crop is going to suffer because people are losing faith in this Government. I would, therefore, request that maximum electricity be made available during the growing season and some check should be exercised on the offices who deny legitimate share of electricity received from outside the state to farmers and favour industries.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER (Hathras) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Chherat Agro-India factory Aligarh, for which the Central Government has given licence, will be the Asia's biggest slaughter house. Thousands of cows and other animals will be slaughtered there and

beef meat will be exported. This slaughter house will pollute the environment and spread many diseases. It will also create scarcity of live-stock...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, it is improper to approach you when you are in the Chair. He is a new member, you have to kindly advise him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you for the advice.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER : The local people stage demonstrations dharnas daily and submit memoranda to the state and central Governments through local district officers but nothing has been done so far. Through you, Sir, I demand of the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Diler, it is not under rule 377 which you may read, you be brief in putting your contention.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed him to speak. Let him has his say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER : Thousands of cows will be slaughtered daily in the Asia's biggest slaughter House set up at Chherat Village in Aligarh. I demand, through you, Sir, that the licence of this slaughter house should be cancelled and the factory be closed otherwise, the people of Aligarh may be forced to take any step...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will allow you. I have allowed Shrimati Krishna Bose.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In this way nothing can be heard.

[English]

I have allowed her. Let her speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, First of all, I cannot compete in shouting with the hon. Members. Will the hon. Members give me one minute as I cannot compete in shouting with the hon. Members?

Through you, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to a life and death problem which has arisen out of the arsenic poisoning of drinking water in West Bengal. It is a very urgent matter. We get agitated over sudden deaths and sudden murders, but this is a slow poisoning which is going on for quite some time. The

Asia Arsenic Network got a survey conducted which says that the drinking water situation in West Bengal is the biggest calamity in the world. This is, as per the survey conducted by the Asia Arsenic Network.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the House through you that arsenic has been detected in ground-water in South 24-Parganas and six other districts of my parliamentary constituency. Now it has affected 37,000 square kilometres and more than 34 million people. The School of Environmental Studies in Jadavpur University has also carried out a survey. They have found that 200,000 people - it is a mind-boggling statistics - have been afflicted with arsenic-induced diseases.

I have horrifying pictures of the diseases and I would like to later lay it on the Table, so that the hon. Ministers can see it.

Now I will request the Deputy-Speaker to direct the Government to take some urgent action in order to give a short term relief to the people because the arsenic tubewells have been closed, but no alternative arrangement has been made. Also a long term solution is need, so that quantities of good safe drinking water can be given to the people through environmentally sound watershed projects.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next, Shri P. Upendra.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijaywada) : I will give my chance to Dr. Y.S. Raja Sekhara Reddy. He will raise the matter. Both of us have given notice on the same issue.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : I am on a point of order, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY (Cuddapah) : I am sorry to bring to the notice of this House the total breakdown of law and order situation in Andhra Pradesh. Last night one Mr. Obul Reddy, the brother of ex-MLA by name Shri Ramana Reddy...

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Law and order question is a State subject...*(Interruptions)*

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : The issue of Bombay Blasts was raised in this House. Bombay Blasts issue was a law and order question. Was it not raised in this House?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : It may be that law and order is a State problem. But there is nothing unusual in raising it here. We are worried about Bihar, we are worried about UP, what is wrong in raising this issue? He is entitled to raise it. This is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : I am asking a straight question. Was the issue of Bombay Blasts not raised in this House? similarly Congress workers have

been blasted away...*(Interruptions)*. Last night one Mr. Obul Reddy and two others were brutally murdered in Hyderabad...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You see, law and order is a state subject, still you can put forth your views in a non-controvertial manner to avoid such a situation.

[English]

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : I know Sir. I am aware what is a State subject and what is not a State subject...*(Interruptions)* Atrocities on Harijans and weaker sections are not only State subjects, but they are also concurrent subjects.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Right you are.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Things like Bombay Blasts were also discussed in this House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That is separate.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please have your say.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Last night one Mr. Obul Reddy, the brother of an ex-MLA by name Shri Ramana Reddy and two others were brutally killed in Hyderabad city. Three days back one Mr. Pinnamaneni Balakrishna, an INTUC leader was killed in Gudivada. One week back in a place called Choutupalli near Gudivada, Krishna District, one other Congressman belonging to a weaker section was killed. Two weeks back three congressmen belonging to the Scheduled Caste were killed in Kodu Mandal, Venugopalapuram of Krishna District. Three weeks back in a village called Chintalajutu in Cuddapah District two Congressmen were killed. Four weeks back in Tripurantakam Mandal of Prakasam District two Congressmen were killed...*(Interruptions)* Sir, five weeks ago, one Madduru Subba Reddy, an ex-MP, who was a Member of this august House was killed. An 82-years old man and an ex-MP was killed in Kurnool District brutally and six weeks ago, seven Congressman were killed in one go in a village called Ranangipuram Prakasam District. Eight weeks ago, one Sesha Reddy, an ex-MLA was killed brutally in Kurnool District...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : And earlier to that one sitting MP, Shri Magunta Subbarama Reddy...*(Interruptions)* He was killed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you demand?

(Interruptions)

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : I am coming to that. Let me explain.

Also, congressmen are being killed not in ordinary circumstances, but they are being blown away in blasts...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : This is the result of the support that you are giving them...*(Interruptions)*

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Also, a blast took place in Anantapur District blowing nine Congressmen away...*(Interruptions)* What is happening? These blasts were not carried out by the naxalites. These blasts were conducted by rival political factions with the tactical support of the State Government. What are we to do? They are totally one-sided. Honest and upright police officers are being relegated to the archives. They are not being given proper posting...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : They are behaving in a one-sided manner and are foisting false cases on Congressmen...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Let him continue...*(Interruptions)*

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Policy are resorting to killing innocent people. Police themselves were indulging in encounters. One Sahul, one Chalapathi and five others were killed in individual encounters...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude in one more minute.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : In Cuddapah District, the situation is so bad and so atrocious. Law and order are just not being followed. Even I myself had to go to the High Court during the course of the last general elections to ask the High Court to give one simple direction...*(Interruptions)* There is nothing extraordinary or abnormal about it. I just asked the High Court on three different occasions during the course of the elections to please send all those people who have been arrested by the local police within twenty-four hours to the Designated Court...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude. Or, I will have to call the next Member to speak.

(Interruptions)

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : In spite of the directions of the High Court, the police did not do that. In another place called Panugonda...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I now call Shri Kanshi Ram. Please sit down. That is all.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, we request the Home Minister to see the situation. My only demand is that the Home Minister to see the situation. My only demand is that the Home Minister should...*(Interruptions)*

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Yesterday, when a delegation met the Chief Minister, even the Chief Minister, I believe, expressed his inability...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. You have taken so much time.

(Interruptions)

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : The Central Government has got no other option except to dismiss the present State Government. The State Government has to be dismissed immediately...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is all. Please sit down. The Home Minister is not here.

(Interruptions)

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : It is a part of the Constitution of India to protect everybody's life. It is definitely a sacred duty. In order to infuse some confidence in the minds of the common man, please send the Home Minister there. Please direct the Home Minister to go to the State of Andhra Pradesh. Also, we demand the dismissal of this Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I call Shri Kanshi Ram. Please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Somebody has to answer me. Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have taken enough time.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, nothing will go on record, if he speaks further. Please be seated now. Nothing is going on record. This is enough. Why do you not sit down? This is not good. Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, it is upto you.

12.20 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Y.S. Raja Sekhara Reddy and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him sit down; I do not mind.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : It is a very urgent matter. It is a very important matter. During the last one week many people were killed in Andhra Pradesh. It is a very serious issue and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should react...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you allow Shri Kanshi Ram to speak?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, It is a very serious issue. The Minister of parliamentary Affairs should react. So many people are being killed in Andhra Pradesh. Every day we hear some Congressmen or the other being killed in Andhra Pradesh. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here and he should react to this....(Interruptions)

12.22 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Yelliah Nandi and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please be seated. Let me have my say.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I request the hon. members who are sitting here to go back to their seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let me speak a few words.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I request the hon. Members who are sitting here to go back to their seats. First you vacate and then only I can direct the Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : First you vacate.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentlemen, I will not allow anybody to speak unless they vacate.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nobody will be allowed to speak. Even the Minister will not be allowed to speak unless they vacate.

(Interruptions)

12.24 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Y.S. Raja Sekhara Reddy, Shri Yelliah Nandi and other hon. Members went back to their seats.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, you please speak.

* Not Recorded.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): The Government has taken note of whatever has been said in the House. My only request to the hon. Members is that we can discuss this issue separately after the lunch break...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : You just say that Home Minister will make an inquiry into the issue and would report the Matter to the House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANSHI RAM (Hoshiarpur) : Yesterday, the Bahujan Samajwadi Party had convened a meeting of its state Body, and therefore, our members could not attend the House. A very vital issue relating to our party was discussed in the House yesterday in our absence. A murderous assault was made on Miss Mayawati, the General Secretary of BSP...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Why is this issue being raised in the House again ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have not heard him. You have jumped to the conclusion without hearing him ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KANSHI RAM : I would like to say only one thing. Yesterday, it was said in this House...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Let Mr. Kanshi Ram ji speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him has his say.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : please listen for a moment.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : This is a wrong practice.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down and listen what he has to say.

[English]

Will you please listen to me?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him speak first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is no way. He has not had his say and you have drawn your own conclusions. Let him speak first.

SHRI KANSHI RAM : Yesterday, it was said here that the state matter would not be discussed in this House. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Uttar Pradesh is under President Rule...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is not proper. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANSHI RAM : The Uttar Pradesh Budget will be discussed here and passed by this House. This will not create a new precedent. The Budgets of other states are discussed and passed there, but the Budget of a State under Presidents Rule is discussed and passed here in this House. This does not set a new practice ... (Interruptions)

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : This is the custom of this House.

SHRI KANSHI RAM : The Ramesh Chandra Committee Report should be laid on the Table of this House and discussed here. We had said on the day Shri Deve Gowda sought vote of confidence in this House that their Government would not be able to contain unruly elements... (Interruptions) The Government that encourages anti-social elements. Cannot check these elements. The question of providing encouragement to anti-social elements in Uttar Pradesh is of utmost importance.

Murderous assaults were perpetrated on 2nd June on the Women who was to take up the office of the Chief Minister on the 3rd June and official machinery was used. The person who misused official machinery earlier is misusing it today also under for shelter of United Front Government. I would not like to name him. The officer who managed assault on Mayawati is special secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The machinery under Home Ministry is misused on large scale. Therefore, it is necessary to lay the Report on the Table of this House and discuss it.

Yesterday, we were not present here and it was said that it would create a new precedent. This is not a new practice, it is an old practice. The anti-social elements were getting patronage for a long time and Mayawati was made Chief Minister to contain these elements. It is of paramount importance to discuss this report in this House. I shall make a fervent appeal that the Ramesh Chandra Report be tabled here and some conclusions reached after discussing it.

* Not Recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would like to remind that this issue was discussed yesterday also. It was said that it would be a new practice. Whether all the reports of the State will be discussed here? It is not so.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Gentleman let me have my say.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you allow me to say a few words?

[Translation]

The state being under President's Rule, I allowed it as a special case. I had said that it would not create a precedent and reports of other states would not be tabled here. It was an exception because the state is under President Rule and the centre is involved and therefore, the report should be tabled here.

(Interruptions)

[English]

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is an atrocity on a woman and an atrocity on person belonging to Schedule Caste... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am an a point of order... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House towards a very important matter. This is related to the security of railway passengers. The Hon. Railway Minister is sitting here... (Interruptions) Please listen to me carefully because the issue is related to the safety of hon. Members also... (Interruptions). That is why I want you to listen to me carefully.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the office of the Chief Mining Advisor to the Railway council is located at Dhanbad which has been functioning since the East Indian Railway of British period. Its functions are to protect and maintain the rail-tracks running over the mines. There are about 5000 coal mines in the country over which railway lines pass. This office detects whether there is any danger to the railway tract because of underground mining or razing of fire in the mines around 45 metres area on either side of railway sidings. These people penetrate into the mines to do the job by endangering their lives... (Interruptions)

[English]

At this stage Shri Ilyas Azmi and some other Hon'ble Members came and sat on the floor near the table.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Please listen to me for a moment. More than sixty percent passenger trains pass over these coal mines. Recently, a World Bank report has indicated that railway lines passing through many coal mines are dangerous for example the Grant Trunk coal runs through Shampur colliary from Thapar nagar station, the Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express pass through Kankani colliary, main T.C. line near Loyabad station. Therefore, the safety of these railway lines is in danger. So, a conspiracy to wind up the above office is being hatched at a time when these lines need protection. Secondly, the Railway board has wound up this office in March and 17 posts of senior officers are lying vacant. This indicates that the Railway board is bent upon abolishing this office. Who will guarantee the safety of life and property of passengers in case any major accident occurs on these railway tracks? The railways will be responsible for the occurrence of any accident there. I will, therefore, request the Railway Minister to intervene and thwart the efforts of winding up of this office...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please tell me, what is your issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I do not know why they are sitting. I do not know what is their demand.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to me. I want to know why these people are sitting there.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The ruling given by me yesterday stands.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As long as they are sitting here in the well nothing would go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is not point of order during zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

12.36 hrs.

At this stage, Ilyas Azmi and other hon. Members went back to their seats

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Papers to laid on the Table of the House.

12.36½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited. Gurgaon for 1994-95 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 1994-95.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Audit General thereon.

[Placed in Libaray. See No. LT. 155/96]
- (b) (i) Statement regarding Reviewing by the Government of the working of the Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited, Bulandshar, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited, Bulandshahr for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.156/96]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited Mumbai, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Three statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-157/96]

**Notification Under sub section (3) of Section 3
of the Agricultural Produce
(Grading and Marking Act, 1937)**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

a copy of the Bristles Grading and Marking (Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hind and English versions) published in Noticification No. G.S.R., 215 in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 1996 uder sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.

[Placed in the Library See No. L.T.158/96]

**Notification under section 10 of the Oilfields
(Regulation and Development) Act, 1948**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Petroleum and Natural Gas (Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hind and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 152 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1996 under section 10 of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948

[Placed in the Library See No. L.T. 159/96]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 257(E) (Hindi and English Versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1996 notifying the basis on which the Central Government may be prepared to consider proposals for prospecting or Mining operations in any specified area, issued under provision of sub-rule (3) of Rule 5 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959

[Placed in the Library See No. L.T. 160/96]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :-

- (i) the Kerosene (Restriction on use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) (Amendment) Order, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 126 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 1996
- (ii) The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) (Amendment) Order, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 127(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 1996

[Placed in the Library See No. L.T. 161/96]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

12.39 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Satyajit Singh Dulipsinh Gaekwad came and sat on the floor near the Table

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Ahmedabad telephones are out of order for the last one month...(Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, the telephone services in Ahmedabad are out of order for more than a month...(Interruptions) This is because of quarrel between two agencies...(Interruptions) Sir, please give me two minutes time to make my submissions...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am on a different point. First you permitted zero Hour; then you went through the Papers to be laid on the Table of the House and then again you are coming back to Zero Hour...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is not zero Hour. Zero Hour is over...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am on a very very serious matter...(Interruptions)

12.39 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Satyajit Singh Dulipsinh Gaekwad went back to his seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up the motion for Election to Committee.

12.39½ hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Delhi Development Authority

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 5(2) (h) of the Delhi Development Act, 1957, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Advisory Council of the

Delhi Development Authority, for a term of four years, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 5(2) (h) of the Delhi Development Act, 1957, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Advisory Council of the Delhi Development Authority, for a term of four years, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Matters under Rule 377.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, he is on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is the issue that he wants to raise?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : My point of order is, earlier we used to have some procedure.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the business before the House is, Matters under Rule 377. Have you got any point of order on that?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Yes. Earlier, the practice of the House was that, in the interest of the people, very important issues for which notices had already been given - be it for raising a matter during Zero Hour, under Rule 377 or such other occasion - were allowed to be raised in the House. We find that now the Zero Hour and other such occasions are being used in such a way that we are not able to raise important national issues in the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. This is not the case.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Yes, Sir, this is so because we want to raise certain important issues but we have not been given the opportunity to raise them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no point of order. Yes, Mr. Rawat.

12.41 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) Need to declare Uttranchal in U.P. as a Tribal Area

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, none districts of Uttranchal of

Uttar Pradesh are hilly areas which consist of forests, snow-clad hills and glaciers.

The life in this hilly area depends on forests where only 3% of the total area is cultivable and no irrigations facilities are available. The crops are grown on small fields cut out of hills and foodgrains suffice only for few days. The agriculture totally depends on rains and is uneconomical.

Animal husbandry is another source of livelihood which now becoming difficult because of lack of pastures. Most of the tribes of the region depend on forests and the entire region is tribal. Many parts of Himalayan region have already been declared as tribal areas.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to declare Uttranchal as 'tribal area' and provide some facilities to the people there as are available to the people of other tribal areas.

(ii) Need to lay guidelines for telecasting programmes on T.V.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA (Chandauli) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Delhi has banned the telecast of adult films in any language and on any channel and from any centre of Doordarshan. No sponsored programmes or serials are to be telecast without the approval of Censor Board. The private Channels in the country have also been asked to comply with these directions. Obtaining of 'U' certificate from Censor Board has been made compulsory for telecast of entertainment and advertisement based films. The guidelines have to be followed scrupulously in regard to telecast of exposure of women and songs having dual meanings. Cable operators have been warned not to show any vulgar films through their network. The court has directed the Government to lay down guidelines for official programmes.

I shall request the Central Government to frame, programme guidelines and implement the above directions in letter and spirit at the earliest.

(iii) Need to supply more electricity to Gujarat to meet acute shortage of electricity in Chhota Udaipur

SHRI N.J. RATHWA (Chhota Udaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Gujarat Particularly my Parliamentary constituency Chhota Udaipur, a predominantly tribal area, is facing acute power shortage. The people are facing great hardship and industrial units are facing closure. The farmers are facing problems because of this shortage. The people of Gujarat are staging 'dharnas' at different places in protest against erratic supply of electricity in the scorching heat.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government arrange for supply of power as per its requirement.

(iv) Need to set up A Telephone Exchange at Nudadiha, Mayurbhanj District, Orissa.

[English]

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA (Mayurbhanj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Nudadiha G.P. under Kaptipada Block in the Mayurbhanj District, my constituency, in Orissa is having majority of tribal people. Many people of this village have registered themselves for telephone connections long back but they are still to get connections. The people of Nudadiha face acute problem in case of emergencies, as the nearest phone available to the people of Nudadiha is more than 10 km away. There is also a need for a separate Exchange which will facilitate the people.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to immediately sanction telephone connections to the people of Nudadiha and set up telephone exchange urgently, also in Baisinga and Rajrangpur in Mayurbhanj District.

(v) Need to provide better communication facilities in Jahanabad District, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an important matter under Rule 377. Jahanabad district was created on 1st August 1986 keeping in view the backwardness of the area and the area being terrorist prone. In this district speed post and fax facilities are not available and many blocks do not have even STD facility.

The Government had given an assurance for providing STD facility in 1996 in Kurtha block but it has not been made functional so far. Karpi block has also not been provided STD facility till now.

The Central Government is, therefore, requested to make arrangements immediately for providing speed post and fax facilities in Jahanabad district and STD facility in Kurtha and Karpi blocks.

[English]

(vi) Need for construction of pontoon bridge at Gaiauli Bara Naoghat in Fatehpur district, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I want to raise the following important matter under rule 377. Thousands of people use daily the chilla pontoon bridge and Dadi pontoon bridge over the Yamuna river between Fatehpur and Banda district of Uttar Pradesh but during the rains, these bridges are dismantled and people face a lot of difficulties. It is necessary to provide pontoon bridges at Ogasi Naoghat, Ichadar, Bmdore Naoghat and Galoli

Bara Naoghat and a pucca bridge over the Yamuna at chilla ghat and Dadighat. I request the Central Government to take steps in this direction so as to provide transit facilities to thousands of people of the area.

12.45 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

(vii) Need to review the proposal for providing satellite transmission uplinking facility in India

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, speculation is rife in Indian media circles over the reported visit of Rupert Murdoch to India recently. It is widely reported that Newscorp, owned by Murdoch has mooted a proposal for setting up an uplinking facility for their TV transmission channel in Karnataka. Newscorp is having a substantial investment and operations in Hong Kong and it plans to pull out in time before Hong Kong ceases to be an independent British Protectorate by the end of 1997. Indian media circles - both electronic and print - have expressed apprehensions over this move. Their fears are based on Murdoch proposal which has predominant commercial overtones, and the track record of his concern for our cultural values and sensibilities. This will have adverse impact on the viable operations of existing channels. Starting from electronic media, Newscorp would ultimately stake a claim for print media also which would encourage Doordarshan and other indigenous operations to expand. It is also feared that the uplinking proposal will involve security considerations and hazards.

Unlike Singapore, Hong Kong and Philippines, we have a rigid and regulated uplinking policy. Though these countries have made a fortune by liberalising uplinking facilities, they have strict control over downlinking facilities to preserve their national interest and cultural identity. Presently our downlinking facilities are not regulated. Anti-Indian propoganda is being beamed into India by overseas satellites.

The proposal envisages leasing out an expansive area of more than 8000 acres. Our activist lobbies are certain to take up this matter as a threat to pollute our cultural and ethnic values.

I would, therefore, request the Government to clarify the position in this regard.

(viii) Need to include Khatta and Jaunpuri adivasis in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the people of Naugaon and Purola,

Mori development block (jabna valley and Tons valley) of Uttar Kashi district and Ravalta and Jaunpuri people of Thathur development block of Tehri-Garhwal have been demanding since 1953 their inclusion in the list of scheduled Tribes. The teams of senior officers of U.P. Government had been visiting these areas from time to time. They had recommended that the tribes of Japua tons valley and Jaunpur should be given the same benefits as are being given to the tribals of Jaunsar Bawar in the plains of Dehradun.

Sir, the demand of the tribals of Jaunsar areas which is adjacent to plains were accepted in 1967 but the Jaunpur area of Uttar Kashi and Tehri-Garhwal was left out from being listed. In June 1984, the U.P. Government after conducting a thorough survey of the area, had recommended to the Central Government the inclusion of Ravalta and Jaunpuri tribes in the list of scheduled tribes. In 1989, the committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Home Minister had also recommended inclusion of Jaunpuri caste in the list of scheduled Tribe but the same could not be approved. The Central Government is requested to include immediately these castes in the list of scheduled tribes keeping in view the situation of these areas.

12.53 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF THE BUILDING AND OTHER
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
(REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND
CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)
THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996:

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS (REGULATION OF
EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF
SERVICE) BILL

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF THE BUILDING AND OTHER
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
WELFARE CESS THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996.

AND

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS' WELFARE CESS BILL

MR. SPEAKER : Regarding item Nos. 7 to 10, we had an all-party meeting this morning where we have agreed on the amendments moved by the various hon. Members and the Government have agreed to bring official amendments on that. So the decision of the Party leaders is that we would postpone the discussion on this so that the Government can come with appropriate amendments by tomorrow. So, I will permit the Minister to move the motion.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That further discussion on Statutory Resolution re: Disapproval of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Third Ordinance, 1996, Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill and Statutory Resolution re: Disapproval of the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Third Ordinance, 1996, and Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Bill, be postponed till the next day."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That further discussion on Statutory Resolution re: Disapproval of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Third Ordinance, 1996, Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill and Statutory Resolution re: Disapproval of the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Third Ordinance, 1996, and Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Bill, be postponed till the next day."

The motion was adopted.

12.54 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF THE COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT)
THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996

AND

COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT)
BILL

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we go to Item Nos. 11 and 12.

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava - not present.

Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra - not present.

Shri Radha Mohan Singh - not present.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would request that this matter may kindly be referred to a Select Committee. Why I am making this request is that the original Bill which is there has got identical or similar analogous provisions

which are contained in one of the most important Bills which is going to come, namely the Pension and Provident Fund Bill. Now, that has been referred to a Select Committee by Rajya Sabha... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) Did he move the motion or not?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, he is moving his motion.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Is it so? I think he has not moved his motion. He has started with the Select Committee. Has he moved his motion?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I move my motion. He is on a technical point.

His technical point is correct. I beg to move :

"That this House disapproves of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996 (No.22 of 1996) promulgated by the President on 20 June, 1996."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have submitted earlier, the power of Ordinance-making given under Article 213 of the Constitution is a rare power which is given to the hon. President of India to be exercised in matter of grave urgency on satisfaction that there is an urgency and the House is not in Session. One after another, now, you will find that the Third Ordinance is coming. The first Ordinance was allowed to lapse. The second Ordinance was allowed to lapse. And now the third Ordinance is coming in the form of a Bill in order to live.

Sir, the point is that when the Parliament meets thrice in a year - at least three times a year normally - where is the occasion of bringing three Ordinance one after another? Is it not a serious lapse, dereliction of duty, constitutional violation, flagrant and clear contravention of constitutional provisions? Normally the Legislature has got this power. The Parliament has got this power. That means that after having a full-fledged debate on all the provisions - after having the First Reading, Second Reading and Third Reading - the matter is considered and the Bill is passed. Then, it goes to the President for the purpose of his Assent. Now, they want to bypass all this. It is a *fait accompli* that they want to put this legislation without any discussion, without any debate, without any dialogue and without expression of views? This actually is the antithesis of democracy. The democratic process, the Parliament process, and the Parliamentary democracy contemplates that all legislations should be brought in the House and there must be a full-fledged debate where the Members having different shades of opinion can express their opinion and move their Amendments. Just now, Sir, you have seen how, in the Construction Workers Bill, the Amendments are being accepted by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you unhappy about it?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am very happy about it. But what I am saying is that by bringing the Ordinance, they have already inflicted some injury which could not have been there if the Bill had been brought originally. Therefore, Sir, I am opposing this Bill firstly on this ground, namely, that this Ordinance-making power is being abused, misused. So, this Ordinance should not be allowed and it must be rejected.

Sir, my second ground for opposing this Bill is this. The Bill and the Ordinance are taken together and discussed. Therefore, what I am submitting is that there is a great deal of controversy going on regarding matters of Provident Fund and Pension to the labour in this country. We have got a legislation which is going to be considered by this House in which the question is whether the Provident Fund Scheme should be converted into a Pension Scheme, or the Family Pension provision which was there should now be substituted. Many trade unions in this country have opposed it. The Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh has opposed it. Many others have opposed it. Almost all of them have opposed it. Their view was that this would be an exploitation of labour. This would be against the interest of labour. This would not be help progressive social welfare legislation. This would be a retrograde or a reactionary step which should not be taken. On the one hand, they say that they have got a Common Minimum Programme in which they are here for upliftment of labour, the poor and the downtrodden people and, on the other hand, they are even reversing the benefits which were already there.

13.00 hrs.

Therefore, I am submitting that as Rajya Sabha has sent it for the consideration of the Select Committee, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider it objectively. I am asking her to consider it not because I have raised this point and not because it has been raised from the Opposition but because sitting here we must have an objective consideration of all the matters. The objectivity would be to send it to the Select Committee as has been done in Rajya Sabha.

Even otherwise when main legislation would come in Rajya Sabha and if it is passed now then there will be a conflict between the two. There will be contradiction and there will be a paradox. Therefore, in order to have consistency in the interest of labour, I would appeal to the hon. Minister to kindly refer it to the Select Committee and so far as the Ordinance is concerned, it must be rejected.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948, be taken into consideration"

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.06 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at Six minutes Past Fourteen of the clock)

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Sir, I am on a point of information. The discussion on Railway Budget is being stalled daily. Whether it will be taken up today and if so, at what time? We must have some information in this regard so that we are able to pass it on to our hon'ble members, otherwise, they are making an impression that the discussion on Railway Budget is being stalled deliberately. We may not get time then and therefore, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is done deliberately but I myself do not have any information till now.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why I say that members must have information as to when discussion on Railway Budget will be taken up...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Or the trains have been "postponed" because of rains?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think discussion on Railway Budget should commence after completion of this item.

SHRI RAM NAIK : What I want to urge is that we will not get time for discussing Railway Budget, nor will we get time for discussing General Budget. This situation is likely to come. In this background, discussion of Railway Budget should start at 4-5 o'clock after completing the discussion on this Bill today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Railway Budget is very important and we must take up discussion on it. We should complete other business before the House as early on possible. We should accord priority to Railway Budget because, therefore, we will have to take up discussion on General Budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House should decide that this Bill be passed without discussion.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I shall be pleased if this bill is so passed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will be pleased, but I want the pleasure of all of you.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I think every body will be pleased. It is a very good bill...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulations of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill is also very important.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is what I have said.

14.09 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT)
THIRD ORDINANCE 1996

AND

COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT)
BILL—CONTD.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill is an indicator of this Government's sensitivity towards coal mine workers and their families. ours is a welfare State and therefore, the Government is committed to ensure appropriate welfare of coalmine workers and member of their families. It has been our intention to provide justice to the people on the lowest rung of our social ladder. The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948, in brief, provides for implementation of various schemes for the benefit of coal mine workers. But it does not provide for retirement pension scheme for these workers.

At present, we do have a family pension scheme which provides for family pension for the dependents of those workers who die inharness. The workers now want this scheme to be covered into a retirement pension scheme. It is now proposed, inter-alia, to provide for superannuation, retirement pension and pension for permanently and totally disabled workers, widows children and orphans. This proposed scheme will substitute the existing family pension scheme and the entire assets and liabilities of the family pension schemes will be transferred to the proposed pension scheme.

The Central Government will continue to contribute its share as at present. The proposed pension scheme does not involved any additional recurring or non-recurring financial liability out of the Consolidated fund of India. In other words, the annual liability under 'administration' and 'contribution' heads will continue on the established pattern of coal Mines workers Family

Pension Scheme. For purpose of Pension scheme, no change will be made in the existing method of transfer of funds of workers and employers contributions to the Coal Mines Provident Fund. The workers will continue to be entitled to the Contributory Provident Fund.

The present Bill before the House has a limited objective of empowering the Central Government to implement the provisions of the Coal Mines Pension scheme. The schemes will be duly notified in the official Gazette within a specified period. The abjective of the bill is the welfare of coal mine-workers. I am sure the entire House will support the measure whole heartedly.

I commend the bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996 (No. 22 of 1996) promulgated by the President on 20 June, 1996."

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 15 members, 10 from this House namely :—

1. Shri Chitta Basu
2. Shri Sunil Khan
3. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee
4. Shri Hannan Mollah
5. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
6. Shri Haradhan Roy
7. Shrimati Kanti Singh
8. Md. Taslimuddin
9. Shri Mehaboob Zehidi
10. Shri Basu Deb Acharia

and 5 from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committee shall apply

with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 5 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee." (4)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Act, 1948 earlier provided for grant of Family pension and benefits of life insurance. Now, the Government is making provision for grant of half-yearly pension, widow pension, widower pension and pension to the dependents in case of death of the worker. What I want to submit is that this bill has been brought here earlier many a time but was never passed. The Bhartiya Magdoor Sngh, the Hind Mazoor Sabha, The INTUC, etc. all have been demanding passage of this bill but it was always stalled. Government promulgated 2-3 ordinance but the bill was stalled. It is a matter of satisfaction that at least after fifty years, Government's attention has gone towards unorganised labour, construction workers who have built big buildings. The Parliament House was built by labourers of Jaipur, the President House was built by Jaipur artisans and, if are not wrong, the pillar in Rashtrapati Bhavan was also built by them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak on coal mines.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I am talking of labourers. I will speak about coal mines. I have been to Bihar, I belong to Bihar. When I was in Public Accounts Committee, I had inspected coal mines from inside. He thinks I come from Rajasthan and I have no knowledge of mines. (Interruptions) Rajasthanis are spread all over the country and Rajasthanis are the biggest coal dealer. Suresh and Co. is one of the Coal dealers. He brings coal from Bihar and supplies it to other parts. He lives in an old basti. All this joli is done by the Rajasthanis people. The bill has been brought with good intentions, alas belatidly. It does not contain any provision for agricultural labour, unorganised labour. The Government has caused great loss to the labour by delaying this bill. Working in mines is very dangerous. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you might not have entered mines ever!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have gone into the mines, I have seen them.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : What I want to submit is that working in mines is a very difficult job. Many big buildings have been constructed over them. They will cave in if the mines cave in. The workers working in mines risk their life, they work in adverse

conditions. This is a very good bill so far coal mine workers are concerned. I congratulate the lone woman Minister in the government for bringing this welfare bill. However, there are many labour unions connected with mines and they desire that there legislation measures should be discussed with them. Since this bill has been brought after fifty years in the interest of mine works and since we have always been neglecting them so far, it would be desirable to discuss the provisions of this bill with the representatives of various labour unions such on INTUC, BMS, CITU and incorporate in it any improvement suggested by them. She must ensure that this does not remain a half-hearted measures. I support this bill but would like that any amendment proposed in the interest of the workers be incorporated in it. I think the hon. Minister has stolen a very big opportunity. She comes from Bihar where coal mines are located. She knows what improvement can be made in the bill in the interest of mine workers. I hope she would make it more responsive to the coal mine workers and add to it whatever five amendments are proposed.

I thank you for giving me time to speak. All the hon. Members, with a few interruptions tried to listen to me and I forgive them for those interruptions. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill, which is before the House, to replace the Ordinance promulgated on three occasions. The first Ordinance was promulgated on 5th January, 1996; the second Ordinance was promulgated on 20th of June, after this Government took charge of the administration.

Sir, I congratulate the present lady Minister in charge of the Bill, and my thanks are also due to the previous Minister of Coal, Shri Jagdish Tytler. At one stage, the Statement of Objects and Reasons, dated 4th December, 1995 bore the name of Shri Jagdish Tytler. Last year, that is, 1995, is a memorable year for the workforce of this country. Several long standing demands of the labour community, that is, industrial labour, coal labour etc., were considered favourably and, accordingly, legislations were prepared. The long standing demands like provident fund, pension, gratuity etc., were settled. I would say that 1995 is a landmark year from the point of view. Anybody can admit that.

Whenever there is an Ordinance, without looking at the urgency, utility which necessitated the promulgation of an Ordinance, which class is being benefited, who are the persons being benefited, without considering all these things, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava and his company, of late, Justice Lodha joined them, in a very regular way or habit or approach disapprove it most of the time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is a provision in the rules, and they are utilising it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are so many rules in the Rule Book: it contains everthing....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Though we have disapproved this ordinance, yet we have supported the Bill...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Now he is supporting the Bill...(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : The tendency of issuing of ordinances time and again is not good...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : My submission is that good means should be adopted for good ends ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Good work is not done through ordinances.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we demand zero hour it is denied. Now see it is going on.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Tell me, whether I am correct or not, how

[Translation]

the Parliament is functioning, how the proceeding are going on...

[English]

You kindly see any time that Ordinances are hardly placed here. And if they are placed here, they are replaced also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is not correct. Please listen to me. The Government

[Translation]

can bring the bill straightaway if there is no motion of disapproval of the ordinance.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I know that. But what is the practice?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is all right.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : They should be placed here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is all right.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There is a constraint of time. This is our experience. I am speaking here from my experience. Whenever there is an Ordinance, that

gets priority in the List of Business because within a certain stipulated time, it has got to be replaced.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please come to the point.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am coming to the point. I would like to remind the hon. Members of the House who were Members of the Tenth Lok Sabha also, that it was introduced in this House in the month of December. But then due to turmoil, disturbance and various other reasons, no such business could be transacted in the House. What was the urgency? The work force was getting rustic, restless and there was an agitation for dealing with these things in a proper way. The demands were genuine, long-standing and legitimate ones. They had given a notice for a strike starting from 7th of January. Therefore, the Government with the best of intentions, had to come out with an Ordinance. This was the year of elections and the House could not meet. Before the expiry of the time for the Ordinance, it was required to be promulgated again. Although elections were held and the democratic Government was installed, yet till the second session, there was only one item in the agenda, that is, the Confidence Motion. That necessitated the promulgation of the Ordinance for the third time. So this is how it happened. We cannot find fault with the Government for bringing it in the form of an Ordinance.

Coming to the Bill itself, this is a very very simple Bill. I would say that this is a very important Bill as it is looking after the interests of the labourers, that too coal workers, who are exposed to the vagaries of nature, to a great extent. You know about the working conditions of the coal-mine workers. They are at great risk. Everyone who knows about this truth, has to sympathise with the cause of the labourers working in the coal-mines. They go under-ground and nobody knows what happen to them, whether they would return safe or not. In many cases, bad news also comes. Therefore, the purpose of the Bill is extremely limited. This is only an enabling provision.

The present Act is called the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948. In this Act, there was a provision that the provident fund scheme, family pension scheme etc., would be framed. Although this provision had been in existence, in this Act, since the beginning of 1948, yet this family pension schemes was not introduced till 1971.

In 1971 under the relevant provision of this Act for the first time Family Pension Scheme was framed and introduced. But that did not meet the requirement of the situation. Since 1971 till date about 25 years have elapsed. Meanwhile a sea-change has taken place everywhere.

This Family Pension Scheme has very very limited scope. What was the advantage that accrued to the coal miners? Only when somebody dies in harness, while on duty, then his widow was eligible for some

pecuniary benefits. As I was discussing about it, it had come to my notice that a very limited paltry sum of Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 was the monthly benefit that accrued to the widow of a coal miner who died in harness. Nothing beyond that; nothing more than that. Therefore this was agitating the minds of trade unionists. This was agitating the labour class, particularly the coal miners. Around 1988 when the JBCCI, the Joint Bilateral Committee for Coal Industry of India, was having its deliberations regarding their wage etc., it was very much emphasized upon that this Family Pension Scheme would no more do good to them. Instead there should be a regular pension scheme. About the regular pension scheme also the Labour Ministry has done a commendable job last year and also promulgated an ordinance which benefited a large number of labourers in different sectors. The coal industry is slightly different. They have their own legislation; they have their own provisions. Accordingly the Coal Minor's Provident Fund Board also recommended that there should be an amendment and the amendment is before us which, if passed, would remove the hurde which comes in the way of amending or framing a Family Pension Scheme. Now instead of Family Pension Scheme, it will be a regular pension scheme that the Government would be framing. This is the purpose. So, where is the scope to oppose this Bill? Absolutely there being no scope for it, it should be passed unanimously.

The only thing is, when such an opportunity is there, when such an occasion arises in Parliament, we take advantage of the same to give some suggestions as to what sort of provision should be there in the new scheme. I would to that very briefly. In 1971 when this Family Pension Scheme was introduced, the beneficiaries or the workers used to contribute to their provident fund 8.33 per cent of their salary. Then it was raised to ten percent of their salary. That ten percent had a matching share given by the company. Out of whatever is collected in this process through provident fund, 1.1/6 percent was the labourers' share and 1.16 was the share of the company.

The Government does not contribute anything to the Provident Fund, but to the Family Pension Fund, which was created in 1971, the contribution of the Government is 1.23 percent. Again, it was decided that instead of keeping it at this level of 1.23 per cent, it should be raised to two percent. Indeed a large number of labourers have contributed accordingly up to two percent also. But what happend was that the Government did not approve of that.

We are told that Coal India Limited is the holding company and the subsidiaries are autonomous in nature. I do not know what sort of an autonomy do they enjoy. The Government does not approve of their contribution to the tune of two percent. This means, raising the level from 1.23 percent to two percent was not approved of by the Government. Why should it be like this? When workers raise the quantum of their

contribution, then, why does not Government and why does the company not raise the quantum of their contribution? This is one of the points that I place for the consideration of the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude. There are others who also want to join the discussion.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There is a provision, where, after this new scheme is introduced, whatever is left out will come from the new Pension Fund. I understand about Rs. 1100 crore remains unspent. Now, it has been collected by way of contribution from three sources: labourers and companies, that is the employees and the employers, and Government. The Government should contribute whatever it could, even at an enhanced rate.

As I said already, power holds the key to the success, progress and prosperity of our country. What remains behind this energy? Coal. Coal in the raw material for power industry. And for coal industry, what is the raw material? Land is the raw material. Thus, land is the raw material for coal, industry and coal is the raw material for power industry. About two-thirds of the power generated in the country comes from coal. In other words, thermal power accounts for about two-thirds of our total power generation. So, coal will play a very, very dominant role in the energy sector in the days to come.

I am reminded of one important aspect now. About twenty-three years ago, in 1972-73, Madam Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. I pay glowing tributes to her memory and her dynamic leadership. She decided to nationalise the coal industry because of her concern for the welfare of the suffering coal mine workers. At that time Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam was the Minister for Coal.

He was in-charge of Coal and Mines. I think there were mainly three objectives which led the then Government to take this decision, the decision to end the exploitation of the workers of coal mines by the owners. Preventing exploitation, providing better working conditions and taking care of the workers were the main objectives.

The industrialists, the private owners of coal mines used to operate the coal mines as long as the mines were profitable. If they were not profitable, they used to leave them high and dry. After that they abandoned them... (Interruptions) Today, what is the challenge before this industry? There is a challenging situation before this industry. We are forgetting the noble objects underlying the nationalisation of coal industry. But today what have we done? We have changed our laws and we have amended our laws in order to permit the private owners to come. If they want to set up thermal power plants, they can go there and start doing mining. But that is not proper. It should be given to the private sector. That is one aspect. Again, the Government is

thinking of bringing it in joint sector. Thirdly, we should know that there are several problems involved or associated with it, like land acquisition, land oustees, environment etc.

I would like to plead that coal industry should, by and large, continue in the public sector because of the different types of peculiarities associated or involved in this industry. As I have already said, there are peculiarities such as the sufferings of the workers, the problems of the land oustees, the problems of environment etc. I have already raised this environmental problem. You may kindly recall that. It is not the first time that I am talking of it. Previously also I have expressed my reservations on this question.

We should raise our productivity. We have to raise our productivity. And while raising productivity, we have to see that competitiveness is also established. It should not be politicised. The Minister hails from Bihar and Bihar is the kingdom of coal empire and Bihar is the centre of coal empire. Now, what is happening there? The industries are becoming sick one after the other. BCCL became sick and now CCL is going to be sick. Heavy loss is being incurred by CCL. It is my main concern. It should be continued in the public sector. But at the same time it should be profitable. Three years back it was found that the loss accumulated was Rs. 2,400 crore. Coal India Limited is running profitably. It is a profitable organisation. So, there should not be politicisation. See what is happening in the coal mines situated in different areas. There is the problem of local goondalism, this and that etc. These things should be checked ruthlessly and drastically and competitiveness should be encouraged. Productivity should improve. Wastage should be curtailed. This is a challenging task. I would like the hon. Minister to address herself to all these problems. As I said earlier, she belongs to Bihar. We expect that there should be overall improvement in the working of the coal industry.

Let me come to my last point. Sir, we are told that the subsidiary coal companies are enjoying autonomy, when there are some faults with them, they say that they are autonomous, but when some good things are done, they take the credit.

But, at the same time, three or four months back, a decision has been taken for partial deregulation of prices of certain quality of coal. But in our own State, so far as Mahanadi Coalfield is concerned, this is not the way because we do not find it, in any way, helpful to the interests of that industry there. So, naturally without looking at the problems of every company, they should not impose anything from Shastri Bhavan here or from 10, Nataji Subash Chandra Road, Calcutta. What I want to say is that should be realistic about what sort of situation is prevailing in a particular coal area and in a particular coal company. They should also be left free to take decisions about all these things.

With this, I would like to congratulate her for whatever role she has got in this Bill. Anyway, it is she who is piloting this Bill. I congratulate her. This is her maiden speech. This is her first Bill which she has introduced. I wish her good luck in running this industry purposefully, effectively and taking it also a height of prestige without much of interference and also seeing that all sorts of local *goondaism*, political interference and all these things should be put an end to.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, through you, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill within a few days of assuming charge which meets the long standing demand of coal mine workers. The provisions of this Bill will make the coal mine workers entitled to pension on retirement. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the situation prevailing in the coal industry should be viewed seriously. The steel plants depend on coal industry, the power plants depend on coal industry, but its condition is pitiable. Unanimous passage of this bill at this juncture will enstall confidence among the coal mine workers, it will fulfil their hopes and aspirations. However, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister to some other aspect of coal sector. At present coal royalty is paid on weight basis and this needs revision of royalty every now and then. In order to make the coal industry more viable, the royalty should be linked with price. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this bill wholeheartedly which is going to benefit coal mine worker, although it has been brought after the workers went on strike. I hope this Bill will be passed by the House unanimously.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It is being said that is the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill introduced by the hon. Minister, the previous Government had also some contribution. But the history of Coal Mines Provident Fund, and coal Mines workers Pension bill has been of full of struggles. An agreement was signed in 1984 after discussions with various trade unions of Coal mine workers. It was agreed that a Pension Fund would be created in which the mine workers will contribute 2% of their salary and another 2% will be contributed by the employer, but this agreement was not implemented till 1989. Deduction from the salary of workers had started but the management failed to contribute their share as per the provisions of the agreement, as a result of which, the workers resorted to strike not once or twice but several times.

14.51 hrs.

(Shri Chitta Basu in the Chair)

The NCWA-3 Agreement signed in 1984 between various Coal Mine Trade unions and management was not implemented and the workers had to resort to strike several times which forced the Government to prepare a Draft scheme which was circulated to all concerned.

The Scheme contained some enabling provisions. The scheme contained some enabling provisions. I would seek an assurance here from the Government that the said scheme would be revised in consultation with all the concerned Trade unions. The old draft scheme was opposed by CITU and Hind Mazdoor Sabha who observed a strike and the strike was very successful. Some other Trade Unions also opposed it and observed strike, but the same has not been implemented so far.

I would like to quote the minutes of the meeting held at that time between the representatives of Trade Unions and the management. I quote :

[English]

"The representatives from trade union explained in detail the historical background of the pension issue. They stated that in NCWA-III, it was agreed to evolve a retirement benefit/pension scheme with contribution of two per cent of wages per month by workers and management, namely, a total of four per cent. Accordingly, the deduction of four per cent from workers' wages started with effect from 1st April, 1989...

Subsequently it has been decided that the scheme will be prepared under the auspices of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation converting the existing family pension into retirement pension after taking into consideration the accumulated amount under Family Pension Fund as well as two per cent contribution made by the workmen of the coal industry. The regular funding of the Pension Fund will be made from four percent contribution to the family pension scheme; two percent from the employees and one annual increment which has been included in the Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose with effect from 1.7.96".

Sir, the draft scheme which was submitted amongst the unions was a clear departure from the agreement which was arrived at in 1989 under NCWA-IV. Our objection lies there. What we found in the draft schemes was that 1.16 percent of the emoluments would be from the member and 1.16 percent would be from the employer.

[Translation]

This is draft scheme. We oppose it. It should be revised and the contribution of 2% agreed upon under agreement NCWA-III of 1984 should be incorporated in it.

Then, in the Family Pension Scheme, the total accumulated amount is Rs. 888 crore.

[English]

The entire amount should be transferred to Pension Fund. But that is not their in the Pension Scheme.

[Translation]

It has been said in the Financial Memorandum that the Central Government may after due appropriations made by Parliament by law, pay to the proposed Pension Fund. However, this amount will remain at the existing level of contribution to the Family Pension Fund, the entire administration expenses of proposed Pension Fund will be born fully by the Central Government. It is estimated that it will involve an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 28.42 crore both by way of administration expense and contribution to Pension Fund. What will happen to Rs. 800 crore? This deposit belongs to workers. It is not included in the Draft Scheme. The entire amount should be transferred to the Pension Fund. A revised draft Scheme should be prepared in consultation with trade unions and then circulated. This has not been done. The JBCCI is a permanent body of Coal Mine workers and the management.

[English]

The JBCCI Meets very frequently. But when this draft scheme was circulated that draft scheme was not approved by the JBCCI and without the approval of the JBCCI that draft schemes was circulated among the trade unions and we objected to that. Only CITU, our trade union body, opposed that. That draft scheme should have been approved by the JBCCI but it was not done before it was circulated.

15.00 hrs.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to prepare a draft scheme, get it discussed here and then finally revise it. This showing not be a part of this Bill. This is an enabling Bill. The provisions, that are provided in the Bill, should be revised.

[Translation]

There is not much to speak about it. Whatever knowledge I have about Coal mine workers I am touching only those points.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is another Member from your Party who also wants to speak. Please leave some points for him also.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have just started, Sir. Please allow me some more time. Shri Panigrahi spoke for 45 minutes. You should give me at least half an hour.

In this Provident Fund Scheme, I suggest 1971 as the cut-off year.

[English]

The cut off year is 1971. That was the time when the Coal mines were first nationalised. Then, in 1973,

first the coking Coal mines and then the non-coking coal mines were nationalized.

[Translation]

This is a Pension Scheme which is being discussed. The pension scheme adopted for other industries is being opposed vehemently. Why should it be compulsory! This should be made optioned. Those who wish to join it can join, and those who do not want to join, should have the option not to do so.

[English]

There are some nationalised organisations. The Natural Coal Development Corporation (NCD) is a nationalised Coal Company. The Coal Board is another such organisation. These two organisations merged with Coal India Ltd. I would suggest that the employees of NCD and the Coal Board should also be allowed to join, if they so like. There is a Trustee Board.

[Translation]

There is a Pension Trustee Board in which all Trade unions except CITU and H.M.S. are represented. I do not know the reasons for their exclusion.

I hope all the Trade Unions will be given representation in the Trustee Board. All those who are members of JBCCI should be represented in the Trustee Board.

Sir, the Provident Fund has another flaw. The minimum period for becoming entitled to these benefits has been prescribed in 10 years. This will not do.

[English]

Among the coal workers, CITU has a large following. HMS also has a big influence. In spite of that, their representatives are not there in the Trustee Board.

According to the proposed scheme, if a worker dies or becomes disabled in an accident or otherwise within 10 years of service, he does not get any benefit from the scheme.

[Translation]

I suggest this should be revised. If it becomes due before 10 years... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, I have a point of order. We are discussing the bill but the hon. Member is speaking on the scheme which has not been circulated as yet and it is premature to discuss it. Discussion should confine to the provisions of the bill.. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is no need to discuss the bill. (Interruptions) I am giving my suggestions. The scheme had been circulated earlier.

[English]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : The scheme has not yet been circulated.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The scheme has been circulated. I have copy of the draft scheme which has been circulated in the month of January.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Say that the scheme must be made a part of the Act rather than a subordinate legislation, or rather than leaving it to discretion. The scheme should be made a part of the Bill so that we can first take an amendment.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes. If it is made a part of the Bill, we can discuss and make our suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, you have made your point. You want that the scheme should be made a part of the Bill and you are entitled to say that. Please address the Chair while speaking.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government will have to come to the House for approval of the scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not answer the hon. Members. You say whatever you have got to say.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The second point is that the NCWA-5 has been implemented now after waiting for 2 1/2 years, after resorting to strike, after struggling hard...*(Interruptions)* It does have an impact. It may not have in Mahanadi Coal field, it does have had in BBCL, CCS, ECL...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Acharia, please address the chair. You are not required to answer the questions.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This not so. Why were the Coal mine workers made to wait for 2 1/2 years.

[English]

Before the expiry of the term of one wage agreement, the next agreement is not finalised.

[Translation]

This is not done elsewhere, it is not done in BHEL, then why such treatment with mine workers who are 8 to 10 lakhs in strength? Why the women workers of Coal mines are being treated like this?...*(Interruptions)* We know about mafias. I shall speak about them also ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this Bill is one hour and that one hour is over. I do not want to restrain you from speaking, but bear in mind that there are other Members also to speak on this Bill.

[Translation]

Others also have to speak. I request you please be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : One hour was given for discussion on Judges Bill. Today, we are discussing the bill involving the interest of 8 lakh Coal mine workers. What treatment is being meted out to these workers...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members are requested kindly to allow him to speak. Shri Shriballav Panigrahi, please allow him to speak. Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, just address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What I want to submit is that the scheme should be framed properly. I have given an amendment in this regard and have suggested that the bill be referred to a Joint Select Committee. We have been waiting for 10 years. An agreement was signed in 1984. Discussion on new Scheme started in 1989. We can wait for one-two months more. Please bring a comprehensive bill. We want that the Draft Scheme should be finalised before this bill is passed. It should be incorporated in the bill. Yesterday, during discussion on Construction workers bill, many good suggestions were given and were accepted by Government. We are not opposed to this bill. But a revised Draft Scheme will have to be prepared before this bill is passed. Pension schemes are in force in other industries. Similar Pension Scheme should be introduced in coal industry also. The problems being faced by coal mine workers today will also have to be attended to.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be brief.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my friends have taken much time but I shall be very brief.

The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996, which has been brought here can help the workers partly. As Shri Basu Dev Acharia has said, it is not a comprehensive Bill. There are so many issues which do not do justice to the workers. It should be made more comprehensive. The service conditions etc. of these workers are not good. Fifty Percent workers do not have houses to live in after putting in so many years of service. As for creation of pension fund, it will be created by contribution from the workers. There is total lack of amenities. In case a worker becomes permanently disabled, his dependant is given job under provision 9:4.3 while in other services, the dependant of the worker is guaranteed employment after his retirement. But there is no such

gaurantee in respect of mine workers. The service is gauranteed under Provision 9:4:2 only in case of death but this provision also has no legal sanctity and is continuing as a practice.

As far as pension is concerned, the Employees Pension Scheme is welcome. The sum of Rs. 900 crore accumulated in Public account of Government of India should be transferred to Pension Scheme Fund so that interest, etc. accruing out of it may add to more benefits to the workers. It is good that family Pension, Child Pension, fully handicapped pension, orphan children pension, all these have been included in this pension scheme but our experience is that the beneficiaries never get the amount on time.

The mine workers are not paid their dues on time under the existing CMPF, Dhanbad. Corruption is rampant there and the workers face a lot of difficulty in getting their pension. Still no provision has been included in the present Bill to obviate such delays. A time-bound provision should be incorporated to ensure timely payment of pension to the workers failing which stringent action should be taken against the officers responsible for such delays. The provision under Sub-section 2 of section '30' will benefit the Government only because there is no difficulty in the deposits of employees contribution and the Government pays only 5.5 percent interest thereon while in banks and other Financial Institution the interest rate is 11 percent. Therefore, even now the workers are not going to get more benefit. I have seen that the BCCL and CCL face lot of difficulties and never get justice. On the face of it, the pension scheme appears to be attractive but difficulties are faced in its implementation. Therefore, some more provision need to be added to this Bill.

The monthly contribution to the pension fund should be 1.25 percent in respect of entire strength of the mine workers. This has been stressed by many trade unions. The Government has given an assurance that it will contribute an amount equal to 1 2/3 percent of the amount deposited by the workers. The company will contribute an amount matching to the amount contributed by the worker. The contribution from Government in this fund will be Rs. 42 crore. This fund will be managed by Government. There are some difficulties which need to be removed. The waitage period should be increased from 2 years to 5 years.

Contingency Fund should also be included in this scheme. The sufferer should be made immediate payment. It has been our experience that payment is not made to the sick worker even after he dies. There should be some gaurantee for this. The entire deposits as per the decision of C.B.T. should be transferred to workers Pension Fund immediately.

Besides these improvements, as many Members have said the Bill should be made more comprehensive.

On the 20th instant, instant, the Hindustan Times and the Times of India published a news item that the

Coal India has reportedly told the the M.Ps from West Bengal that the Coal Minister has given directions that all the D.Os should be released only on her instructions. They should be given only to those whom she wants to give. A list of names of 42 persons has also been published. Sir, if this is true, then many types of fresh bunglings will take place. Even now, the Coal India is incurring loss to the tune of Rs. 52 crores. People earned lot of money when it was under private management. If the D.O. system needs Government sanction, then, many scandals will take place. I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to enlighten the House about these Press reports. The report is very detailed and I do not want to quote it. But if it is true, then big scandals are going to take place in Coal India. The officers involved in burnlings should be punished to save this industry from being mined. Generally, it is said that they have heavy Coal stocks but the fact is that stone is deposited beneath the upper layer of coal and thus money is extracted by giving false reports. The Coal Mine owners amassed considerable wealth when this company was under private management. Today it is a public sector company. Still, it is running into loss. If timely and strict action was not taken, the company may be liquidated.

The Coal India has drawn a Rs. 112 crore scheme. There are certain deficiencies in matter of transportation of Coal by railways. The Coal can be transported from the pit head to the railway sidings by single truck. But the practice is that it is loaded and unloaded at 4-5 places. It causes loss some new system should be evolved to obviate corrupt practices. Rise of corruption will be unfortunate as far as our new Minister is concerned. This is a serious matter and should be taken care of by all concerned.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Ramtek) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996. The trade unions representing 8 to 10 lakh coal mine workers have been demanding pension benefits for these workers. But they have been deprived of them so far. It is said that Government is going to spend Rs. 28.42 crore and a memorandum is being prepared in this regard. But I would plead, that the final draft should be worked out only after having deliberations with the representatives of trade unions. This Bill should be passed without further delay on its has already been delayed considerably. The workers have been agitating for this legislation for so many years and I think this is the result of their continued struggle. This Bill is in the interest of workers, for the good of the workers, it was their demand, therefore, I support it.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Don't appease them.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : I am speaking the truth. I am saying what you have said. This will help the Government.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It is an expression of your mind.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : I want to tell the hon'ble Minister that, in Ramtek area, which I represent, there is a very good coal mine. This area is in most backward Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Local people are not given jobs there. Outsiders are appointed. 2 to 10 acres of land have been acquired for mining but the affected people are not being given jobs. The mines located in my region earned a profit of Rs. 34 crore last year. The Coal is available on upper layer and the mines have been identified. But I don't know why extraction work is not taking place. Why so much time is being taken by her department in conducting mine surveys and taking up mining? We have good grade coal in our area. An MECD project was coming up there. This should have helped in better performance. But there is lot of corruption so far as coal is concerned. This has to be looked into. Centralisation of power will lead to corruption and bring bad name to her. The Government has said that the Minister should not assume special power. Otherwise she will face the same situation as was faced by Shri Thungon. Therefore, the officers responsible for issuing licenses should not be given arbitrary powers. They should do their departmental job. We see press reports on corruption everyday but no enquiry is conducted. I had written a letter to the hon. Minister last time but nothing has been done. The quota system and permit system should be streamlined. Wrong persons will manage to seek permits because the Minister will not have complete information. It will lead to corruption and the officers will have big hand in it.

What I want to submit is that where mines are good, the local people should be given employment in those mines. The Government is giving jobs those person who possess 10 acres of land but ignoring those having 2-3 acre land. They have great potential. They should be given employment. The rules framed by the Government deprive the local people of jobs but outsiders are easily taken. The mining area is expandable and it is also profit making. Some incentive scheme should be introduced for the officers doing good job and helping the company earn profit inquiry should be instituted against those who indulge in corrupt practices. She must conduct an enquiry on the information supplied by M.Ps or other persons and they should be duly informed of the action taken. The officers sitting there tell us that nothing is going to happen by our writing letters. Our letters are not replied. There is lot of corruption in coal bearing areas. This scheme is meant for the workers who toil day and night and I want that the proposed draft should be framed and implemented as early as possible. Whatever obstacles are there they should be removed immediately.

In this Bill it has been said that a draft scheme will be prepared. We also come from that area, therefore, I want that while preparing the draft scheme our views should be taken into account. Coal workers,

representatives of their unions all come to us. We would also like to make some suggestions and those suggestions be taken care of.

I once again welcome the Pension Bill brought here. I would not like to take much of your time. I am grateful to you for giving to me an opportunity to speak on this Bill.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel delighted while speaking on this Bill in this House because I have been fighting the cause of coal mine workers for pension outside this House and today I am pleading their case in this House also. I congratulate Smt. Kanti Singh for introducing Coal Mines workers' Pension Bill in this House. I gathered from the Statement made by her that she was prepared to face the criticism and deal with the issues to be raised. This is very good and I hope she will do the same in future also.

Sir, the coal mines' workers have been agitating for the last fifteen years to secure pension and other benefits. The workers in India are getting two benefits. Some are getting pension and gratuity and others Provident Fund but not pension. The Labour is struggling for third benefit. The Government of India is not ready to give this third benefit and therefore, the struggle is on. In coal Mines, we have been fighting for the third benefit and it has its own history. We talked of a pension scheme for Coal workers. Sir, an agreement had been reached long ago with the Central trade unions that two percent will be contributed by coal workers and two percent will be contributed by Coal India. But the Coal India failed to honour its commitment. Sir, the workers had been contributing two percent for pension fund since 1st April, 1989. The scheme was optional. Sh. Basu Dev Acharia was talking of CITU and he was a member of this union but he never contributed two percent of his salary. Our fight is continuing. Last year we did not take two percent from Coal India but secured an additional increment which is equivalent to 1.8 percent. We are fighting to get two percent from Coal India. However, we have been able to get two percent from them and two percent from the workers and created a fund which will include the amount available in the family Pension scheme. Sh. Basu Dev Acharia has said that Funds accumulated under Family Pension Scheme will go waste but on this point our colleagues have made some suggestions and this amount can be transferred to pension fund. I would like a new scheme in this regard be included in the Bill.

Under this Bill, the Government of India is being conferred powers to bring a pension scheme for Coal mine workers and notify it in the Gazette of India. The Board of Directors of coal mines have accepted this Position but I have a somewhat different opinion. I would urge upon the union Coal Minister to call a meeting of the representatives of trade Unions to ascertain their views on this scheme. It should be published in the Gazette only after achieving unanimity.

Secondly, as per my knowledge there will be only 8 percent interest on the pension fund while it is 12 percent on Provident Fund. I should suggest the interest rate of 12 percent should be applicable to the Pension Fund. This will result in increased pension to coal workers. I, therefore, demand that interest at the rate of 12 percent may be paid on family Pension Fund which is prevalent throughout India.

The wages of Coal Workers are enhanced after every 3-4 years. Presently, the Government is paying them Rs. 1600. This amount should be revised to Rs. 5000.

Once again, I support the bill. I would like that Government of India should bring this proposed scheme as early as possible. We are very much interested in the details of the Schemes. The Coal workers will benefit only when they get money. Whether the scheme will become operative on the date of its notification in the gazette? Whether it will be made effective from 1.4.89 the date from which workers' contribution had started? There is need to discuss all these points because there can be a difference of opinion on this account.

Sir, I have been connected with coal region for the last 32 years. While dealing in coal, we should not blacken our face. There have been press reports about coal because diamonds are found in the coal mines. The Coal industry was nationalised in two phases in 1971 and 1973. The same are being denationalised and handed over to private sector. This is a serious matter. I do not want to go into the merits of the case but I would certainly like to emphasize that there is a scope for the coal India to increase its profit, provided some effective measures are taken, wasteful expenditure is contained.

Mr. Chairman, Coal is in great demand in our country. There is competition for coal Mining. Money is paid, commission is paid for security D.O. The Coal India has set up regional sales offices in Kanpur, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Durgapur, Madras, Bangalore and Mumbai. With what purpose these offices have been set up? I have spoken to the Coal India and they say that their coal is not in demand but there is acute shortage of coal. Their plea is that these regional offices have been opened for accelerating the sale of coal. I would plead, I would request these sales centres should be closed because there is no work. They simply waste crores of rupees without any income. The Coal India intends to increase coal prices. But I would request the hon'ble Minister to check wasteful expenditure of the company instead of increasing the Coal price. The hon'ble Minister is looking at me. It is true that my hair has grown grey but in the Public Sector people say that the guest Houses *(Interruptions)* You are an old Member. I have been elected for the first time but I have the experience of 32 years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please continue.

SHRI. RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, I have never stayed in guest houses. I only want to know why these guest houses have been set up throughout the country? What are their aims? I have 32 years experience of coal sector...*(Interruptions)* I have never been charged of any corruption. If I start exposing you, all of you will run away from here. Sir, take the example of Patna. The Chief Minister of Bihar had said in the Legislative Assembly that he was the Most honest man. He has a house in his name which is rented by Coal India. I dared to challenge him to transfer in my name and in lieu, I would resign. The rent of the house is paid by Coal India which comes to about Rs. 45-50,000. Some houses have been taken on rent in the name of guest house where no guest has Stayed so far and only the owner stays there. The Coal India pays money on account of guest house and spends Rs. 7.5 lakh on its decoration. Similar things happen in other Cities of country. Delhi is no exception. 8-10 houses have been taken on rent...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right. You have made a mention. Now please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Sir, I am concluding. What I am saying is that the Government of India is not contributing a single paise in the proposed pension scheme. The entire money is of Coal workers. The coal workers demanded that Government of India should also contribute to this fund but the Government refused. The Government of India has no money for the workers but it is spending crores on luxuries and indulging in wasteful expenditure. Please stop this kind of attitude. I support the Bill brought by the hon'ble Minister on behalf of Coal workers, AITUC in the interest of Coal sector, promotion, strengthening and development of Coal India and for the welfare of the workers. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, I have a small submission to make. Many new Members have come to this Lok Sabha. They have been allotted seats in the back benches. When they make their maiden speeches, you could encourage them to come a little forward. It would be good for us. Otherwise, we have to crane our necks back and listen to them. They may not be aware of the rules. So, you could encourage them.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Haradhan ji, if you want to come in the front row, you can come and speak from there. Upendra ji has made the back bench a front bench.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Sir, I have given notice. I will speak in Bengali today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wait for a moment. Your Bengali speech will be interperated in Hindi.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Sir, should I speak in Hindi?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, speak in Hindi.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Mr. Chairman, I have been associated with coal industry for the last 50 years and I have been elected from coalary areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Haradhan ji, if you want to speak in Bengali you can do so. It will be interpreted in Hindi. You may speak in your Mother tongue.

[English]

*SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Sir, I will speak in Bengali today, I have given notice earlier.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wait a minute. There will be interpretation from Bengali.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Sir, I was associated with the Coal workers for more than 50 years. I was there in that area I have witnessed the atrocities meted out to the workers by the owners and also the humiliation. And I participated in trade unions. The Coal Mines' nationalisation did not come out of nothing, but due to the immense struggle and sacrifice of the workers. They lost their jobs. But at last they were compelled to nationalise the mines. I have seen the atrocities and the land and coal being usurped by them which resulted in a great loss to the country. This Bill which has been presented, I think, requires so many amendments because the workers opposed the Bill when it was brought earlier by the Congress Government. A one-day strike was observed to oppose the Bill on 19th Dec. 1995. Though some of the trade unions were not participating, we were with them. We sat on dharna and opposed that Bill. Not only once but so many times they resorted to strikes. My first objection about it is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You've got the right to speak in Bengali, please speak.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Well, I am speaking. These workers are not fighting for this Pension Fund today only but for a long time. And the coal agreement which was made for the third time on national level, it was decided that the third benefit will be given to them and 2% of the salary will be deducted and 2% by the Government. And with this 4% a Fund will be created to be headed by Trustee Board for which rules and regulations would be framed. But it is sad that the Congress Government which signed the agreement ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Why the Congress Government?

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Yes, there was the Congress Government then...*(Interruptions)* So, the agreement they signed they themselves did not follow that. The then labour Minister Mr. Sangma tried a lot and later he also become the Coal Minister. The

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Government which went into an agreement and did not implement it later, they lost its credibility in the eyes of the workers. The fourth National wage Agreement also repeated that 2% will be deducted and 2% will be deposited - that also did not work. It is imperative that the agreement Government of India went into with the workers and the unions should be implemented. And as one of the speakers just told now that CITU opposed the move of deducting 2% - I do not know where from he got this information. All the workers of the Coal India deposited 2% of the salary because this was beneficial for them as third benefit and it was decided that 2% will be deposited by them, and 2% by the Government. But the Government did not stick to it. And now the Bill which has been presented, it says that there is already a Trustee existing but there is no representative from the unions. It will not take up that. About the Coal Mines' Provident Fund I have the information that on account of Pension and other benefits, some Thousand fifty crores of rupees are deposited in this Fund. If the Government reimburse the amount properly, this much money could not be in deposit with the Fund. Some of these workers have died in the mines, some were disabled, some injured and some suffered burns. This money of about say Rs. Thousand fifty crores which was deposited in their PF or Pension, who gave this right to the Government to deposit it in the new Bill. This money should have been reimbursed with interest but this was not done by the Government. And I know *(Interruptions)*... What I want to say.

Sir, is that this Thousand fifty crores which was deposited was but the money of the workers. This money was deposited by the workers and I know that thousands of workers who have retired sat for dharnas through so many years to the Government and the Company. But they did not get the money. So they and their families are starving to death and this is a fact. I would like to draw the attention of the present Government. As the Coal Mines' Provident Fund is a different organisation, I made several correspondences and also raised it in the Parliament. Perhaps as a result of that some people have got the payment but still there are thousands other who have not got it. Even now some Rs. Thousand fifty crores are in deposit but they have got it, they are dying. They die but there is no family Pension made available and they retire but there is no Pension - this is one situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Haradhan Babu, please be brief.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Yes, I am trying to be brief. See, as I am a backbencher...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, everybody has to be given a chance.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : The Government wanted to gain without spending. The increment given to the workers was deposited in the Pension Scheme. And the workers money is being given as Pension. So that was the money of the workers, there was no contribution of Coal India. I am being told that your increment will go

to the pension but there is no contribution of Coal India or the Coal Companies. Those who were employed as on 1.7.1995 were given an increment and this was deducted, on the other hand, as contribution to Pension Fund. And who come after, they are not getting this increment and so they have to contribute after deducting the amount from their own salary. So they are depositing the money by deducting from their budgets. And the Government wanted to implement the Pension scheme according to their wish. What I wanted to say - this money will be there for 40 years, as Mr. Basudev Acharya pointed out. They will not get the amount after a certain period. So the amount gets deposited for about 40 years and the rate of interest will be 8%. If a man, the same man, keeps this amount fixed with a Bank, it will be doubled in 5 years. Even in Post Offices, if they deposit the money in either Indira Vikas Patra or Kisan Vikas Patra, the amount will be doubled in 5 years. I think this is an injustice with the workers who will be given only 8% as interest on deposits for 40 years. Another aspect of it is that if a worker dies, his wife or his children will be given pension. But if the wife remarries, her pension will be stopped. Whereas if the man re-marries, his pension will not be stopped, it will go on. What a strange thing! A woman will not get the pension if she re-marries, but a man will get it if he remarries after his wife's death. Even if the daughter gets married, the pension will be stopped to be given to her whereas for the son it will continue till he attains the age of 25.

Sir, the scheme of this Bill will be framed by the bureaucrats or the Government machinery concerned. They have already lost the credibility twice by not sticking to the agreements for National Wage Agreement and not giving the pensions as third benefit to the workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Haradhan Babu, you have taken a lot of time, please be brief.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Sir, just 4-5 minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, not 5 minutes but only 2 minutes.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : These people will frame the scheme but neither the workers, nor the trade union leaders nor even this House knows about it. Even then we will give a blank cheque to them that whatever scheme they draw, that will be applicable to all the Coal Mine workers. This cannot go on like this. The scheme should be framed only after discussions with all the trade unions and if necessary, the leaders of all political parties in the Parliament be invited for the discussion. What is being done in the name of the scheme is but inviting for the ruin of the workers. Our Hon'ble Coal Minister is a lady and how the Coal India is behaving with the women workers there should be mentioned. There were about 30,000 women workers in ECL at the time of Nationalisation and now the number has gone

down to 9,000 and they were being eliminated, and retrenched from service. These workers generally belonged to SC and ST and they are being retrenched. Even according to the National Wage Agreement (5) it has been said that the women will not get jobs, even if they are dependents. For this they will be given Rs. 2000 per month as monthly stipend. We celebrate Year of Women, we talk about 30% reservation for them in Parliament, Assembly and Panchayats. And there the women workers are being retrenched indiscriminately, they are told to leave the jobs and give it them to some male nominee. Sir, please 2 minutes more...

MR. CHAIRMAN : This 2 minutes you got because you are talking about women, not for another point...

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Another thing is that Coal India has taken a policy on absenteeism. Why is this being done to the people who do not have hygienic atmosphere to live in, no quarter, no drinking water, lakhs of coal workers live in juggis, they go down the mine, there is no security laws maintained, they are almost ruined, their health is downgraded. In the name of absenteeism, thousands of workers, especially the SC/ST male workers are being dismissed and there are no reimbursement' replacements. This I want to draw attention of the concerned Ministry. Last point of mine is that coal is the source of 2/3rd of total energy. The coal resources we have in the country can go on for another 150 years. There are above 14-15 other sources. But Government of India especially Coal India is mining everywhere very unscientifically. As a result the mines are catching fire and there is no measures for extinguishing the fire. So the collieries are being closed by the Government. The coal resources of the country are burning and with that the land, villages are in danger. So it is necessary not to close down the collieries but to continue them by following the strict security measures, stabilisation, reclamation etc. But we should not close the mines. Closing down the mines the ruin of the country and that of the rural life. It cannot go on like this. With these words, Sir, I conclude with thanks to you.

16.05 hrs.

(Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI BASANT SINGH KHALSA (Roper) : Madam Chairman, I appreciate the efforts of the Government in bringing a Bill to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Act, 1948 and the Family Pension scheme. Our party has in the very beginning said that, although we are in the opposition, but we will support the Government in its effort of adopting welfare measures. This is a commendable job that this Government has done.

Working in Coal Mines is a very arduous job and the coal mines workers must get these facilities. The

most important aspect is that they always live in our atmosphere of insecurity and unsafety. Their life is always in danger. The coal mines generally catch fire and workers are burnt to death. Many a times, the mines cave in and Labourers die. Sometimes, the Mines are deluged and the same results in the death of mine workers.

Another important aspect in the pollution created by coal mines. This causes T.B. among mine workers. They live there with their families in jhuggis near about the coal mines and the disease spreads among them also. The entire family is affected by TB and becomes the causes of their death. Therefore, they need better living conditions and other amenities. The Government has brought this Bill with these objectives in mind and I congratulate it for the same.

Sir, these workers live in jhuggis because no pucca houses are available there. The jhuggis are flooded and there is no light. They suffer from cold in winter and from heat in summer. They do not have dwelling facilities. They should be given pucca built houses.

The Coal mines workers also work in agricultural fields. The agricultural workers in Punjab come from Bihar. They are engaged in Sowing Paddy and sugarcane. 60 to 70 percent or even more of their agricultural produce of Punjab goes to common pool. These agricultural workers are also labourers like the mine workers. They also come from Bihar. They also need similar amenities. The Coal supply arrangements also need streamlining.

Punjab has two thermal Power Plants. Both need coal to run their plants. Today, there is crisis in these plants. They are not producing electricity. This has been highlighted in the Press and we had also given notice of an Adjournment Motion. The farmers have come on the streets. This has affected agricultural produce and we could not fulfill our target. We will not be able to supply Paddy and rice to meet the target.

Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that Punjab is the largest producer of rice. The Government should always be prepared to provide facilities to the workers. They are the weakest section of the society. Most of them belong to scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes to whom the State Governments, the Central Government and this House have granted many concessions. Different types of reservations have been provided. Their representations are elected to this House on the basis of reservation, and we know that the Coal mine workers, the agricultural workers face immense difficulties because their background is very weak and they are the poorest of all. They are unable to support their families with their own resources. Therefore, I urge the Government to pay greater attention to these workers who mostly come from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The time is limited. Only we have to discuss Railway Budget also. Then I will speak on Railways, on coal, on Railway Wagons. But here, I would plead that

Government should show greater interest in the welfare, in the health and in providing medical care, houses etc. to these people. The Government should make greater contribution to their Provident Fund so that their children get better facilities after the death of the workers. I welcome this Bill because this includes many provision for the welfare of the family of the workers.

Yesterday, Construction Workers Bill was introduced and Sh. George Fernandes made several good points. The Government accepted the amendments and tried to bring a fresh Bill. I congratulate then for this also. It is good that Government is paying more attention towards workers and I support this Bill and plead for its passage.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Madam, I welcome the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996 and presuppose that Government will follow a correct policy with good intentions in this regard to make this measure a success because it involves the interest of more than 8 lakh mine workers. All of us know that power is the main input of economic development and 80% energy is generated out of Coal. Contentment of coal workers is a prerequisite for regular supply of coal. They will work in mines, do all connected jobs with dedication and sincerity if they are assured of their future, of their welfare. It is the duty of our welfare state to guarantee so the workers a secured future. It has to take steps in this direction. And therefore, I welcome this Bill. However, I would like to strike a note of caution that corruption, weak official policy, fascist attitude of beaurocracy and corrupt administration. The Government has to take care of these four evils, if it wants that the workers pension scheme, which all of us are praising is implemented properly; it is the moral obligation of the Government and particularly of the lady Minister who is very responsive in such matters.

Our steel plants, power plants are coal based. We are getting about 60% energy from Coal. The existence of these plants depends on Coal and, therefore, we have to ensure adequate and timely supply of coal.

Just now, my hon. Coleague from Punjab was complaining that thermal power plants in Punjab are lying closed for want of coal supply. Rajasthan as well does not get timely supply of coal. The position is that when Coal is available railway wagons are not available, if wagons are available coal is in short supply. This vicious circle causes great hardships. Therefore, while taking care of the welfare of coal mine workers, we should also ensure that coal does not get accumulated at pit heads and pilfered and diverted. The welfare of coal mine workers also lies in timely and proper supply of coal throughout the country.

The Pension scheme should have come long ago, but better late than never. In my opinion, this Bill would not have come, had the 8 lakh strong mine workers had not threatened of a strike in January, the Government whether previous or present would not have moved.

The 1948 Act covered Family Pension, Provident Fund, Insurance, Payment of Bonus and was applicable to 948 units. On 31st March 1996 it covered 8.13 lakh coal mine workers. Now, the Provident Fund amount is proposed to be transferred to Pension Fund as per the decision of the P.F. Trustee Board. I should like to know whether various trade unions, whether it is BMS or other organisations, who understand workers problems better are represented in the Trustee Board or not? As the hon. Minister herself has said, the Bill is partial, twelve more items like family pension scheme, etc. are to be added. I do not know what all those twelve provisions are, but if they had been incorporated in this Bill, it would have become a comprehensive Bill.

Jena Sahib, we discussed the Advocates and Judges of the Supreme Court Bill for many hours, why should we be miser in discussing extensively the Bill concerning the welfare of more than 8 lakh coal mine workers?

It is the Government who is responsible for bringing this in comprehensive Bill. It should have brought a comprehensive Bill. We do not know how the pension scheme which we are appreciating, will be implemented. It would be better if an explanatory memorandum was added to the Bill.

I would like to mention one thing more. Accidents generally take place in coal mines. Last year, a serious accident took place in coal mines in Bihar when river water had entered the mines and hundreds of workers were buried under the debris. What provision has been made for those who are killed suddenly during such accidents? I suggest that a provision should be included in the bill to the effect that in case of death, irrespective of length of service rendered, it may be one year, ten years, fifteen years or thirty three years, the mine worker shall be entitled to pension and other benefits.

The Government is going to implement pension scheme for coal mine workers but I would like to point out that they are working in very difficult condition, there is no lighting arrangements inside the mine, no air conditioning, portable water is not available, safety measures are not upto the standad. Some new technology has been developed which prevents spread of poisonous gas and thus saves the life of the mine worker. I would like that these measures should be taken in these coal mines.

It has to be seen in what environment the families of these workers live in, whether there are arrangements for there schooling, for their medical treatment. Minimum civic amenities should be provided in the colonies these workers live in. All these things come under welfare measures. Government is introducing persion scheme which doesnot cost it anything because entire money will come from the provident fund of the workers. The

Government is transferring crores of rupees of workers Provident Fund to pension fund but what is its contribution to this fund? The Government must have some share in. Today, if a worker retires?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, kindly conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I want your protection for a minute.

Suppose a worker retires today and gets an amount of Rs. 2-4 lacs of his provident fund and keeps the same in fix deposit in the bank or invest it in Indira Vikas Patra or Kisan vikas patra, what amount of interest will he get? Will it be more than the pension amount he would get? This has also to be considered. However I welcome the provision made for widow pension and orphan pension.

I will also suggest that the coal mine worker who become entitled to retirement pension P.F. etc. should be given all the relevant documents on the day he retires as is done in case of retiring Government employees. With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

16.26 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before hon. Member Shri Chitta Basu speaks, I will make an announcement. The Business Advisory Committee today has decided as follows :

"No Zero Hour from 25th of this month upto passing of Vote on Account;

No Lunch Hour on all the days upto passing of Vote on Account;

No Private Members' Business on Friday, the 26th July 1996, BAC will decide it on an alternate date separately;

Railway Budget debate will take place today and tomorrow;

Tonight and tomorrow night the House will sit late and complete the debate. The Railway Minister will reply on 26th at 12 noon. Dinner will be provided to the Members tonight and tomorrow night; and

Half-an-hour discussion and Calling Attention scheduled for this week stands deferred."

16.27 hrs.

STATUTORY RE. DISAPPROVAL OF THE COAL
MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT)
THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996.

AND

COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996-CONTD.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Madam, Chairperson, I rise to support the Bill. While supporting the Bill, I will draw the attention of the Government, particularly the Minister incharge of Coal Department, to take into account the following suggestions.

The essence of the Bill very clear, specific and pointed.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Madam, with your permission, I would like to inform the House that dinner is being provided not only for hon. Members but for the staff and members of the Press also.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The Bill seeks to authorise the Government of India to prepare a Pension Scheme in modification of the existing one which will include the following, and I quote from the Objects and Reasons of the Bill:

"(i) This Pension Scheme will include superannuation pension, retiring pension, permanent total disablement pension, widow or widower pension, children pension and orphan pension;

(ii) Creation of a Pension Fund on the same pattern of contribution as the existing Family Pension Fund, supplemented by the additional contributions agreed to voluntarily by the workers and surplus available with the existing Family Pension Fund; and

(iii) Transfer of all assets and liabilities of the existing Family Pension Fund to the proposed Pension Fund."

These are the three specific objects of the Bill. In this regard, in the financial memorandum, it has been stated:

"At present the Central Government contributes at the rate of one and two-third per cent of the emoluments of each employee. The Central Government is also

bearing the entire cost of administration of the Family Pension Fund..."

Madam, it covers about eight lakh coal workers in our country. Many hon. Members who are actually working in the trade union field have already suggested that this scheme is quite acceptable to them. Since this scheme is wider than the existing one, covering various aspects, as I have mentioned earlier, the scheme should be finalised after due consultation with the representatives of the trade union.

I also draw your attention to the Bill itself. The Bill has not provided any rule-making provision. Therefore, whatever scheme is formulated by the Government will be automatically accepted and this House will have no chance of giving any opinion on the various aspects of the scheme. In this way, I am constrained to make a criticism that this is not the democratic way. This is a Bill which provides the quantum of pension and it is being left to the bureaucracy; the Central Government is authorised to prepare this scheme and that scheme is to be taken as the final scheme. This House or the organised trade union movement, I feel, has no scope, right or opportunity to discuss as to whether the scheme is hundred percent suitable to the workers or not. Even if there had been a rule-making provision that the scheme would be made as a part of it — although not acceptable — it could have been discussed in this House if the Members of this House, of course, are adequately alert when they bring this. Therefore, it is not properly democratic in its approach.

Secondly, the Government's declared policy, I mean, the United Front's declared policy, is to involve the workers in the running of the administration. In other words, we are all committed for ensuring the participation of labour in the management not only at the shop level but also at the Board level and at the apex level. Here that question does not arise. Simply, I, along with the other Members, want you to prepare and finalise the pension scheme in a wider way, which is acceptable and which is commendable. But the contents, the various facets of the scheme are to be consulted and finally taken up by the Government with the consent, in this case, of the organised trade union movement.

If the Government does not accept these suggestions, I think, the very basic principle of the commitment of the Government to involve the workers in the management will be defeated, will be negated and it will be very much a matter of great concern for people like me and other Members. Therefore, this scheme is to be prepared and discussed among the organised trade union movement and finally taken up. If that process is adopted here, the House will be deprived of its right and will not have the right to discuss about the merits or the demerits or the weaknesses or the plus points or the minus points of the scheme.

Therefore, I, very politely with all humility at my disposal, urge upon the Government to accept the suggestion and finally finalise the scheme.

In this connection, taking advantage of my participation in the Bill, I also want to refer to, very briefly, certain basic problems facing the industry itself. In so far as West Bengal is concerned, it is learnt that there are proposals lying with the Government, pending with the Government for opening new coal mines in the district of Birbhum, the district of Bankura and in the district of Puruliya. But no effective steps or specific steps have since been taken to commission these new mines and for that, infrastructural programmes are to be taken up speedily so that the new mines scheme can be commissioned at the earliest. The West Bengal Government has got its own programme of rapid industrialisation. Energy is one of the most essential parts of industrialisation and the industrialisation policy of the State Government of West Bengal can be further harnessed, can be further expedited, if this coal mines exploitation scheme, i.e. the new mines, is put into commission as early as possible. I think the Government will take note of it.

Sir, in West Bengal and particularly, in the North-Eastern part of the country, illegal mining is being conducted, causing a great damage and loss to the revenue to the State and also contributing to the corrupt practices which are being indulged in by the officials. Therefore, the illegal mining is to be stopped immediately and all strict measures necessary ought to be taken.

It is a matter of great concern that the Government has been thinking in terms of de-nationalising the coal industry. Madam, I will call it a disastrous step and it should not be taken up. Therefore, the Government should revive its thinking. Even if the United Front Government decides to de-nationalise the national coal industry, it should refrain from it. As a supporting Party, I want the United Front Government to revise its attitude towards the privatisation move of the coal industry.

I am going to conclude. I hope the Government will accept the suggestion made by several Members in the House, particularly who are engaged in trade union activities, like me and others, and finally decide upon this pension scheme which is very much beneficial for the teeming millions of our coal miners in the country ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, then do not waste time. Shri V. Ganesan, please.

SHRI V. GANESAN (Chidambaram) : On behalf of the DMK Party, I rise to support the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

This being my maiden speech in the Lok Sabha, I would like to pay my respects to Dr. Kalaingar, who had always supported me and provided me an opportunity to express my views before this august House.

The Bill seeks to empower the Central Government to frame a suitable Pension Scheme for providing wider benefits to the subscribers of the Coal Mines Provident Fund. It seeks to give powers to the Central Government for evolving superannuation pension, retirement pension, permanent total disablement pension, widow or widower pension, children pension and orphan pension for the coal workers.

The Bill for this purpose seeks to create a Pension Fund out of contributions to the existing Family Pension Fund supplemented by additional contributions agreed to voluntarily by workers as well as out of the surplus available with the existing Family Pension Fund.

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight the plight of the coal mine workers. The coal mine workers are the most neglected section of the society. Despite several law and despite several institutional arrangements for ensuring their welfare, the achievements in this regard is very poor.

As far Housing facilities to the coal mine workers are concerned, we are yet to provide 100 percent housing to the workers. They are in hazardous occupations and until the basic need of housing is tackled on war footing, their miseries cannot be wiped out. I would like to impress upon the Government that they should, in the current plan, ensure 100 percent housing to all coal mine workers. The workers of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation should be covered under a special plan for providing 100 percent housing facilities by 1998.

The work conditions in coal mines always tend to create health complications. All coal mine workers should be provided with a special medical reimbursement allowance. This should be provided in addition to the medical facilities made available to them by the coal mine organisations so that the workers can have a freedom to choose their own medical personnel for consultations which normally others have. All coal mine complexes must have well equipped hospitals to diagnose at the very early stages the dangerous disease called pneumoconiosis which normally affect the coal miners.

Though provision of educational facilities at the coal mine complexes for educating the children of coal mine workers is primarily a responsibility of the State Governments, I shall like to impress upon the Minister to provide a special assistance to the State Governments for running the educational institutions. This would go a long way in expanding the educational facilities provided to the children of the coal mine workers.

Sir, I feel it my bounden duty to highlight some of the injustices being committed to the coal mine workers by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation authorities.

Land was acquired by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation for its activities long back. However, the compensation that ought to have been paid to those

from whom the lands were acquired, has not so far been paid due to the highhandedness of the officials of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. The N.L.C. authorities have also been irresponsible when they had not provided one member of each family from whom the lands were acquired, with a job in N.L.C. These things were agreed upon and the N.L.C. officials have failed to fulfil the promises to the detriment of the public interest. The hon. Minister must immediately look into this and ask for a report from the N.L.C. authorities for immediately resolving this problem.

The safety standards in Neyveli Lignite Corporation are also miserable. Due to lack of safety standards, deaths due to accidents are on the rise. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to immediately order an inquiry into failing safety standards in Neyveli Lignite Corporation. I have reports that some vested interests in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation do not take due interest in ensuring proper safety. These vested interests who are anti-worker in their nature, should be identified and punished. I want the Government to set up a task force to study safety conditions in N.L.C. and to recommend measures for improving safety standards in the interests of the poor workers.

The malpractices in Neyveli Lignite Corporation have gone beyond bounds. I have reports that casual labourers are employed and even when permanent vacancies arise, they are not adjusted through the casual employees society. There is an inordinate delay in filling permanent vacancies by casual employees. The officials have a heyday in indulging in corruption. This has to be checked. Unless this is done, whatever law you may bring, such measures are bound to be defeated.

I would like to hon. Minister to initiate concrete steps to streamline the functioning of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation and attune it with the workers' interests.

Our hon. Minister of State of the Ministry of Coal may please visit the Neyveli Lignite Corporation to see the various problems faced by the workers. I hope that further action will be taken in this regard.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I now call Shri Jayanta Rongpi to speak. He is not here.

I hope hon. George Fernandes will entertain us with a brief speech.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : I will not make a big speech.

[Translation]

Madam, almost all the hon. Members have supported this Bill and congratulated this Government. But I do not see anything in it for which Government may deserve applause. If any body deverse appropriation, it is Shri Narsimha Rao because the bill is not new and it replaces the ordinance of 5th January.

If the honourable members have studied the bill carefully, they would see that the statement of objects and reasons clearly states that this ordinance was promulgated on 5th January and because it would not be converted into a bill and passed, it was again promulgated on 20th June. Therefore, Madam, this bill belongs to congress Government. The united Front Government is only honouring its commitment because Shri Narsimha Rao had told this Government in the very beginning that it would continue whatever his Government has started. Therefore, this Government's economic policy, its budget and this bill all are indications of this commitment. So if they want to welcome, they should welcome congress Party and its leader. I don't see any thing praiseworthy. The bill says that a new pension scheme is being prepared. Sub-Section 3(E) of section 5 has been substituted by a new section which says.

[English]

(a) superannuation pension, retiring pension or permanent total disablement pension to the person employed in any coal mine or class of coal mines to which this Act applies; and

(b) widow or widower pension, children pension or orphan pension and life insurance benefits, payable to the beneficiaries of such employees.

[Translation]

Many of us may think that earlier, there was only one pension and now there will be several pensions. The deceased persons, their widows, orphans will get pension. The Congress Government has been able to mislead the people. There is nothing worth while in it. If this ment want to give pension, where is the money? It must till us frame where the funds will come. How will it generate funds to pay pension from next month or 5th of January.

The felt the need, of promulgation of the ordinance and I presume that process of implementation also started. Then the pension scheme should have been brought before this House. There is nothing as transparency. The Government that drafted this Bill is no more in power, but the United Front Government should have brought the details of the scheme before this House. It was said that workers were going to get crores of rupees through this scheme. Government must tell the source of this money.

Madam, look at the annexure which deals with the mobilization of funds. Sub para 2 of para E says.

[English]

"Notwithstanding anything contained in section 3, there shall be established, as soon as may be after framing of the Pension Scheme, a Pension Fund into which there shall be paid, from time to time, in respect of every employee who is a member of the Pension Scheme,

(a) such sums, not exceeding one-fourth, of the amount payable to the Fund under sub-section (1) of section 10D as the employer's contribution as well as the employee's contribution, as may be specified in the Pension scheme."

[Translation]

Now, the old provision says:

[English]

"Such portion, not exceeding one-fourth of the amount payable under sub-section (1) of section 10D as the employer's contribution as well as the employee's contribution, as may be specified in the said Scheme."

[Translation]

Funds are the same, what will they do further; the heads are :

[English]

"Such sums as the Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, specify."

[Translation]

Now see what previous provision says:

[English]

"Such sums, being not less than the aggregate of the amount payable in pursuance of clause (a) out of the employer's contribution under sub-section (1) of section 10D and an amount equivalent to one-sixteenth of the employer's contribution..."

[Translation]

It further says :

[English]

"the net assets of the Family Pension Fund as existed immediately before the establishment of the Pension Fund."

[Translation]

So, there is nothing new. It is their money. My friend Basu Dev Acharia said that 880 crore rupees are available. But is workers money and is proposed to be transferred. Nothing more, the last sentence is.

[English]

"any other contribution which may be made to the Pension Fund with the previous approval of the Central Government."

[Translation]

Now, see the Financial Memorandum, which says:

[English]

"It is proposed to transfer the net assets of the existing Family Pension Fund to the corpus of the proposed Pension Fund."

[Translation]

This is what they have mentioned earlier. It is further said:

[English]

"Clause (b) of sub-section (2) of the new section 3E proposed vide clause 5 of the Bill provides for the contribution of the Central Government. The Central Government may pay to the proposed Pension Fund such sums after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf."

[Translation]

It was 1/16, but now no percentage has been mentioned; But in the following sentence, they say:

[English]

"However, it is proposed that this amount would be at the existing level of contribution to the Family Pension Fund."

[Translation]

They say it will be 1/16. Now the Congress is out of power. They are supporting this Government what have the workers got?

Madam, my worry is that they are befoothing the entire country. They are trying to project in if they are doing much for the people. In fact they are doing nothing.

This is my complaint...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : What is wrong in it. It is good, you must feel happy about it... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not waste the time. We have to take up discussion on the Railway Budget soon.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deograh) : By this bill, not only the scope of pension is being broadened but also the money amounting to Rs 1000 crore which could not be spent earlier is being made available now for spending.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Otherwise, they had swallowed it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : It is not so.

SHRI GEROGUE FERNANDES : You said a sum of Rs. 880 or Rs.1000 crore is lying. This belongs to the workers. It will belong to them even after the adoption of the new scheme.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : This includes Government contribution also.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This money belongs to workers.

[English]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balram Pur) : Why are you speaking on behalf of the Minister?

[Translation]

SHRI GEROGUE FERNANDES : You told me that I will make a big speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I said, brief speech and not big speech.

[English]

SHRI GEROGUE FERNANDES : That is why I want to be very brief. What I want to submit is that there is nothing laudable in any of the schemes I don't find any provision here whereunder government may make sizable contribution. I would like to make it very clear that workers used to get 5.5 percent interest on their pension fund and other funds. An Act was made to this effect in 1971. I do not know whether government has raised it to 8 percent but the provision I have seen contains 5.5 percent interest. I want to plead with the Government that workers contribution is deducted, mine owners' contribution is deposited and if government is making any contribution that must also be deposited in the relevant fund. The Amendment proposed does not relate to 5.5 percent interest but the legislation being amended provides for 5.5 percent annual interest. It is in the second schedule. Now in the proposed schedule they say,

[English]

"The manner in which the accounts of the Pension Fund shall be made and investment of moneys belonging to the pension Fund to be made subject to such pattern of investment as may be determined by the Central Government."

[Translation]

Till now, Central Government's determination was 5.5 percent. They are fleecing the workers. I do not want to go into the details what government has earned or lost out of it. But we do not have the right to fleece the workers. They should be given the best rate of interest available in the market because the amount so accrued will be paid to them by way of pension. I am

afraid, if this is not done they may bring out it to 4 percent. Earlier they had mentioned 5.5 percent but this time it has been omitted just perhaps to avoid criticism in this House. In the U.S.A. and European countries the interest rate is 4 percent and since India is also being Americanised, they thought it fit to keep the interest at 5.5 percent. I don't know what was their intention when they drafted this Bill but I would like to stress once again, the interest rate should be 8 percent or above, or what is available under secured deposits or government bonds. In any case, the interest rate should be more than 5 percent this Government is not in a position to help the workers in any manner, but they can be better paid out of the interest on their deposits with these words. I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you, very much. Now, the hon. Minister Shrimati Kanti Singh will reply.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Madam, Chairperson, I have given my name.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many names, but everybody is waiting for the discussion on the Railway Budget.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : As far as the discussion on the Railway Budget is concerned, Madam, we are told that the House will sit late in the night and the hon. Minister has been kind enough to provide ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : But most of you want to speak on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : My protest is this. Yesterday, there was a Bill relating to labour.

17.00 hrs.

The Bill which is introduced is also concerned with labour. We are all concerned with labour. But when it comes to brasstacks, we try to evade...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This cannot go on like this because the discussions on Railway Budget has to begin. I have already called the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Madam, my submission to you is that you should give 5 minutes to all those who want to speak. Smt. Kanti Singh is our Minister. She will enlighten us about bunglings in coal sector. There is complicity, kick backs in this industry. This matter pertains to an invaluable asset...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have already taken three hours for this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Let us take another fifteen minutes before the Minister replies. What is wrong in that?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not the question of right or wrong. It is the question of time for discussing the Railway Budget.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We cannot do that. It is not possible.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Madam Chairperson, I am grateful to the hon'ble Members for giving valuable suggestions in regard to proposed pension scheme and I have noted those suggestions. I shall always be prepared to take the suggestions into consideration.

Hon'ble Member Shri Basu Dev Acharia has said that representatives of trade Unions should be consulted in the framing of the pension scheme. I would like to tell him that we are taking their advice. Under coal Mines Provident Fund, only working documents have been circulated for consultation. The scheme is being given the final shape. The entire Family Pension Fund, which was around Rs.1000 crore in 1995 will be transferred to pension scheme.

Some hon'ble Members have said that this Bill be referred to a select committee or a Joint Select Committee. But my submission is that this course of action is not required because through this Amending Bill, we are empowering the Central Government to create a Pension Fund. This is an enabling measure. Reference of the Bill to the standing Committee will be wrong because the third ordinance is going to lapse on 20th August 1996. We cannot promulgate another ordinance while the Parliament is in session. This will create resentment among the coal workers and the economy of the country will be adversely affected if they resort to strike. The entire process of introducing the Bill will have to be started afresh..

Hon'ble Shri Lodha ji asked as to why the need of promulgation of the ordinance arouse. The ordinance was promulgated to assure the coal mine workers that in deference to their recommendation, a new scheme is being finalised. The Coal Mine Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act and the Employees Provident Fund Act are two separate Acts. Therefore, the Pension Scheme will have to be bifurcated under these two Acts. The administration cost of Family Pension is borne by the Government of India. The administration expenses of the proposed Pension Scheme will also be borne by Government of India. In the proposed Pension Scheme, the contribution of the Government of India will be at the level act which it is contributing to family Pension Scheme. Under the present family Pension Scheme, the workers get very little benefit and

therefore, its Fund corpus is being increased. The workers will get many benefits from this Fund under the proposed Pension Scheme. We shall implement it in a balanced and sustainable manner. The interest rate has been 1.5 percent since 1.4.91 and therefore I want this Bill should be passed.

Hon'ble Member Shri Verma ji spoke about some Paper clippings. In this regard I would like to say that these Press reports are toally baseless. On the contrary, I have given strict instructions that no irrregularity should be allowed in the supply of coal. If a single person of the Coal India Limited is found to have made allotment of coal in a dubious manner, most stringent action will be taken against him. These beaseless reports were published by those vested interest who want to secure under benefit from Coal India Limited. We will prove by our action that these allegations are absolutely wrong. We are fully committed to root out any kind of irrregularities. In the end I would like to say a Ghazal in connection with the allegations made against me.

Lazzate gum barha deejaye,

Mera daman bahut saaf hai.

Koi tohmet laga deejaye.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Madam Chairperson, you did not give an opportunity earlier to speak, but I would like to submit to you that three ordinances have been promulgated during 10th and 11th Lok Sabha and during the tenure of previous Government ...*(Interruptions)* Why are you so anxious, I am not going to quote from newspapers. She has repudiated the news item of The Hindustan Times. Three ordinances have been issued in this matter. This time, this Bill has been brought in a hurry. It is an incomplete Bill. She has said that the ordinance was going to lapse. That is all right. But I want to know when the proposed scheme concerning the mine workers can be finalised and implemented...*(Interruptions)*. Has any time frame been chalked out for this purpose. It must be done within a set time frame. Government must commit to this House as to the time by which the workers will get the benefit of this scheme...*(Interruptions)*. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister the time by which this Bill will be made effective...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. We have to follow some rules. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much. You have made your point.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I have made my point. Now, let the hon. Minister respond for a second.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is hon. Minister's discretion. Moreover, Justice Guman Mal Lodha is going to speak now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : There is no question of arbitrariness irregularities are being committed in the allotment of coal. Only some favourite people are being allotted coal...*(Interruptions)* The officials are being pressurised...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Lodha ji, Please start.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Don't loss time.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Madam just now, Shri Basant Singh Khalsa raised a very vital point about non supply of coal to Punjab as a result of which the 2 thermal power plants are on the verge of closure ...*(Interruptions)* We want Punjab should get regular supply of coal.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, the hon. Minister will make a note of all that has been said, and she will call those hon. Memebers who raise such concrete points. So, there is no problem.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : She will do it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Madam, I have already said that the hon'ble Members who have given their suggestions have been taken note of, but if they want to see me I am always prepared to meet them and I shall try to solve all of their problems. As for shortage of coal in Punjab, the shortage has been met and there is no shortage now...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Madam Chairperson, the important thing is that it was absolutely necessary, there was urgency to bring this ordinance. It is true that workers had been agitating and the Government was continuously overlooking their interests and delaying the matter. This ordinance was promulgated first on 5th Jan. 1996 and today when we are discussing this measure, here, three more ordinances were repeated and efforts were made to introduce a Bill but main issue is of implmentation of pension scheme. The workers are not going to be benefited out of this enactment. This Bill is an enabling provison, it gives power to the Government but why a scheme was not finalised during the last six months since 5th Jan, 1996? Why the scheme was not finalised and implemented? The hurry shown in bringing the ordinances should have resulted in implementing the pension scheme and extending its benefit to the Coal Mine workers. But the fact is, and they have admitted

this, that deliberations are going on for the finalisation of Pension Scheme. It has been stated in House that this Bill has been introduced for the benefit of 8.13 lakh workers. But none of the labourer or workers has got its benefit so far. It is a mere pretention, it is a show. Infact Government's intentions are not clear. They have not tried to extend benefit to any worker. This is infact misuse of powers to promulgate ordinances, it is murder of the Consitution and misuse of Article 123. This is not objectionable. Had the benefit been made available to the workers I would not have objected to this. The hon'ble Members may have or may not have got the opportunity to discuss it but the workers would have benefited. My submission is that the ordinance making power has been misused and abused. Still the workers did not get the benefits. There was no justification for promulgating this ordinance.

Madam, I would like to submit that this delegated legislation confers power to formulate a scheme but rules have not been framed thereunder. That means the delegated legislation to be passed, the provident Fund Scheme to be implemented will not be discussed in this House. According to the provision of General Provident Fund any rules framed thereunder are required to be tabled in this House. It is the prerogative of this House to amend, after, improve or abrogate any rule and regulation. I do not know what Government's intention is in this case and why the Members of Parliament are being deprived of their legitimate rights? Why Government thought of precluding the real scheme to be made for the benefit of the workers from being deliberated by this House? What are the reasons behind this strategy? Is there any malafide intention behind this? Is the intention of the Government is that the scheme should not be put to the scrutiny of Parliament, Members should not be given an opportunity to consider it? If this is so, then, I must say it goes against the tenats of democracy and democratic traditoin. It is against the norms of Parliamentary democracy, it is against the Constitution, it is against rules and procedures of this House. Therefore, there is still time Government should reconsider the matter and lay the proposed scheme on the table of this House so that Members of Parliament may express their views on the scheme. I am not against this ordinance. I want that the workers should get its benefits as early as possible but we also want to associate ourselves in this effort. In case any addition, alteration or amendment is suggested by this House, government should accept the same.

Madam, there is yet another important aspect. The Government has said in section 5 of the Bill.

[English]

"...as the Central Government may after due appropriations made by Parliament by law in this behalf specify.."

[Translation]

May I know whether any such amount has been specified because the budget has already been presented? The provision included in the budget are before us;

[English]

"...as the Central Government may after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf specify..."

[Translation]

May I know from the government whether any provision has been included for payment by way of pension? The amount of employee's contribution and the interest accrued thereon is already there, but, if government want to make any contribution to the fund, a provision should be made in the budget. If the word 'shall' had been used in place of 'may' then I would have agreed that workers will get pension. This shows you are of course committed to the welfare of the workers but by using the word 'may' in the drafting, the rights of the workers have very cleverly left to the discretion of the government. The fate, the future and the pension of workers will be at the mercy of the government. This does not confirm to the concept and ideology of a welfare state. Therefore, I would request the government to consider my submission. The scheme should be laid on the Table in the interest of greater transparency. We should clearly be told that so much amount of pension will be given to every worker and also specify the amounts to be paid from government fund, from labour department fund, etc.

Madam, there is yet another important aspect of this Bill. I have been told that some authentic report has been received about whatever has transpired, so far, though government has not specified anything so far that a meeting was convened on the pension fund scheme and the B.M.P.F. Board of trustees had in this meeting constituted a committee for drafting the scheme in which Shri A.K. Ray and Shri R.K. Zin, representative of INTUC, Shri B.K. Rai, BMS representative, Shri Mohan Jha representative of ATUC along with representative of the management namely, Directory Personnel, BMPF Commissioner, and Shri Ashok Mehta Director Personnel H.C.L. were appointed as members. After protracted deliberations, it was explained as to what is to be done after 16.4.96 within the existing frame of the Pension scheme Madam, in column 6 of the Provident Fund Bill it is mentioned that the workers who opt for Family Pension Scheme shall contribute 11/6 per cent without ceiling, the management shall contribute 1 1/6%, without ceiling and the Government shall contribute 1.67% subject to 'ceiling'. I want clarification in this regard. It has been mentioned there that a proposal should be submitted to the Government for abolition of the ceiling. The deduction from workers salary shall be made

according to his capacity to pay. Column No. 5 says that an additional increment will be given. It will be given to outstanding workers by the management. Now, under item 6, two percent amount will be retained by the management for payment of additional increment out of the amount to be deposited in Pension Fund. Thus, only 12% including interest is deposited in the Pension Fund by the management.

I demand a commitment from the Government that this 12%, which has been decided unanimously by the Government, representatives of trade unions, officers of Labour Department, and officers of coal companies, should not be diluted. Today 12% interest is paid on P.P.F. This fund is made out of the hard earned money of the workers to which matching contribution is made by the employer. It will be totally unjustified and amount to exploitation if the workers are deprived of interest on this fund.

I would like to have a clarification from the Government. Whether 12% interest will be paid on the pension scheme deposit, whatever may be the amount? The Government has nothing to do for paying 12% interest. The only thing is that a P.P.F. amount should be opened with the bank and the bank will pay 12% interest on the deposit. Therefore, I think there should be no objection whatsoever, to paying 12% interest.

I would also like to plead that actions should conform to the provision of the scheme to be made under this legislation. Coal India Ltd. can be turned as the den of corruption, Scandals, scams. It has incurred a loss of Rs.52 crore. Some hon. Members have informed this House how the workers hard earned money is spent on guest houses, and here they say that stringent action would be taken Shri Rajiv Ghandhi himself had admitted that out of one rupee sent from here, 85 paise go in the pockets of brokers, middleman.

The hon. Minister said that if one deals in coal, our hands would get blackened. She has said a couplet in this regard. In reply I would like to say, Coule Kee Kohtari main Kaisa bhi sayana jaye,

Ek leek kaji ki laagi re laggi (However continuously one may enter the coal mine, he is likely to get block spotted.)

So, naturally, she would like to be very cautious. I remember when I was contesting election, one hon. Minister used to get wagon loaded with coal and left with lakh of rupees on behalf of coal India. He is also involved in Hawala scam. I would not like to name him. He is no more now. This shows how corrupted coal India is. A very bold approach is needed to root out this corruption, but I feel, the efforts that are being made are totally devoid of this coverage. However, I am not going to press my Resolution for disapproval of the ordinance, because I want this Bill be passed. But mere passage of this Bill will not help. The pension scheme is its soul.

It should be framed in the best interest of the workers and the same be laid on the Table. We should be given an opportunity to discuss it so that various schools of thought here and the representatives workers are able to express their views thereon.

With these words I seek leave to withdraw my Resolution and urge that the Bill be passed.

This legislation is meant for the welfare of labourers, workers, employees and I hope Government would implement it in that spirit although I am not optimistic but one should not be pessimistic as well. I want to give one more chance to the hon. woman Minister and withdraw my Resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Statutory Resolution?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : This legislation is meant for the welfare of labourers, workers, employees and I hope Government would implement it in that spirit although I am not optimistic but one should not be pessimistic as well. I want to give one more chance to the hon. woman Minister and withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basudeb Acharia is not present. Since he had already moved his amendment, I put amendment No 4 to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The amendment was adopted

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : As the hon. Member has said if one goes into the coal mine the will come out with blackspots. In this connection I would like to say :

Mein wo aina houn list mein aap apana chehara dekh sakati hain,

Jo kale hain we kale he deekhenge

Magar aina hamesha saaf aur transparent hota hai.

(I am that mirror in which you can see your face and if you are black your reflection will also be black, but mirror is always clean and transparent)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudi is not present, I am not taking his amendments.

The question is :

"That clauses 5 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 5 to 10 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.31 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET 1996-97 — GENERAL
DISCUSSION

AND

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT
(RAILWAYS), 1996-97

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up items No 13 and 14-General Discussion on the Railway Budget for 1996-97 and Demands for Grants on Account (Railways).

Motion moved .

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1997, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

*Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for
1996-97 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account submitted to the Vote of the House (inclusive of the amounts already voted by Lok Sabha on 11th March, 1996)
1.	Railway Board	11,52,44,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	59,90,04,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	414,00,74,000
4.	Repairs & Maintenance of Permanent Way & Works	853,68,07,000
5.	Repairs & Maintenance of Motive Power	594,71,90,000
6.	Repairs & Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	884,72,16,000
7.	Repairs & Maintenance of Plan and Equipment	454,44,55,000
8.	Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock & Equipment	729,80,31,000
9.	Operating Expenses-Traffic	1682,74,99,000
10.	Operating Expenses-Fuel	2001,80,42,000
11.	Staff Welfare & Amenities	333,56,76,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	472,26,42,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and other retirement benefits	1180,98,26,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	3538,00,00,000
15.	Divident to General Revenues, Repayment of Loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over- Capitalization	12,76,16,000
16.	Assets - Acquisition, Contruccion and Replacement	
	Revenue	22,50,00,000
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>	
	Capital	4050,95,18,000
	Railway Funds	2365,95,32,000
	Total	19619,33,72,000

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Madam, Yesterday, it was the brithday of Lok Manya Tilak and he was considered to be the father of Indian discontentment movement.

17.31 hrs.

(Shri Chitta Basu *in the Chair*)

Ram Vilas ji I am saying this in your context and you have become the father of discontentment among the railway users because of the Railway Budget that you have presented.

We never expected much from the united front Government, but we had some expecations from Ram Vilas ji. We were hoping that he would introduce some innovative schemes in the Railway Budget. But we are sorry to say that he has not shown any dynamism, he has not infused any new ideas. No new schemes are proposed. In this background, he has watered down all our hopes. I have studies his Budget thoroughly. If I have to react in one sentence, I would say that his Budget is running on the same old track, the train is the same, the wagon is the same only the motorman has changed.

His Budget should have been an Indian Railway Budget but it is a Bihar Budget because he comes from Bihar, it is a Karnataka Budget because the Prime Minister comes from Karnataka, it is a Tamil Nadu budget because the Finance Minister belongs to that state, but no special schemes have been included for Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Guajarat ...*(Interruptions)* If you are not relishing, you can speak when your turn comes.

I wish, I would join the happy moments of those for whom new trains have been introduced. 9-10 new trains have been introduced and it is said that he will consider the question of updating the surveys and also conduct some new surveys. In my opinion, this Budget is hollow. Instead of concentrating on completion of the ongoing Projects, he is simple saying that he will do this and he will do that.

No doubt, he has introduced some new trains but common man doesn't want Rajdhani Express or super fast trains. He travels by Passenger Trains, he is the person who faces great hardships while travelling by train. The Former Railway Minister belonging to Congress Party had cancelled many Passenger Trains. He has introduced Howrah-Delhi Janta train again. The people going to Maharashtra will have to travel via West Bengal. They have to tavel 400-500 Kms and for them, he has ot introduced any new train and they are forced to travel by buses and pay higher fares. He has not made any changes in the short distance train system. The passengers will have to spend more by travelling by surface transport. Therefore, I will plead that the operation of passenger trains should be restored.

We talk of accidents, we talk of unmaned level crossings. He has stated that we have 25,000 unmaned

railway crossings and has promised not to keep any level crossing unmanned in future. But he has not promised to reduce these 25,000 unmaned level crossings. In case no new rail tracks are to be constructed, then where is the question of new unmaned level crossings. I will suggest that a three ways phased project should be taken up to man all the 25,000 level crossings. This will reduce the incidence of accidents, insure train puntuality and provide employment to many people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the penultimate year of the eighth five year plan. In this annual plan, a sum of Rs. 8130 crores is proposed to be allocated to the Railways. My submission is that this amount falls far short of the requirements of Railway Projects. It needs the Budgetary support of Rs. 1270 crores in the estimation of the Hon. Minister. In my opinion this year Budgetary support should be atleast Rs. 3.00 crores. The Hon. Minister should take up the matter with the govt. and get it sanctioned. Only then will he be able to take up new schemes.

Two years ago, I was appointed the Governor of the study group on Financial Prospects of Indian Railways at the behest of the Railway Consultative Committee. I studied the project and came to certain conclusions on which I would like to share with this August House. The Railways got 75% Budgetary Support during the Fifth Plan which went down to 58% in the Sixth Plan, 42% in the Seventh Plan and 19.8% or say 20% in the current Eighth Plan. So, the support was reduced from 75% to 20%. Such a drastic cut, and he is sitting silent. Nobody is going to give him Budgetary support in this manner and he will not be able to bring about appreciable improvements in the Railways without adequate funds. This concept of the Planning Commission of the Government, is wrong. If he wants to create new infrastructure in North East, which is necessary also. The commercial line of thinking will not help. The Government has, therefore, to change its basic policy. The capital expenditure needed for new tracks will have to come from the Planning Commission by way of budgetary support. No doubt, the railway tracks already laid, the trains, already running, can be operated in commercial lines but at the same time, their efficiency, their profitability must be ensured. Unless he endeavour to secure at least 50% budgetary support, no improvements can be achieved. This is my submission.

Three four years ago the Ministry of Railways had drafted a scheme, namely this BOLT (Build, operation lease and transfer) scheme. Now, Sir, i have some knowledge of railways, so have you. But I would like to caution the hon. Minister that private companies will not come forward because the railway, is not earning profit. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, three schemes viz. Diva Baski Diwapanwe and Borivalley-Birar were included in this scheme and a sum of Rs. 500 crore was expected from these schemes. Tenders were invited. No tender was received for Diva BaSai and Divapanvl

and only one tender was received for Borivalley Sector. But I believe, this tender is also not viable economically and financially. So, do not go for BOLT scheme. It is sheer waste of time. What is required is financial prudence. The finances have to be mobilised. I come from Mumbai. The hon. Minister had come to Mumbai. The metropolitan project has been discussed in this House many times.. I understand he cannot have information instantly but when I went through his budget speech, I was surprised to read the allocation made for Mumbai metropolitan Project. I do not know whether his officers have also read it or not. At page 28 of his Budget speech, it is said and I quote—

[English]

"As Mumbai Metropolitan city carries more than 50 percent of total suburban passenger traffic, it has been decided to allow 50 percent of the Budget under MTP planhead."

[Translation]

This means 50 percent of the suburban traffic is in Mumbai and therefore, he is giving 50 percent of the provision intended for metropolitan Projects. But I think this is a wrong notion. The daily total passenger traffic in the country is 1.10 crore and 55 lakh passengers out of it are in Mumbai. It is not the question of only metropolitan transport. What transpires from his Budget Speech is that 50 percent of the total Budget is to be given for this purpose.

Sir, I have the figures of sub urban passenger traffic. These figures will show, how wrong he is as far as allocation of 50 percent for MTP is concerned. Calcutta has a dialy traffic Passenger of 19 lakh for which a sum of Rs. 55.47 crore has been provided. The passenger traffic in Madras is 5 lakh for which a budget provision of 40.60 crore has been made. In other words, the daily passenger traffic of Calcutta and Madras Put together is 24 lakh passengers for which a provision of Rs. 96 crores has been made. Now, Mumbai has a daily passenger traffic of 55 lakh and a provision of only Rs. 29 crore has been made for the MTP. Who has taught him this arithmetic? I do not want to blame him because I know he cannot do such a silly thing. But whosoever has done it, has tried to mislead the House. He has promised to make some more provision in the Supplementary Budget. So, I would like him to have a deeper study of such matters.

Sir, I would like to give you some interesting information. In Mumbai, 10 person stand and wait in any area of 1 sq.m. I would like him to see this for himself. The people of Mumbai will carry a wrong impression. Last year, some suburban passenger riots took place in Mumbai over some trifling matters. So, if central Government ignores the metropolitan in this way, it will aggravate the situation. Therefore, I will plead with him to give a serious thought to it and do justice to the metropolitan projects. All the three metropolitan

cities are our assets. They are trade and business centres. Several industries are located there. He should do justice to the passengers of business community because there is a lot of difference between tourist passengers and business passengers. Both of them should be done justice.

I would like to point out one thing more. There is no difference between this Budget and last years Budget. Last year a provision of Rs. 317 crore was made for Borivelly-Quadupalli project but this provision remained unutilised. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 90 crore was provided for Diva-Basai project. But the same also remained unutilised. Nor the provision of Rs. 52 crore made for Diva-Panel project was spent. The provisions included for modernisation projects of several sub urban stations also remain unutilised. This figures have been provided by the concerned general managers. So, he has to think deeply on this aspect.

Sir, Shri Suresh Kalmadi ji is not present. I wish he were here. He had published officially a booklet titled 'Action Plan Mumbai, 2001' when he was Union Railway Minister. He had said that an investment of Rs. 1190 crore would be required to developmetn of Railways in Mumabi by 2001. But he is no more the Railway Minister, so the new Railway Minister has to work on this project. This booklet has been prepared by the Railway Ministry. The Budget for this year and the concepts of this book do not tally. So, he has to view the problems of Mumbai in this background.

I congratulate him for not increasing the second class fare and that of suburban trains but what is required is that he must give a serious thought to providing better facilities and solving the problem of overcrowding in the trains and if this is not done, then, the trains will get late and agitations and riots will take place.

[English]

The sub urban Rail Service is just on the brink of collapse.

[Translation]

He must ensure that the projects for Mumbai included in the Budget are completed in 2 years

He has announced creation of some new Railway Zones and the people of concerned zones must be happy over this. But there should have been a separate zone for Mumbai sub urban Railway. A Konkan Railway corporation like independent autonomous booky should be created. The local passengers, Members of Parliament and the State Government all have made this demand. The World Bank from which he is going to receive aid, has also provided a conditionality for the creation of a separate zone, but there is no mention in the Budget of such a zone. I think, its very difficult to bring about on improvement until an autonomous

corporation is constituted. Money can be riased by issuing bonds and I think the people of Mumbai will give very good response. So, I will urge upon the government to create an independent autonomous sub urban Railway Corporation for Mumbai.

The 10 percent increase in freight will definitely affect the consumers. There is no difference of opinion about it. I should suggest that this can be reduced to 5 percent by obtaining budgetary support out of Union General Budget. Otherwise, this will be a heavy burden on the common consumer. Therefore, I demand, that the increase in the freight should be reduced to 5 percent.

I appreciate your gesture of exempting the items like food grains, fruit, sugar, kerosene. In this connection I would like to say that in Jalgaon region banana is grown on a large scale and 50 to 60 wagons of banana come from there daily, but the railways do not treat banana as fruit. It is common man's fruit and I would appeal to him that banana should also be treated as fruit or vegetable and exempted from the proposed freighth hike of 10 percent.

Sir, he needs adequate funds .to provide better railway facilities. I will give a suggestion how to mobilise maximum funds. If he acts upon my advise there would be no paucity of funds. It is being discussed for the last five years that Chennai Calcutta and Delhi and if this land is commercialised, then, my estimate is that railways can mobilise Rs. 20,000 crore only from Mumbai. Similar amounts can be mobilised from Chennai, Calcutta and Delhi.

SHRI MAJOR SINGH BOKE (Tarantaran) : Call Calcutta also with the changed name.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I will call Calcutta with changed name when the people of Calcutta change its name.

This proposal has been engasing the attention of the cabinet for the last 4 years. Sh. Sharad Pawar ji is not in the House. When he was Defence Minister, he also indicated that Defence also has large area of surplus land. Similarly, other Minister also indicated that their departments too have surplus land. I do not want to go into the question of land grabbing. But if the surplus land available in 4 metropolitan cities is made proper use of by the railways, they can mobilise funds to meet their entire budget. So, there should be transparency alongwith proper utilisation of the surplus land. The Railways can get as much money as they need.

On page 29 of the Budget speech regarding Konkan Railway corporation, he has said :

[English]

"In this regard, we expect special cooperation and help from Planning Commission and

Finance Ministry so that the resource problems of Konkan Railway Corporation in the last stages of its construction can be resolved."

[Translation]

I know that the Konkan Railway does not have sufficient funds but I would like to inform you that urban cooperative banks of Mumbai and Konkan are prepared to help Konkan Railway.

18.00 hrs.

The Konkan urban cooperative bank has written a letter to this effect on 4th July. He receives many letters, and may be, this letter has not received his attention. The letter says and I quote :

[English]

"Our Association represents 31 urban cooperative banks in Konkan region. Our Members Banks and other cooperative banks still wish and can invest in these bonds an amount of Rs.100 crore or so. However, there are certain restrictions on these banks for investment as per section 24 of the Banking Regulation Act. The banks can invest their funds only in approved securities."

[Translation]

Now, it is for the Ministry of Finance to approve the securities. Mr. Prabhu is sitting here. Many others are also associated with Mumbai cooperative banks ... (Interruptions) I am talking of Konkan Railway.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : I may say that not only in the Railways but elsewhere also it is supply which generates demand in many cases. The fact that the suburban passengers in Mumbai are that high is partly because of the fact that the Railway services are available in Mumbai on a much bigger scale than in Calcutta.

Since you referred to Calcutta I want to say one thing. I know that you will be helpful and understanding. I have also spoken to the Railway authorities. The problem with regard to comparison between Calcutta and Mumbai has also to be in terms of the availability of road surface in the town areas. Calcutta has only six per cent of road surface while Mumbai has 16 per cent ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It is 18 per cent.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Therefore, the need in terms of underground metro service in

Calcutta is much more than that of Mumbai. I am sure you will appreciate it. I wanted to bring these things to your attention.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am not saying why more allocation has been made for Calcutta. I have no grudge whatsoever. Please don't misunderstand me. My contention is that the metropolitans having greater population than Calcutta should get justice. What I said is that Mumbai should be done justice in the manner Calcutta is being justified. I have simply pointed out the incongruity in the speech of the hon'ble Minister. The people of Calcutta travel by metro. I have seen metro and enjoyed travelling in it. It is fitted with loud speakers and announcements are made about approaching next stations. It has platforms on right side as well as left side. In Calcutta, one can alight on right side platform but not in Mumbai.

SHRI SOM NATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Our Committee has recommended construction of Metro Railway in Mumbai.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sh. Basu Deb Acharia was the convenor of that group. The only point is that it should be implemented.

[Translation]

The Konkan cooperative banks have offered to invest Rs.100 crore in bonds. If the government is prepared, the Mumbai cooperative banks are ready to give 200-250 crore of rupees deposit. But the decision is to be taken by the government.

Sir, I will request the hon'ble Railway Minister to consider the suggestions made by me. I have given you an indication, how you can mobilise maximum funds. If the suggestions can bring some relief to the people, then, I think the discussion on the Budget will prove to be more meaningful. We should not create an impression among the passengers and the people at large that we are making only a futile exercise. I hope government will consider my suggestions. I would be obliged if he can tell me during his reply, which of the suggestions he can implement immediately. As for other suggestions he can find some way out after having mutual discussions.

[English]

SHRI. P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I congratulate the Railway Minister for his popular Budget. He is a good Public Relations man, very amiable and responsive. Therefore, he could present a 'tali bajao' Budget and, still he is trying to

oblige the Members by conceding to a number of demands even after the Budget.

Sir, the Railways are a very fine organisation and built up good reputation over the years. Under very difficult circumstances, they are discharging their responsibilities and serving the nation and are contributing to the economic development of the country. I compliment the sixteen lakh railway employees and the officers for their diligent service, and also the successive Railway Ministers, some of whom contributed with their wise leadership and some contributed by not interfering in the functioning of the organisation.

Sir, some time ago, a doubt, was expressed whether a separate Railway Budget is necessary at all. In 1924, when the Ackworth Committee recommended the separation of Railway finances from the general finances, there was an imperative need for a Railway Budget. Today, I wonder, whether a separate Budget is necessary each year - and the show of the Railway Minister coming with a bag or giving finishing touches in his room when none of the recommendations in the Budget, none of the proposals in the Budget is secret. In the case of the General Budget, there is some justification because if people come to know about the proposals early, then the goods may be stored. But here, even if somebody buys a ticket two months in advance, he has to pay the difference when the fares are raised. Therefore, I do not find any justification for a separate Railway Budget and this paraphernalia. This has to be thought over also in course of time.

Sir, there are some good features in the functioning of the Railways. One thing is touch wood - they have been able to reduce the number of accidents in the Railways as compared to earlier. Today, they have been halved. It is a good performance which has to be kept up. Also, the wagon turn-round has improved. One of the important features of the functioning of the Railways, that is, the tonne kilometre per wagon day, which is indicative of the great performance of the Railways, has improved from 986 tonne kilometres in 1981 to 1590, almost double, in 1994-95. This is a good performance, as far as the Railway freight traffic is concerned. Similarly, the operating ratio, which is a percentage of the working expenses to the gross earnings, is now contained at 81 per cent. That is also a good feature which has to be complimented.

Sir, the hon. Railway Minister mentioned about the creation of some new Zones and also some new Divisions. Of course, this talk has been going on from Bangalore to Pune, Pune to Hajipur etc and I do not grudge the creation of new Zones wherever operational requirements are there.

But simply because the demands is there for a new zone, if you go on creating new zones and if for each

zone, you have to spend about Rs. 200 crores to Rs. 250 crores, the valuable money of the railways is wasted on this. Therefore, the criterion for creating new zones should be the operational requirements and nothing else. That has to be decided.

The Railway Minister has announced some new trains and also some allocations to the on-going projects. It should be the policy of the Railways to complete the on-going projects. I will come to that a little later. But by allocating meagre resources for the on-going projects, if they are kept pending for 10 years or 15 years, I do not think they will ever be completed and moreover, the cost will escalate and the traffic also cannot be carried meanwhile.

The Railway Minister has announced some concessions to the handicapped persons etc. and I welcome it. Due to his Budget proposals, the Railway Minister will get an additional Rs. 927 crores in the remaining eight months of this financial year. That means, Rs. 1,390 crores in a full year. It is not a meagre amount and whatever the Railway Board Chairman may say that this will have an impact of 0.3 per cent or so, we all know that it does not stand good. Ultimately it will lead to price escalation. Particularly when the freight rates are increased across the board by 10 per cent, definitely prices of commodities will go up according to that percentage or more. Therefore, I do not agree with that argument that it will have a minimal effect. Passenger fare increases are not inflationary. But freight rates increases are definitely inflationary and they will lead to price escalation also. But one thing. The increases in fares may be justified. But we find that the services are going down day by day. The speeds of the trains are going down. The comfort is deteriorating and the service is going down. Therefore, the increase of fares is not justified if you see the corresponding amenities provided in trains or at stations.

One or two magic wands have been used by the Railway Minister or by his officials. I give only two examples. In regard to freight rate increase, the Railway Minister has given some concessions. The Railway Minister has excluded fruits, vegetables, etc. I will show how the jugglery of words can be used to increase freight rates also. He said that freight rate increase excludes on parcels of some commodities. But at the same time, the Railway Minister said "Rationalisation of parcel rates."

For example, about fruits and vegetables, the Railway Minister said that they are excluded. But fruits and vegetables are normally moved by parcels and not in bulk except onions, potatoes, bananas and mangoes. These are carried in rake loads and all others are carried in parcels. Definitely the concessions might help the big traders. But the small traders who send by

parcel have to definitely pay more. Whatever concession is announced in freight rates is nullified by the rationalisation of parcel rates. That is one example of how the officials will do one thing and make tali bajao after tali bajao, and by the time the Members recover, they will find something else coming up ...*(Interruptions)*

I will give one more example. The Railway Minister announced a new train, Secunderabad-Guntur-Vasoda-gama. In the bracket, he said "after the completion of gauge conversion." It is a postdated cheque and God knows when this gauge conversion will be completed and why he should announce such a train so much in advance? By the time we clapped and saw the brackets, all our enthusiasm had gone.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You tell him that the bracketed portion should be implemented first.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : That is how the benefits are nullified at the beginning itself.

A number of new train services have been introduced. It is good. But when Shri Lalit Narain Misra was the Railway Minister, he followed the maxim that where there is a will, there is a railway and where there is no will, there is a survey" because the surveys never see the light of the day. No new lines are constructed.

When the public demand or the Members of Parliament demand something more, after that, a re-survey, that is updating the survey, is ordered to satisfy them and we are all gullible people. We are satisfied with these things.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : When there is no survey, is it possible to lay the railway line etc.?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : I am telling you this thing. If you have no resources, you can satisfy the Members of Parliament and the public by saying that you ordered a survey. That is enough ...*(Interruptions)*

After telling these things, I would like to deal with some fundamental problems affecting the Railways. They are more important than the small things which we demand. There is one thing. The Railways should always adopt a long term strategy and a short-term action plan. But that is lacking. There is one thing, the growth of the Railways is not at all commensurate with the increasing traffic and the economic liberalisation policy.

There had been a phenomenal increase in the traffic since Independence. Between 1951-52 and 1994-95, the passenger traffic went up by three-fold and this increase has been there without any additional inputs. There has been only a small addition to the network

and the freight traffic has also increased. It was about 73 million tonnes in 1950-51. In 1994-95 it was about 365 million tonnes. There was a several fold increase the increase is nearly five times. What is the corresponding increase in the track? In 1950-51, at the beginning of the First Plan, we had 53,596 route kilometres in this country. Today, we have 62,660 route kilometres, just 8000 kilometres have been added in forty-five years. And, there is a three-fold increase in passenger traffic and five-fold increase in freight traffic. But the system has grown by only 8000 kilometres.

What about the rolling stock? In 1960-61, the total number of wagons was 3,07,000. Today, it is to the extent of 2,91,000. They may say that there are bigger wagons, eight-wheelers etc. they can justify it, they have stopped giving figures in terms of four-wheelers. They do not mention whether it is in terms of four-wheelers or eight-wheelers...*(Interruptions)*

As regards coaches, today they are less than the number in 1992-93. In 1992-93, there were 30,298 coaches and today, they have come down to 30,036. The coaches are less. The wagons are less. What about staff? It is exactly at 16,00,000 since 1985-86. For ten years, not a single addition has been made to the staff strength in spite of the increase. Of course, they may say that the productivity has increased and the Railways are carrying more traffic with the existing inputs. But I call it flogging the system. The system is being flogged, the employers are put to more work. They are working day and night and the same number of employees have been handling this increased traffic without any addition to their strength. Therefore, that has also to be taken note.

Another thing is that the Railways are not able to carry the traffic offered. That is the second point which they have to note. The traffic has increased. They have to carry much more. When the traffic is being offered, they are not able to take it. They are scaling down their traffic target. Whatever they wanted to achieve by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan, they scaled it down by several million tonnes. What is happening now? About freight traffic, during the period 1991-96, in six years period, it was less than 23 per cent. That is the growth in the freight traffic. In 1996-97, they want to carry only 20 million tonnes more, that is, less than that in the current year. Now, steel, cement and fertilisers have shifted to road traffic.

Now, they are shifting to roads. Whatever traffic which was carried by the Railway earlier is being shifted to the road. In addition, the container traffic is increasing. But kindly check up the goods that the containers are carrying. They are carrying the traffic which has to go by wagons because wagons are not available. Steel products, cement and such other items are being carried

by containers today, if you go and verify that. This does not speak well of the Railways' capacity to handle the growing traffic.

There is a major bottleneck in moving the cargo to and from the ports. That has to be taken note of. As a result of the increase in imports and exports, there is congestion near the ports and the Railways are not able to carry the traffic to and from the ports. The World Bank Report in 1995 has also mentioned this fact under the heading 'India: Transport Sector Long-term Issues', authored by Robert Burns and others. I quote :

"Capacity constraint of the Transport system may, together with that of the power sector, serve as a constraint on overall economic growth of India."

The Railways are ill-equipped to meet the growing traffic because low power fuel inefficient diesel locos of 1960 design are being used. Redundant workshops and depots which are not being modernised, obsolete wagons, many with 20 tonne axle loads, and slow electrification of the arterial routes and slow modernisation are the handicaps under which the Railways are functioning. The Budget does not indicate how the Railways are going to gear themselves up to meet this traffic by the end of the century. They are projecting 20 million tonnes more. But what are they doing to increase the capacity of the system? Neither does his speech indicate it, nor does the Budget document indicate it.

We have to be aware of the growing competition from the road. India was a rail dominated economy in the 1950s and today, it is a road- dominated economy. Roads carry 60 percent of the inter-city freight traffic today in terms of tonne kilometres. Eighty per cent of the inter-city passenger traffic in terms of passenger kilometres is carried by the roadways. The user preference is shifting in favour of transportation by road though it is costlier.

The National Transport Policy Committee envisaged a modal split between the railways and the roads. The Railways are expected to carry 72 per cent of the long distance freight traffic and the remaining was to go to the roads, but the actual shares of the Railways and the roadways have moved in the opposite direction. Today, the roads are carrying much more than what they are expected to carry....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : India, now, should not develop in terms of Railways, on the basis of Railways but in terms of the American experience, on the basis of Ford Motor cars. The whole approach has changed and you are not protesting against that ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : You can do that when you speak. Now, let me deal with this.

The Railways are losing a very heavy amount in passenger traffic. It is not in terms of long distance passenger traffic; it is not in terms of sub urban traffic. In suburban traffic, they are making profits in Mumbai, though they are no doubt losing in Madras and Calcutta. They are losing much more in the short distance passenger traffic and in the same sector, they are giving concessions. There is a contradiction in that. On the one side, they want the short distance traffic to be handled by the roadways and on the other side, they are giving concessions for the short distance traffic. These two cannot go together. In fact, I feel that they should do more to the development of the roadways so that short distance traffic is shifted to the roadways. The Railways will carry the bulk traffic, which they are losing to the roadways. In terms of revenue also, this is a high revenue traffic, which is going to the roadways.

Then, let me come to Plan allocation. As Shri Ram Naik has mentioned, in the First Plan, 22.10 per cent of the total Plan outlay was spent on the transport sector, including the 11.50 per cent on the Railways. In the Eighth Plan, it has come down to 12.43 per cent for the entire transport sector, including 6.27 per cent for the Railways. In the total plan itself, they are scaling down the Railways' share and the transport sector's share. As a result, all the Eighth Plan targets could not be achieved by the Railways. That is the one point which we have to see.

The budgetary support, as he mentioned is around 51.10 per cent in 1986.87. It has come down to 15 per cent. Nobody is bothering about this. Neither the Planning Commission nor the Ministry of Finance is bothered about this. We fully support your demand that the budgetary support for the Railways should be increased, if the Railways have to carry the traffic which is being offered.

You have got the Railway Finance Corporation. You have floated the bonds. But nobody is responding. Nobody is buying those bonds. Then, how else to raise resources, except by way of budgetary support? There is something wrong with your own allocation. In the sectors where you have to allocate more, you have reduced the allocation. As compared to last year, you have reduced the allocation for new lines, gauge conversion, doubling, computerisation, track renewals, bridge works, electrification and workshops.

SHRI RAM NAIK : You tell us in which sectors they have increased it.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : They have increased only in two or three sectors, such as restoration of track facilities, computerisation etc. But for two or three items, on all other works which are necessary to make the Railways efficient, they have reduced the allocation as compared

to last year. It is not a good trend. It is not a healthy trend.

In spite of raising Rs. 5,000 crore by increasing the fares and freight rates during the last three or four years, you are still raising resources by additional budgetary support.

There are some controversial investments also. For example, the unigauge policy which I opposed earlier also. The standing Committee of which Shri Somnath Chatterjee was the Chairman, also commented on it. If you have got resources, then you can convert the entire track. I do not object to that. But when you have got scarce resources, which are to be spent on electrification on new lines, on backward areas, on doubling, on increasing capacity, on modernisation, on computerisation etc., you have diverted the resources to gauge conversion which is not an absolute necessity. You can do it in certain points where there are transit problems and where there are bottlenecks. You can have certain sections converted into broadgauge. In other parts of the world, metregauge is working as efficiently as broadgauge is, including electric trains. In many of the European countries, metregauge is very efficient as compared to broadgauge. Then, why this obsession with gauge conversion?

Your predecessor, not the immediate predecessor, but the one who has adopted this policy has done a great disservice to the Railways. It was done without the Planning Commission's clearance. Ten thousand kilometres of track is to be converted into broadgauge. Can you imagine this? On the one side you have no resources and on the other side, you want to convert ten thousand kilometres at a stretch into broadgauge. That is not at all justified.

In fact, you have to go in for alternative routes. Even doubling should be done selectively. Instead of having another line, you should have alternative routes. Your stress must be on alternative routes rather than on doubling.

Then, I would like to make one point about social obligation. Every day Railways cry that they are meeting social obligations. Now, it is to the tune of Rs. 1482 crore. They may say that they are carrying essential commodities at concessional rates and that they are losing on coaching services etc. Previously, you used to say that you are losing on suburban traffic. Now you are making profit on Mumbai sub urban traffic. It is only in the shorter distance passenger traffic that you are losing. You have to consider that aspect also.

Then, I want to say something about uneconomic branch lines. You have not been able to close them down. No State Government will agree, from the political angle, to close down uneconomic branch lines. I would rather suggest that you compensate them to that extent.

Give that money for the improvement of roadways and the highways in those States.

That will be a better proposition so that short distance road traffic is carried more efficiently. That is where the States can also improve their road network and the National Highway network. You will have to see these things.

Then, I come to first class. Why do you keep it? Why do you manufacture first class coaches now? It is not necessary at all. You have a single class. You have got air-conditioned sleepers. These are much more preferable.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is not manufactured.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Whatever it is, it is still there. You have to phase out and remove it completely.

Then, your workshops are indulging in production activities. Why is it so? Their main job is maintenance and repairs. They are going for production activities at the cost of maintenance. This can go to the private sector. Whatever production is there in the workshops, it is not competitive when compared to the goods you procure from the market. Then, why should these workshops indulge in production? Now you have to separate the Chittaranjan Factory, Integral Coach Factory and the Diesel Locomotive Works from the Railways. You can make them separate corporations and run them on commercial lines so that they can get technological assistance from abroad or other joint sector corporations and all that.

SHRI SOMANTH CHATTERJEE : But do not decry them. They are doing excellent work.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : No, no; I am not decrying them. They are doing very well. But why should there be the Railway Board's stranglehold on these organisations? That is what I am telling.

The Railways had drafted a Corporate Plan 1980-1995 covering 15 years. What has happened to that? It was drafted after a great discussion. Today, nobody talks about it. How many goals have been followed? What are the strategies for that? What was the long-term planning involved in that? Nobody is bothering about that.

Umpteen Committees - Dr. N.M. Nanjundappa Committee, the Prakash Tandon Committee, the Poulose Committee etc. were appointed. What had happened to the recommendations of those Committees? How far have these been implemented? Why have the good suggestions contained in these Reports not been implemented?

What is the role of the private sector? You have also to define that.

On the one side, you are going to disinvest in the ITDC. You are giving hotels to the private sector. Now you want to start departmental Railway Catering Corporation. What is this? There should be some policy from the Government side. While you do not run the hotels, why do you have top-heavy Railway Catering Corporation? What type of food would you supply? Why do you not privatise that kind of activity instead of taking it upon yourself? Why should you run the hotels? You have hotels in Puri, Ranchi and at other places.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : When did the World Bank contact you?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : They do not do. Now, you cannot talk after the Common Minimum Programme.

Now, I talk about punctuality, Mr. Minister ...*(Interruptions)* Many of the prestigious trains are running behind schedule. We have to keep a track on punctuality of the prestigious and long distance trains from time to time.

About amenities, the less said, the better. The allocation is less for passenger amenities. You go to any station. Most of the stations are of the British days. Nothing has changed - either the building or the shelter over the platform or the benches, or the platform or the platform cover. Some of the stations have platform cover but are without drinking water. You see the condition of the platforms, the stations and the booking counters. They are all of the British days. Nothing has been done in most of the stations. Out of 7,000 stations, 6,000 have not been touched at all. Nothing has been added to these things. You have also to see that these stations are improved. Lighting is improved. Drinking water is provided both on trains and at stations also.

Before I come to the final point, I would like to speak about staff welfare. As a Member of the Railway Convention Committee, I visited a number of staff colonies. We have seen the deplorable condition of the staff quarters. Hospitals are good but these are without doctors. There is no equipment. Therefore, you have to take care of the staff amenities. We have given a report on industrial relations in the Railways and the staff welfare in the Railways. That is a good report. Kindly go through that.

We have mentioned how to improve staff amenities and we have also suggested that there should be more mobile dispensaries on the Railways because the Railway people work in a number of stations and they cannot come to the central point for hospital facilities. Therefore, we have to run more mobile dispensaries for the benefit of the Railway staff. They need more central schools in the colonies because they have no other educational facilities.

There is no participation of labour in management. Your predecessor called the Railway union leaders once to the General Managers meeting. It is a good beginning; you can continue that; you can get good suggestions from them also. The Corporate Enterprise Group (CEG) is not functioning. No meeting of the CEG are held.

Sometimes ago, I mentioned about the case of the promotee officers. Out of 12000 officers, 9000 belong to Class II and their case has been neglected. In spite of the specific recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee, no action has been taken because the Railway Board is completely against this class and you may prevail upon them and see that justice is done to them.

Before concluding, I will just take two minutes to mention about some of the requirements of my State as I have so far spoken only on general points. About Vijayawada, my own constituency, a number of things were agreed to and announced by the General Manager ...*(Interruptions)* Of course, it can be discussed with the General Manager and the Railway Board across the table but nothing has been implemented. So, I bring it to your notice. If he has announced certain things, you may kindly see that they are implemented. I invite you to come and inaugurate those facilities in the off-session. You have asked the MPs from Andhra Pradesh to consolidate their demands and tell you four or five of them. I am mentioning those five or six demands here.

We want a Rajdhani Express to Hyderabad. There is no Rajdhani Express to Hyderabad. Every State capital has got a Rajdhani Express. So, we must have a Rajdhani Express to Hyderabad.

There was once a Superfast train between New Delhi and Visakhapatnam which was cancelled. We want restoration of that Superfast train from Visakhapatnam to New Delhi.

Then, we want a Superfast train from Visakhapatnam to Bangalore. Kindly see that it is implemented. It will be a very popular train.

We want an extension of the suburban services from Madras, which is now upto Sulurpet, Nellore, a few kilometres. Kindly extend it.

We want restoration of the Janata Express from Madras to Bombay which goes through the Rayalseema area. It is very needy; it was cancelled earlier. You have restored Howrah-Delhi train because of your supporting party. We are also supporting you. Therefore, you must restore this train also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Something atrocious was done and so, he rectified it.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : I am telling the same thing. Regarding Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi gauge conversion,

only Rs. 1 crore has been given out of Rs. 55 crore required. Will it take 55 years to complete it? Therefore, kindly increase this allocation also. Similarly, for Secunderabad-Dronachalam conversion, you have given Rs. 10 crore whereas Rs. 102 crore is required for this. Kindly see to this part also. Then, about creation of the Guntur division, you have given only Rs. 25 lakhs whereas Rs. 13 crore is required. Regarding Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad section, which is 177 kilometres long, an amount of Rs. 2.19 crore has been spent so far. Therefore, kindly increase this allocation also. As regards electrification between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, it is very slow and unless that is done, Madras-Calcutta route cannot be electrified fully. Due to this, people of Calcutta and Madras are suffering and, in between, people of Andhra Pradesh are also suffering. Therefore, kindly see that electrification is completed.

My last demand is about the transfer of Waltair Division to South Central Railway. It is now in the South-Eastern Railway. For operation and administrative purpose, it should be included in the South Central Railway so that people can come to Hyderabad rather than going all the way to Calcutta for administrative matters. These are the demands from my State.

I again compliment you for a good Railway Budget. I hope you will keep up the reputation of the Railways. We will cooperate with you and see that this organisation grows strength to strength with which I had the privilege of being associated for 25 years. I want it to grow and we will give constructive suggestions from time to time and see that the Railways flourish.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Members who are ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't go after that. You say what you want to say.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Allright I will come to that a little later. They are finding faults with the Railway Budget. This Budget has been made for the poor, for the oppressed, for backward people, for down troddens. It is for 90 percent people of the country and they are not appreciative of it. Second class Railway fare has not been increased...*(Interruptions)* Your way of thinking is wrong. Your perception is wrong. You think only for a handful of people. If you are able to think the poor, you ought to appreciate the Budget...*(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Poor people travel by second class bogies. The Express train have one or two second class compartments. You go and see the second class compartments, people are herded in toilets ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please speak when your turn comes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : You have no right to sit on the seat, this is your Government.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : This is a United Front Government supported by congress. When we talk of the poor, they feel embittered. He has charged that this Budget is for Bihar. I would say that once upon a time, Bihar used to be the Capital of this country and was a front menner. 40 percent of minerals are found in Bihar. It is you people who have not allowed Bihar to forge ahead. Bihar is a backward state and 45 percent of its population lives below poverty line. Now some provision has been made for Bihar and you cannot swallow it. This will not work...*(Interruptions)* You are responsible for all this who talk of 10 percent ...*(Interruptions)* They are alleging that this is a Bihar Budget. I want to ask them whether computerisation of more than 300 stations which provide reservation facility will be made use of only by Bihar; whether the 16 new trains to be introduced are meant only for Bihar? They can see all the States have been included in the Budget. The Konkan Railway is to be completed this year. Is it also for Bihar?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KARIA MUNDA (Kunti) : Do you knwo since when this Konkan Railway is under construction ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi) : What objection does the hon'ble Member have about the Konkan Railways?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no question of levelling and countering allegations. Let him have his say. You can speak when your turn comes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : This railway is being commissioned this year and I would like to say that out of the Zonal offices being set up, one is for Bihar. Earlier it was in Sonapur. This office was shifted to Gorakhpur during the time of Jawahar Lal ji. What I am submitting is that this Budget is meant for the poor, the down trodden, the dalits and 90 percent people of the country. The Budget has not put any additional burden on the poor and second class fare has not been increased.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : My Chairman, Sir, the BJP Members are annoyed because a very popular Railway Budget has been presented and they are frustrated. That is why they are behaving like this.

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under which rule you are raising it?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : My point of order is under Rule 356, which says :

"The speaker, after having called the attention of the House to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or in tedious repetitions..."

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. I rule it out. Mr. Singh, you may continue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : This Budget gives priority to neglected regions. It provides for electrification of 643 km track conversion of single line into double line, meter gauge into broad gauge, etc. Hon'ble Member Shri Upendra ji said that there is no need to convert meter gauge into broad gauge but he should know that meter gauge trains run with very slow speed and a lot of time is wasted in travelling by these trains. It is the need of the hour to convert meter gauge into broad gauge and the Government is doing very good job...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Shri Paswan is competent enough to reply the debate. You give some new suggestion...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is wrong...(*Interruptions*). You cannot go on interrupting like this.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Chairman is also not weak. He can give his ruling...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Some hon'ble Members have alleged that trains are to be introduced in private sector from 5 tourist centres. Bodhgaya is an international tourist spot. People go there and perform religious rights of their ancestors who, it is believed, wait on the top of trees. Unless 'Pinddan' is done, they would not rest in peace. There is no train from Bodhgaya. I would request the hon'ble Minister to start a train between Bodhgaya and Delhi via Gaya and Calcutta.

Then I come to my Constituency, Aurangabad which is not connected with Rail Headquarters. It is a backward district and is infested by terrorists. I will request a new

railline should be constructed between Aurangabad and Garhwa via Zakhir so that my district is also connected with railway head-quarters and the problem of terrorism is also rooted out.

A new train from Dehri-Onsone should be introduced to link rural areas and computerised reservation facility should also be made available there. Patna-Gaya is a main railline but it has been doubled between Patna and Parsabazar section only. I would demand that the entire Patna-Gaya line should be doubled immediately. Steps should be taken to provide stoppage for Express trains at Anujarayan, Khesar and Ratiganj Stations. There is broad gauge line between Darbhanga and Katia. Survey for Mujaffarpur-Sitamarhi new railway line has been completed and I would request adequate funds be provided for this track.

I thank the hon'ble Minister for presenting a Budget for dalits, oppressed and poor people who constitute 90 percent population of the country.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I have to congratulate the Railway Minister because for the first time we have seen in the Railway Budget for the year 1996-97, what we have been clamouring for over the last several years. There are areas which are backward, inaccessible, which are not connected by railway line but ought to be connected. The Minister has connected them with railway lines. This is a departure from the earlier Railway budgets. I congratulate him also for sparing the poor short distance second class passengers. Last year also when the fare was hiked for second class and suburban passengers...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : There are very few passengers undertaking short distance journey and second class compartment are also very few in number...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let me speak. You do not know the percentage of suburban passengers. You do not have any idea of the percentage of suburban passengers. It is much that the percentage of long-distance passengers and these passengers have been spared. The hon. Minister has realised the plight of these passengers because he had to travel in a very difficult situation, he had to travel in over-aged coaches without proper toilet facilities, without shutters, and without any amenities. Last year also I mentioned the plight of these passengers.

During the rainy season, the passengers in local trains are not in a position to sit, free from rains in the

winter from the cold wind and in the summer from the hot wind. I would congratulate him again for sparing them. I would request him to examine, to ponder and to see how the passenger services and how the services can be improved. There is scope. I do not think that there is no scope for replacement of those overaged coaches. The Indian Railways now have 36 percent of the passenger coaches which are overaged and are being used. This year he has planned for increased acquisition of passenger coaches from 1400 to 1600. In spite of that, the Indian Railways would have overaged coaches to the extent of 30-36 per cent. He will have to plan in future because we have the capacity. We have two production units in our country, one is ICF and the other is the RCF. They have the capacity to manufacture 2000 coaches per years. They can manufacture 2000 coaches with little investment. Gradually, overaged coaches can be replaced. I would request the hon. Minister to plan for future and gradually to replace those overaged coaches.

Sir, I was expecting something because last year while participating in the Railway Budget, I made this same suggestion which Shri Upendra has also pointed out here. What is the problem with the Railways? When we demand additional trains or additional services, the reply is resource crunch and that there are no funds and there is no money. Wherefrom will the money come to introduce new trains, to have new lines, to increase capacity and utilization? But, is there no scope?

Last year, while participating in the Railway Budget, I suggested that there should be a change in the transport planning of the Railways. In 1989, the freight traffic was 230 billion tonnes kilometre. In 1996-97, the budgeted freight traffic is 283 billion tonnes kilometre. See the growth of freight traffic. In 1989-90, it was 3.6 percent; in 1990-91, it was 2.6 percent; in 1991-92, it was increased to 5.9 percent; then reduced to 0.8 percent; and then in 1994-95, it was only zero per cent growth. Is there no scope? There is scope.

19.00 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed *in the Chair*)

I can give one example. A bulk transited item of the Railways is coal. If I am correct, it is to the extent of 65 percent. Now, Coal India together with all its subsidiaries has produced 275 million tonnes of coal last year. What are the Railways carrying? The Railways are carrying 180 million tonnes of coal whereas in the road sector, it is 100 million tonnes of coal. The amount of revenue the Railways are losing is about Rs. 6,885 crore every year. Every year, the Railways are losing Rs. 6,885 crore for not carrying coal to New Castle.

How can this capacity be increased so that the Railways can carry the goods? I want to know whether

our wagon fleet is sufficient to carry the goods. It is a fact there is a reduction in the wagon fleet. In 1992-93, it was more than three lakhs and last year, it came down to 2,91,000 and this year, it might still come down. I do not have the figures with me. I do not know whether the Railways have the figures. It is because, the Railways cannot finalise their accounts within 5-6 months. That is the difficulty of the Railways. It takes about six months to finalise the accounts of the Railways. Even, the Railways have planned to acquire 25,000 wagons. In spite of that, there, will, still, be a shortage of wagons. In order to carry the targeted freight traffic for the current year, the Railway need at least 50,000 wagons. We criticised the last year's Budget. When the Railways planned to acquire 18,000 wagons, we criticised the Railway Ministry. But, ultimately, the Budget was passed. Suddenly, after one month, the number was reduced to 12,000.

The Members of Parliament from West Bengal are really concerned about the wagon manufacturing units which are mostly located in West Bengal. It is manufacturing 80 percent of the wagons and 60,000 workers are engaged in wagon manufacturing directly and more than 60,000 workers are engaged in ancillary and other small units. Both put together, the figure comes to 1,20,000. Do you know what was the system earlier? The system was that the Railways used to place orders with Wagon India and they used to distribute them among its member-units. Suddenly, now, the system has been changed. We do not know the reason why it was changed. Wagon India was the decision of the Cabinet. But when that system was being changed, the Cabinet's approval was not taken. The Standing Committee had also criticised that decision.

What we want now is that we want to restore the earlier system of placing orders with the Wagon India and the Wagon India must distribute them. It is a conglomeration of wagon manufacturing units of public sector and the private sector. Earlier, the Railways used to supply the inputs free of cost. Suddenly, in October 1995, the Railways have changed this policy also that they would not supply these inputs free of cost. A Committee of Rajya Sabha which went into the acquisition programme have categorically recommended that the earlier system of providing inputs free of cost should be restored. I would request the hon. Minister to implement the recommendation of the Committee of Rajya Sabha in regard to the purchase of wagons and also giving orders to the wagon manufacturing units.

Now, Sir, I will come to the question of bulk handling of materials. Do you know what was the reply of the Railways? Their reply was the traffic was not being offered. What we are saying is that we will offer them the traffic. Let them also allow the industries to get the

traffic.

That is not less. Today, how many tracks are there? There are 19 lakh tracks in our country. Per year how many tracks are being manufactured? Approximately, one lakh tracks are being manufactured. How many wagons are being manufactured? Last year, only 19,000 wagons were manufactured. The year before last, only 12,000 wagons were manufactured. This year the hon. Minister has increased it to 25,000 wagons. That is also not sufficient.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I have just now started, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you have not started just now. You have started at 6.53 p.m.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I have spoken only for ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not in argument with you. If you do not want any other Member from your Party to speak, you can continue.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : So many Members will speak tonight and tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No arguments, please. Mr. Acharia continue, please.

DR. ASIM BALA (Navadwip) : Sir, every Member will speak on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not fixed the time for this. The Business Advisory Committee has fixed the time. We are behind schedule, so please cooperate Mr. Acharia, you are a senior Member of this House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, this discussion will not be limited to only eight hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not know, your Party Members were also there in the Business Advisory Committee meeting.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb him. You are reducing his time to speak.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why are we asking that the Railways should carry more traffic? That should be the reverse that is, 75 percent by Railways and 25 percent by road traffic. Railways will also gain, more revenue will come and we will have to import less petroleum products also. We can save to the extent of Rs. 16,000 crore, of foreign exchange in a year if the Railways could carry 75 percent of the freight traffic.

I am now dealing with full rakes and wagon-load. There should be a change of that policy also that small

manufacturers or those who want one wagon will not get. They will have only a full rake. That has also created problem and because of that there is less traffic. So, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister that there should be a drastic change in the Transport Policy and planning of the Railways.

Sir, the safety and punctuality are very important. Last year also I pointed out regarding increase in derailment cases. How many hours are lost because of derailment? In 1990-91, 5,291 hours were lost; in 1992-93 5,117 hours were lost; and in 1994-95 4,118 hours were lost. Though it is less, the Railways do not keep accounts of this.

There are financial losses because of derailment as the trains are diverted to other routes. Some of the trains and goods trains have to be cancelled because of a blockade. There are certain zones, there are certain sections, there are certain areas and lines which are called derailment zones or derailment prone sections where if derailment does not take place, we are also surprised that derailment does not take place. But this can be prevented.

How can this be prevented? These can be prevented by sector-wise track renewal. I know, in South-Eastern Railways alone, which is contributing to the Indian Railways to the extent of 35 percent of the revenue, there are 1,800 kilometres of railway line which are over-age. They need immediate replacement. From Adra to Midnapore is a very important line which is being electrified and the hon. Minister has allocated Rs. 10 crore for that. That is also not sufficient.

It has to be enhanced. To electrify the line Adra-Bankura-Vishnupur, at least a sum of Rs. 15 crore or Rs. 20 crore is required. You will be surprised to know that that track is fifty years' old. How can your capacity be increased? How can derailments be prevented? For that, you have to allocate more funds for the replacement of all overaged tracks. That was recommended by the Railway Reforms Committee, that is, the B.D. Pande Committee, in the year 1988. That Committee recommended that sufficient allocation should be made for track renewals.

Then, Sir, there was a serious accident last year. In this House we discussed about Ferozabad accident in which more than 425 passengers were killed. We were assured that sufficient allocation would be made for the safety of the railway passengers. The Standing Committee on Railways also went into that aspect and recommended that sufficient allocation should be made; sufficient funds should be made available for signalling and telecommunication, which is very vital for the safe operation of the Railways.

Sir, what is the allocation this year? For signalling and telecommunication, last year it was Rs. 227.09

crore; in February when the Vote on Account was presented, it was Rs. 280.89 crore and in this current Budget it has been reduced to Rs. 256.89 crore. This amount is not sufficient to provide fouling mark to fouling mark in all important stations and to provide track circuit in all important stations. This assurance was given on the floor of the House by no other person than the Prime Minister of India while replying to the debate on the Railway Budget because at that time he was not only the Prime Minister of India but he was also holding the portfolio of the Minister of Railways. He assured the House that sufficient funds would be made available for signalling and telecommunication; for providing track circuit in all important stations and junctions and for fouling mark to fouling mark. Funds were made available for the Allahabad Division, for that particular Ferozabad station. But that was not utilised, that was not implemented, that was not provided and due to that, there was a serious accident resulting in the loss of the lives of 425 passengers.

I had congratulated the young Minister of Railways for the departure from the earlier trend. But what should be our priority? I agree with Shri P. Upendra. Last year also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 20 minutes. I wanted to caution you. Please continue your speech.

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, he always used to speak for 45 minutes in the discussion on the Railway Budget...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this is my special privilege. All the Chairmen and the Deputy-Speaker always used to allow me to speak for 50 to 55 minutes. I am not speaking irrelevant things...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you not just give points?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you are diverting me. I was just concentrating on a very important point. What should be our priority? The Railways were not for Railways alone. There cannot be any economic development without the Railways.

Sir, Shri P. Upendra and myself were the Members of the Railway Convention Committee. We examined all the pending projects and recommended that once a project had been sanctioned, it should be completed within the time schedule.

Now what is the allocation for the new lines? What is the target for the new lines? It is only 91 kilometres. And what is the allocation for the new lines? For the new lines, the allocation is only Rs. 220.55 crore. Last year, the allocation was Rs. 181.71 crore. Our priority should be extension or expansion of the Railway network. What is our achievement? It is only 8000 or 9000 kilometres. Before our Independence, we had, we

inherited 53,000 kilometres of railway line. Now our achievement within the last 15 years, is only 8000 or 9000 kilometres. Unless you allocate us more funds, how can we have line for Agartala? You have allocated rupees one crore only, rupees one crore for Eklakhi-Balurghat, rupees one crore for Digha-Tamluk and rupees one crore for Howrah-Amta line about which Shri Hannan Molla has mentioned. You have allocated only rupees three lakh for Bankura-Damodar River Railway Line which is a very important railway line. Maybe, it is a private line. It has to be nationalised this year. Before the expiry of three years' time it has to be taken over and nationalised. It has to be converted to broad gauge line and it has to be connected with Tarkeshwar by constructing a bridge over the river Damodar. You have allocated more than Rs. 800 crore for bridge construction.

We are not against uni-gauge. Shri Upendra is also not against uni-gauge. I told last year Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief that his dream for the project uni-gauge would remain as a dream. I said that it would remain as a dream.

We will never have one system of Railways. We will have to have two systems of railways or three systems of railways, namely broad gauge, metre gauge and narrow gauge. What have we done to make our metre gauge more efficient? Have you spent a single paisa for the track renewal of metre gauge system? What is the average speed of our goods trains, freight trains? It is only 23 kilometres. By improving our track condition, the speed can be increased. The hon. Minister had brought two or three 6000 three-phase locomotives. We vehemently opposed it. I also vehemently opposed. We do not need three-phased 6000 horsepower electric locomotives, although its technology is very up-to-date but our Indian Railways Manufacturing units can produce a 5000 horsepower locomotive. Maybe, it is of the old technology.

When I went as a convener of a Sub-committee of the Standing Committee. I got an opportunity to inaugurate one locomotive. I had seen how the workers could produce and could surpass the target. Their simple demand is that they want a union. No money will be required. They have no union. The production units have no union. They do not have any recognized union and they are the workers who have manufactured, who have surpassed the target. You ask them to produce 110 locomotives, they will produce 115 locomotives. When you ask them to manufacture 130 locomotives, they manufacture 135 locomotives. They are the workers who are being deprived of a legitimate right to have their own unions. They do not have any union. I do not know what the difficulties are.

So, the priority should be the extension of the railway lines. The Railways are not for the Railways. He

has also failed to convince the Planning Commission and the Minister of Finance to yet more as a budgetary support because the Railways are not only for the Railways but they are also for the entire country. Unless you have Railways, you cannot have economic development. If you do not have Railways, you cannot have achievement, economic progress, industrialisation and the GD ratio also will be less.

Then, Sir, the hon. Minister has introduced so many new trains, although most of the trains for the restoration and for replacement.

The new express train between Rampurhat and Howrah will be replacing the existing passenger train. Please do not withdraw that passenger train because the people are very agitated. We always get a patent reply that it is already over saturated; more than 85 percent of the saturation. I do not know whether that capacity can be increased. Howrah-Panskura line is over-saturated. There is a demand to increase the number of lines between Howrah and Panskura from three to four and between Panskura and Kharagpur from two to three. But we are told that there are no funds for that, so how can we have an additional train? I have been saying that not a single paise is required for that. One narrow gauge line was converted into broad gauge line, that is, Kotsila-Purulia line, which covers 35 kilometers in my district. One of the 15 backward districts of our country is Purulia. The Purulia-Kotsila line was converted from narrow gauge to broad gauge. But only one train was introduced.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : How can you say it is a backward district? International arms trading is taking place there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You are responsible for that.

[English]

The Purulia-Kotsila train was not a new train. Only one train was extended... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : So, I demand that one express train may be introduced from Hatia to Howrah. There is only one express train from Purulia to Howrah which takes more than six hours. This period can be reduced... (Interruptions) There was only one line for the last four or five years. I was trying to get a passenger train introduced. There was a great resistance from the Railways saying that the introduction of passenger train would cause disruption in the freight traffic. Ultimately, the Railways agreed to introduce a passenger train by improving the track. One very popular express train was introduced — Subarnarekha Express — between Dhanbad and Tatanagar connecting the coal city in Bihar to my town, although it passes through my

constituency. But there is only one train between Dhanbad and Tatanagar... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am concluding within five minutes time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken more than half-an-hour. Unfortunately, I cannot give you that much time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is only one express train now. Why can the Railways not introduce one more passenger train between Dhanbad-Adra-Purulia-Tatanagar? Then, this line can be viable. They suddenly came to the conclusion that the internal rate of return is less than 12 percent, so it is not economically viable. The passengers are demanding it. The first Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) was introduced between Asansol and Burdwan. Then, the second MEMU was introduced in my area, that is, Purulia-Adra-Asansol. The second MEMU was inaugurated by Shri Suresh Kalmadi, the former Minister of Railways before the last General Elections. The second rake was inaugurated. Now, these MEMUs are being brought to Tikiapara for maintenance. We know how passenger rakes are being maintained by the Railways. I do not agree with Shri Upendra that the workshops should not undertake manufacturing of the rolling stock. Unless they manufacture the rolling stock, the capacity of our workshops will not be increased. We have very good workshops.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : I have only said that they are neglecting the maintenance part and looking into production

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Along with the maintenance of coaches, they can utilise their capacity by manufacturing also.

Sir, the Kharagpur workshop is manufacturing very good push-pull DMUs. The Samastipur workshops is manufacturing wagons. We have also suggested that the capacity of the Railway workshops can be utilised by manufacturing rolling stock and by manufacturing coaches and wagons which can be manufactured. This can be done. I made a suggestion and I do not know why the Railways are not agreeing to it. Today the maintenance is being done at Tikiapara which is 100 kilometres away from Adra-Asansol section. I suggested that the maintenance of Mainline Electric Multiple Units can be developed at Asansol. They have agreed to it and have allocated funds for that at Asansol. But that was for Eastern Railway.

For the South Eastern Railway this maintenance facility can be developed at Adra and Anara where the

infrastructure is there. The steam locos have been phased out and the shed closed down. Those infrastructure facilities can be utilised by spending a little money. That facility can be developed and maintenance can be done. Additional services can be available and more MEMUs which have become popular - can be introduced by replacing the conventional coaches. We have less number of coaches today. We can replace these conventional coaches by more and more Mainline Electric Multiple Units.

Sir, you imagine the difficulties of the passengers who are to travel from Asansol to Tatanagar without toilets. What is the distance between these two stations? It is 250 kilometers. You imagine, Sir, how difficult it is to travel a distance of 250 kilometres without any toilet. It is because all the maintenance is being done at Tikiapara. All the rakes are being brought every day to Tikiapara for maintenance. So, I request that they develop maintenance facility at Adra and Anara so that more services can be available.

The hon. Minister has stated that the industrial relation is very good. We have been demanding for it. In the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government also you have stated that in order to recognise the unions you will adopt the secret ballot method. The hon. Minister was earlier Minister of Labour and he knows the problems in the Railways also. That secret ballot system should be adopted in the Railways. There are number of recognised unions. There are two Federations. There is the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Welfare Association. There is the Railway Promotee Officers' Association. Then in the Railway Board also you have the Railway Board Staff Association. All these are recognised. But there is one Confederation which is an umbrella organisation of all categories of workers which does not have this facility. They had the negotiating facility prior to 1979. In 1977 when the Janata Party Government came to power they got this right. The Loco Running Staff Association also got that right in 1973. Why can you not restore that little facility of the right to negotiate so that they can negotiate and can sit in the meetings?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : You ask for one union.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are for one union in the Indian Railways. That can be decided through secret ballot.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, for a number of times I have asked them to have a review of this recognition policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you conclude now? You spoke for over 30 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why should there be two Federations?...*(Interruptions)* There should be three Federations...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, it cannot go on like this. Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, a large number of running staff were dismissed since 1981. After the Supreme Court order in 1990 some of them were reinstated. But in the Eastern Railway none were reinstated. In regard to the running staff who were to be reinstated as per Central Administrative Tribunal's order, the orders were not implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That is why, the running staff who were dismissed in 1981 would have to wait for the Supreme Court judgment. When you have taken back the running staff on the Northern Railway, why can you not take back the running staff of the Eastern Railway? They are starving and some of them have died.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nobody can control this House if the Members do not stick to their time. Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am concluding, Sir. You are not allowing me to conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a senior Member and you know the constraints of the House. We are sitting late tonight and tomorrow also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I know that I am a senior Member and, that is why, if you allow me to conclude, I will conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please. This should be your last sentence.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This may be my last sentence. I request the hon. Minister of Railways to look into all these things. There should be a drastic change in the transport policy so that the need of the people, the need of the country is reflected in that....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Sir, we have a large number of people in the waiting list. Therefore, the Members should be requested to confine to the time limit.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I call Shri Prakash Paranjpe. Mr. Prakash, twelve minutes time has been allotted for your Party.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, what is this restriction of time limit on party lines? The matter

pertaining to Railways is above party lines. Why are you restricting it on party lines?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not waste the time of the House. I have called Shri Prakash Paranjpe and let him speak. I have not decided this, gentlemen. The Business Advisory Committee has fixed it up. Your Member is also there in the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, he is a Member of this House. So, he cannot be only 'my Member'; he is also your Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is everybody's Member. We will have to stick to the programme drawn by the Business Advisory Committee. Shri Prakash Paranjpe :

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today is the first time I am speaking in this august House. I belong to a constituency where the first railway train was introduced from Mumbai to Thane. I belong to the same constituency, which is the second largest in Hindustan, consisting of 28 lakhs and odd numbers. More than 60 percent of the population is travelling through suburban trains. I am not standing here to criticise the hon. Minister of Railways nor the Railway administration, but to convey the feelings of my voters, their difficulties and their demands. I am very much thankful to the hon. Minister of Railways because before the Budget, he visited Mumbai to understand the problems of the suburban railway travellers. But I am sorry to say that in his speech, he has not touched a single issue which was raised at his Mumbai meeting. I am requesting the hon. Minister of Railways to reply in his speech on whatever demands I am presenting now.

I know that I am not supposed to raise the demands of day-to-day difficulties, but I have to raise the demands which need a policy decision. The very first demand I am raising is about Thane-Belapur Railway. CIDCO has invested not less than Rs. 90 crore. The goods are travelling on that train, but so far the passenger service has not yet started. Twenty percent of the revenue from excise and sales tax to my State is earned from this locality. Thousands of workers, students and Government servants want to go to the New Mumbai and still the passenger service has not yet been started. I am hopeful that in his speech, the hon. Minister of Railways will declare the date from which the passenger service would start.

Secondly, the Railway authorities have asked for the reservation of 42 acres of land in Thane Corporation area in Diva. I am suggesting to the Railway authorities to have a big Diva Terminus so that the load on the suburban railways would be reduced. Diva is such a junction that you should construct the Terminus on the CIDCO basis. CIDCO is constructing railway stations and junctions with self-supporting scheme.

Whatever suggestions I am giving here, the Railways would not have to spend a single penny on them and, moreover, the Railways would be earning money. I have listened to the speeches of all the hon. Members. They are demanding more and more trains, but nobody is giving a concrete suggestion on how the revenue of the Railways would be increased without taking any loans.

So, I pray to the hon. Minister that our Ministry should start constructing the railway stations wherever it is possible on the basis of CIDCO using the air space for commercial purposes. For this purpose, I request the hon. Minister immediately to ask the authorities to have Mumbra-Dombivli rail link on a trial basis. The railway authorities can very well ask for competition from the architects and give up their plans and then sell the entire project to a private investor where the railway will, without spending money, construct a good railway station and by selling the commercial portion on the railway station can fetch a good amount of money. I am giving an idea to the railway authorities that by selling the air space from Churchgate to Bandra and from V.T. to Thane and all other metros, you can get a large amount of money in crores of rupees. They have already started this kind of selling in foreign countries. I request the hon. Minister and the concerned authorities to consider my suggestion. I know that it is not a simple thing. But selling of air space on the railway lines will fetch money in thousands of crores of rupees and I am sure that if this money is received, the railway authorities would be able to meet all the demands of the people for laying of new lines. Unless we raise additional resources, no demand can be fulfilled by any Minister. Ultimately we have to see how we can increase the income of the Railways. I sincerely feel that selling of air space from Churchgate to Bandra and V.T. Terminus to Thane and other metros would definitely fetch a good amount of money in thousands of crores.

The hon. Minister visited Mumbai to see that a double decker railway is started. Double decker railway from Karjat to V.T. and Kasara to V.T. will definitely reduce the burden of track jamming on the Railways. I do not know why you have not given any thought to this plan.

The progress of the Railways before Independence was 561 Km every year and after independence, the rate is hardly 162 Km per year. But I do not want to criticise that. It has not been possible to achieve much progress because of want of funds. Surprisingly, a provision for the Railway Budget in 1995-96 was made to the tune of Rs. 203 crores for laying new railway lines in place of old lines which were constructed in 1945. This year, 1996-97, hardly Rs. 150 crores are provided which is a very much less amount. Hardly 100

Km of railway lines would be constructed. Therefore, we have to provide more and more income sources to fulfil the requirements and demands of all the people.

Last but not least, I want to bring to your notice that arrears to the tune of Rs. 28 crores are pending to my State towards reimbursement of salary to be paid to the Railway Police Force. This demand is there right from 1979 and as on today, the railway authorities owe this amount. I pray to the Railway Minister that I will be very happy if he can sanction the money as early as possible. As our senior M.P. Shri Ram Naik has said that you have given an assurance that a separate suburban board would be set up to solve the problems of suburban people. But all the points which I have raised need a policy decision and I am quite hopeful that whatever points I have raised would increase for railways can be given.

I once again thank the Minister of Railways for not increasing the fare of monthly pass and tickets for suburban people.

I am sure that the hon. Minister would definitely take cognisance of all the points that I have raised and give a favourable reply and announce the date of starting of the passenger railway train from Thane to Belapur.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as my colleague has said that the Railways needs a lot of money to develop its infrastructure, I do not know in what way the hon. Minister is going to meet the deficit of Rs. 927 crore. The hon. Finance Minister, in his speech, did not categorically say anything about it or make any commitment. So, it is definitely a burden on the Railways to meet the deficit. So, it is certain that the Railways has to generate its own fund by utilising its own property like my colleague said that the airspace in the metropolitan areas can be sold out or given on rent. Or, the Railways has vast areas of land all over the country. I think the hon. Minister can make use of those lands for the commercial purpose and he can earn money and meet the deficit to some extent. It would definitely be strenuous for the Railway Minister to manage funds.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to some of the problems of the Railways. The hon. Minister in his speech stated about the Kapurthala factory which has failed to achieve its target. But the reason was not mentioned by the hon. Minister. This Kapurthala factory is a renowned factory and it has its own reputation and it has got the Excellence Award also. Therefore, the reasons must be found out and this factory should be made efficient.

The hon. Minister has spoken about many reforms about trains and the rural areas. But so far as thousands of trains in the rural areas are concerned, specially the old trains, their coaches bogies which the poor people

are using are rotten. The toilet is rotten and the whole coach is not worthy for the human beings to sit inside. There are thousands of trains like that and the poor people in the villages are facing a lot of problems on account of that. So, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this plight and request him to have an immediate replacement of such kinds of coaches in different trains.

Our hon. Minister laid emphasis to the North-East area for which I would definitely thank him. He has paid attention to the North-East area to include it in the railway map.

In his speech, he has mentioned that after Independence we have covered only 8000 kilometres of railway line. During the British regime, within 94 years, we had covered about 54,696 kilometres. What is the difference between them and us? There are many differences and many things that are to be studied and the Railways should try its own to lay more and more railway line. Otherwise, the backward areas in the nook and corner of the country cannot be connected with the developed places. Along with the process of development of railways, development of the country can be made, especially the development of villages can be made. There are five lakh villages in the country. They cannot develop. The areas which are full of resources, which are full of mineral deposits and natural resources cannot be developed and their natural resources cannot be exploited without any railway line.

The Minister has given Rs. one crore to my railway line. Keeping in view the development of the backward region of the country, the then Planning Commission approved that railway line and it is an on-going project. But to our utter surprise, in the last five years, not even one kilometre of railway line has been laid. My district Kalahandi is full of mineral resources. There has to be a bauxite-alumina plant. But that could not be established there and the bauxite of the said district could not be utilised.

There has to be an alumina plant at least in the future because it is having the best quality of bauxite deposit in the world.

Then, there is the Indravati Power Project coming up. It would generate 600 MW electricity after two years and it would irrigate 250 lakh acres of land after two years. We can have a lot of rice transportation. In addition, many granite mines are also there. So, it would be viable economically also. I am very sorry to say that the Minister of Railways has said that it is not commercially viable. The commercially viable points are not touched by the train. This railway line is being highly neglected.

The hon. Minister has made a zone out of his constituency. If he is not the Minister of Railways

tomorrow, that zone would be neglected, that zonal office would be neglected. In what kind of an embarrassing condition would he hon. Minister be then? He is like my elder brother and he is a leader of the dalits. So, I would request the hon. Minister to pay special attention to this railway line, at least to keep up the dignity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : please conclude now.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : It is not going to be six minutes now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : No. I have just spoken a bit.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But you have taken your time.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Please allow me for some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already given you two minutes extra.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : The railways had committed to extend a train. That train is Sambalpur-Howrah Express. They had committed to extend it till Raigara. This could not be done because the fuel examination plant was not available at Raigara. It was extended till Titlagarh. Subsequently, the Railways committed that it would be extended up to Raigara. Eight months ago, the Railways committed to the people of Koraput district, the people of Kalahandi district and the people of Phulbani district that this train would be extended up to Raigara.

When the then hon. Prime Minister inaugurated the Koraput railway line, it was said that train would be extend till Koraput because the Prime Minister was going to inaugurate that line. But even after the inauguration of that line, the Koraput-Raigara line has not been extended up to Raigara. A few days ago, there was hunger strike. A freedom fighter was sitting there in hunger strike. I had to request him to withdraw that strike. I would make this request to the hon. Minister. He has extended thirteen trains. This train also could be extended.

Then, another point is about Samata Express from Waltair to Delhi. There is only one train on this route and that is the Samata Express. It is running thrice a week and it needs to be regularised. It is an income generating train. It is always running to its full capacity. Such a long distance train does not have a pantry car or an air-conditioned coach. I would request the hon. Minister to provide an air-conditioned coach and a pantry car for that train and regularise it for seven days a week...*(Interruptions)*

I will conclude in just a minute. There are certain issues. I have to speak on many points but you are not permitting me. I hope, other hon. Members from my State would also speak on this.

My only request to the hon. Minister is this. By pleasing everybody, I do not think that the Railways can develop.

Sir, safety is the most important aspect. The hon. Member, Shri Basudev Acharia has also made a mention about derailment. According to the Railways, derailment is a vital and major source of railway accidents. This is not being properly studied. Even though it was studied by the Railway authorities many times, emphasis is not being given to this aspect.

We should study the causes - whether it is the wooden sleepers, the rotten wooden sleepers which we get from the contractors or the caste iron sleepers or the black cotton soil which are available in our country. If the reasons are clear, why are we not able to overcome this difficulty? We should stop derailment. I would suggest to the hon. Minister to lay more stress on this aspect.

I support this Budget, even though my colleagues in Samta Party may not support it, because my leader Shri Paswan is the Minister of Railways. He is the leader of the *Dalits* also. I support the Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda also. I support this Budget with the intention and request that he would spend all his time and energy to come up to the expectations of the people of this country.

I support this Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, we will have to decide upto what time we will sit. Is it upto 9.30 p.m. or ten o'clock?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : We can sit upto ten o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I take it that it is the pleasure of the House to sit upto ten o'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to inform the House that we will sit today upto 22.00 hours and dinner will be provided to all the M.P.s and Press reporters in Room No. 70 and for staff in Room no. 73. The dinner will start sharp at 20.00 hrs. All of the hon'ble Members can go to dinner according to their convenience. Dinner for staff will start of 20.30 hrs.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not yet commenced my speech, but these people have started interrupting me...*(Interruptions)* I am the second speaker from the BJP. Shri Ram Vilas ji my old colleague and I can complain him and I am sure, the Minister will listen to our views. I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Paswanji for presenting this popular Budget. This budget contains the aspects of a good dance with attractive

expressions, actions, sweetness. This is infact a political Budget.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : You have the knowlege of various facets of dance.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I am appreciating yor dance. I am the spectator of your dance stage ...*(Interruptions)* I will speak only if you allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let him speak.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister had been occupying the seat for a long time which I am occupying today. He occupied the treasury benches earlier also. This time, he has been given the Portfolio of a major Ministry. It is not an ordinary Ministry. It is connected with the lives of the people of the country. The Railways do the job of cementing the unity and integrity and also diversity of India. The hon'ble Minister while taking charge of the Ministry, had said that the Railways have so far been serving the rich and the prosperous regions. But his effort would be to expand the Railway network, to take it to the poorest of the poor and to connect the 80 far neglected regions with Rail facility. But the hallucination of this chair works the magic when the person sitting on this Chair is compelled to change his concept, give up his revolutionary ideas.

The other announcement he made was that his Budget will be poor oriented. Now he is providing audio-video facility in Shatabdi Chair car and also telephone facility in the Rajdhani Express running between Delhi and Bombay. I am not opposed to these facilities but he will have to fix some priorities, preferences and directions. Whether he will stagnate of audio-video facility or will touch the areas he has promised to take care of. I have not been able to locate his priorities in the Budget. I understand his difficulties. He was a worried man. The Pay Commission report will be implemented in respect of the railway employees. The Government had already raised the prices of electricity diesel etc. even before the Budget was presented. I do not know whether he has fixed his priority or not but he will have to provide for Rs. 150-200 crores and we know all of us will have to share this burden.

There are hundreds of unmanned railway crossings where severe accidents occur frequently. He has, during discussion on railway accidents promised to man these level crossings. If he has not said so, he can now make an announcement...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PAWAN : I did not say that all the Level Crossing will be manned. What I said was that we have 24-25000 unmanned crossings and we would need at least Rs. 5-7 lakh for this purpose. This is not possible

for any Railway Minister. I had promised that we would man the level Crossing at senstive areas which are more prone to accidents on priority basis. I would reiterate that I will try to man those level crossing on priority basis for which the hon'ble Members may write to me.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : The assurance now given by him is somewhat a deviation from the statement made by him earlier. We shall definitely write to him about such level crossing. Railway accident is possible at every unmanned railway level crossing. He has his own difficulties but I just wanted to draw his attention to this matter.

Today railway is the biggest employer of the country, but its productivity and efficiency are declining. His attention must have gone to this aspect also. We are a socialistic State and profitability is not our sole aim. We have, therefore, to be conscious to the heavy responsibility of this undertaking towards social and socio-economic development besides achieving profitability.

In his Budget Speech he has highlighted the eastern region as one of the neglected areas. I recollect that a Prime Minister of the Congress Party which is supporting this Government had constituted a 19 Member committee to study the socio-economic aspects of eastern region and I hope he must have got the report of the study team of this Committee. He has talked of the role of surface and air transport in eradicating the impediments in the development of that area and their economic backwardness because it is necessary to have proper transport communication between eastern region and the rest of the country.

20.00 hrs.

He proposes expansion of railway network in the region. I do not know what amount of funds will be available. When I say it is a political budget I do not intend to level any allegations. The House is in Session. The Railway Budget has been presented. The Hon'ble Prime Minister had declared in this August House that the economic package proposed for Jammu and Kashmir includes of Rs. 2500 crore railway project, namely Udhampur - Baramula railway project. I am not opposed to the construction of this line but this track is not going to be constructed today and even after 30th September but the Railway Budget does not make any mention of this project. I do not know with whose inspiration the Hon'ble Prime Minister has made this announcement today. As I said I am not opposed to...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is true that this scheme is not included in the Railway Budget because if we take up this project as a Railway

project then I am afraid it may take 10 years or 20 years or even more and therefore, this Udhampur Baramula railway track has been treated as a National Project and provided for in the Union Budget to ensure its completion within 4 years treating it as a priority project. The other thing is that he has expressed doubts about completion of railway line like Lumbding-Silchar and Kumarghat-Agartala. He must know, we have not adopted economic criteria for Disa-Ganganagar, nor have we taken into consideration the people for whom this project is meant. We have taken it on priority basis by relaxing all the norms by treating it a backward area.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I thank the Hon'ble Minister for relaxing the norms for providing rail link to these areas. I have already mentioned these things. It is not an ordinary task. These areas have remained neglected. The people have not come in the national mainstream. The socio-economic factors have been responsible for this and the railway is also a major factor in this isolation. He has tried to remove these factors.

I would like to stress the imperative need of the said railway line in Jammu and Kashmir. The socio-economic factor is one of the reasons for agitations, for open interference by Pakistan in our internal matters but what I would like to ask him is whether he would allow political maneuvering in the Railway Ministry. Why was this project not included in the Railway Budget? He could have relaxed the norms and made provisions for the next 4 years. May I know whether he will seek budgetary support for this project? He doesn't have funds for other projects. The Government has found money for this particular project because elections are to be held there before 30th September. If this is his approach, then, I vehemently oppose it. I do not oppose the project. I have no dissension so far as development of J and K is concerned. It will be in the greater interest of the country.

We have been always complaining of paucity of funds in the Railways. Today, corruption has entered into the national life and railway cannot be an exception. My Congress friends will feel offended. During the tenure of 10th Lok Sabha major scandals came to light and railways did not lag behind. Now where is the necessity of importing engines. Basu Dev Acharia ji was saying that we need not import the engine-or other things? We can do with 5000 horse-power engine. We should not import engines from Brown-Baberi. There is corruption in the import of wagons, in the entire railway system. What does he think about this corruption? In the last Budget, it was stated that Railway scraps included sufficient stock of rolling-stock, mild steel and cast-iron. Last year Rail scrap worth Rs. 1000 crore was sold. A special type of mafia operates in the transaction of

these scraps. They pool the resources and there is no authentic estimation of the scrap stock. The railway wooden sleepers are sold in the black market. Today R.C.C. sleepers are being used which are necessary for sustaining fast speed trains. Similarly, the cast-iron which should have been lakhs of tonnes might have been sold in black market and only 10 percent of it may be available with the railways. For this also, the department does not get competitive price. In other words, the railways do not get full price of their valuable scrap. The hon'ble Minister should look into this aspect also.

Now there is the question of railway wagoons. It is said that we have the requisite number of these wagons. But there is shortage of rolling stock and wagons are not available for movement of goods from one place to another during peak seasons. Is he formulating any scheme in this regard? He has talked of own your own wagon. This is a good scheme. But the weighted capacity of the wagons is utilised much below. This has also been accepted by the former Railway Minister. Today the industrialist avoid booking railway wagons because they are not available on time. These people are not looking towards surface transport. There is corruption in the allotment of wagons also. There is also a racket of pilferage. Goods worth thousands of crores of rupees are pilfered. There is a consortium who prefers claims against the stolen goods. During 1994-95, 177614 cases of pilferage were reported by the railways and out of them only 67806 cases were disposed of. The claim involved a sum of Rs. 25.13 crores. These are last year's figures and were given by the then Railway Minister. Who are behind these pilferages? This must be found out. Mughal Sarai in Varanasi is notorious for pilferages. If he is able to check the pilferage and increase efficiency slightly, he will be able to lay golden railway, there would be no shortage of funds.

It is said that Railways are short of Capital and he is increasing freight to increase funds. There is need to review the working of Railway protection force because pilferages in the railway have not been checked. Their training aspect, their commitment aspect needs review. Why this force is unable to protect the railway property? It has the biggest share in these pilferages. The railway is facing resource crunch, is short of liquidity, is lacking capital fund, important schemes are not progressing. And on the other hand, claims are being paid for pilferages. There is a clash between GRP and RPF over certain matters, certain duties and responsibilities. The RPF is answerable for the pilferage of railway property. Does he propose to consider how better coordination can be brought about in the working of these two Forces?

Railways are expanding considerably. They are not conservative services today. Many companies have

been set up. RITES consortium in working in and outside the country. The IRCON is not only Laying rails but is constructing roads and buildings. The railways have been diversified. It has entered telecommunication sector also. How far IRFC, the Finance Corporation have been able to mobilise funds, only he knows, but this is an institution of the Railway Board. Konkan Railway is a separate company. Now there is a proposal to set up separate companies for urban transport and for Centre for Railway Information. There is multi-dimensional diversification of the railways. It is expanding horizontally. There is, therefore, need to review the working of the Railway Board and the burden it is sharing. Is the number of Members of the Railways Board is sufficient? Is there need to reconstitute the Railway Board? He has to look into this aspect because today there is heavy social pressure on the railsector. There is lack of coordination between railway officers and workers and to some extent, the beurocracy is more influential. There is despondency in the railways. This results in frequent clashes between the officers and workers. When railway accidents take place, the fault of the system is overlooked and the lowest employee is punished. The entire concentration remains in the suspension of the worker. The victim are paid some compensation and the matter ends there. There are passengers who, for want of accomodation in the compartment, travel on the roof of the train between their native places to Ludhiana, Calcutta, Bombay etc. in search of employment. They are not ticketless travellers but they do not have the allotted seat. I would like to know whether Government will consider payment of compensation to such passengers when involved in a railway accident.

The number of A.C. sleepers, 3-tier sleepers is increasing. But I will suggest maximum increase of A.C. 3-tier sleepers. There are several trains between Bihar and Punjab via Delhi. Thousands of workers travel by these by taking risk of their lives because almost all the bogies are reserved. It takes 2 to 3 hours to get a ticket for Vaishali train. What I want to say is that the number of unreserved coaches should be increased, and the trains should be hauled by two engines. May be, we don't have large platforms, sheds and the Coaches will have to be sided in the dark, but augmentation of coach strength will provide seating facilities to the poor. So, we should not restrict rail facility only to reserved coaches. The interest of the poor has to be looked after.

I would request the hon'ble Minister to think of those poor people for whom nobody has thought so far. During elections we make big promises. We are overwhelmed by the poverty and the poor only at that time. The hon'ble Minister belongs to a Dalit community. But he has not experienced the hardship faced by poor passengers. Only the wearer knows where the shoe

pinches. I would like to draw his attention towards the plight of more than 16 lakh railway workers whose interest is neither taken care of in the Rail Budget nor in the general Budget. Neither it is discussed by the Parliament. It is seen that the posts which fall vacant on retirement of employees are being surrendered. New recruitment is banned. It is the right of the Children of the employees who serve the department for 25-30 years, to get a job. This aspect also needs his attention. A new Forum namely participation of railway employees in management has been set up. Former Railway Minister Shri C. K. Jaffer Sharief was very much annoyed over this. He claimed to have done a lot for railway men. Their representatives were invited in the meeting of the Railway Board. It is enough to satisfy the requirement of railwaymen? Whether 'PREM' is working satisfactorily and if not what is he thinking about workers' participation'. Whether he is prepared and has made up his mind to tolerate real participation of genuine workers in the management of railways? Is he prepared or will he be satisfied by taking formal decision on papers and files? His enthusiasm will get exhausted in one or two years and he will forget everthing. The workers will be invited for talks once in one or two years. They will simply express their feelings, then tea will be served, dinner will be served as is being done today and they will part company. We will go our way and he will go his way.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : How should he be given participation in the management?

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Sir, this is a small thing. But I would like him to talk to the Union representatives. A representative of unrecognised Union, howsoever eloquent he may be, cannot negotiate with the management. He needs a media, he needs a Member of Parliament, a recognised Union. Many a times, the recognised Unions also have vested interest. The Members belonging to Communist party are sitting here and they have specialised in this art. Basu Deb Achariaji has left the house after making his speech. The management will have had talks with the Unions. Only then can there be transparency. Leave along participation, the management cannot tolerate their very presence. They are not prepared to listen to the unions. Then which forum the workers should look to? Detailed discussions have held in this House on the issue of workers' participation. The hon'ble Railway Minister had, when he was sitting on the other side, expressed his views on Labour participation in the management. He spoke volumes in their favour. But today he is sitting in the treasury benches and he can do anything in this regard. He must express his views on this matter. We are prepared to give our views but let him invite us. He should first have discussions with the representatives of the employees.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Sir, I have yet to say something for my area. I will try to finish soon. I would like to submit that whosoever becomes the Railway Minister looks upto his area. Shri Ram Vilasji is a consenrative and he has a great fancy for Bihar. Karnataka is his compulsion. What has he thought of U.P.? Bihar and U.P. had very cordial relations for centuries. He must take these relations into consideration

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : When we go from Delhi to Bihar we go via Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : It is his compulsion. If he builds rails on the air then he can skip Uttar Pradesh. But as of now, it is his compulsion and compulsion is other name of this system. He has not done anything for Uttar Pradesh. He must think about this State also.

Now I would like to make some observation about catering T.T.E. and catering work as rail-public relation agents. But T.T.E. is also facing many difficulties. 3 to 5 coaches are entrusted to one T.T.E. Some of our colleagues create scenes there. Any way, it is between us. He has to look not their difficulties. If the number of coaches is more, the number of T.T.E. should also be increased. The T.T.E. has to look after the convenience of and attend to the passengers. He arranges for food and bedding etc. He remains awake the whole night but he has no seat to sit in. This is practical difficulty and it must be looked into. The hon'ble Minister is the read of the railway family consisting of 18 lakh family Members and if this number is multiplied by 5, the strength of the family comes to 90 lakh. Being head of such a large family, I would request him to see their welfare. Big announcements will not help. We must proceed step by step. This will definitely give us encouraging results.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI (Ghosi) : Whether the railway has a family of 16 lakh or 18 lakh?

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : The population is increasing. It is good if it is 18 lakh. I take his statement as correct.

A Railway Catering Corporation is there for taking care of Railway catering services. But I don't know whether it exists or not.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is under consideration.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I would request him to make this corporation active and pay more attention to catering facilities. Shri Deve Gowda's Government has made a very good announcement, though in principle I am against it. They have said that the Ministers will be divested of their discretionary powers. I do not know whether power to issue passes remains with him or

not...*(Interruptions)* What I want to say is that tendency of granting passes indiscriminately is bad. The favourites are being issued passes without any justification. This practice was much in vogue when Late Shri Kamla Pati Tripathi was the Railway Minister. Infact the Congress people have special expertise in this matter. The honourable chairman is also aware. But what is the end result? The genuine passenger who pays for his travel is deprived of the seat. So, these things have to be checked. The platform ticket will now cost Rs. 1. This price should be reduced. If the cost is less people will become habitual to purchase platform ticket to enter the platform.

Sir, there is talk of unigauge system. Mr. Chidambaram is not here. His budget and the Railway Ministers Budget are similar. Wine is the same but the bottles are new. The Railway Minister has also become fond of new economic policy, Globalisation and liberalisation. The Railways have important role in the creation of infrastructural facilities. Without infrastructural facilities we cannot think of constructing a rail line or of setting up an industry. Nor can we think of unity if diversity. The thrust areas he has proposed are not new. We have been having discussion here on electrification, gauge conversion and unigauge. Just now Mr. Basu Dev Acharia was saying that we must have multigauge, metergauge, narrow gauge and broadgauge side by side. But the Government has not been able to achieve the target of 8th, Five Year Plan. What is he going to do during the coming 9th Plan. We need unigauge which is a necessary step for proper operation of the railways. It must be introduced whatever be the cost. At the same time the old rolling stock, old tracks will have to be changed.

Sir, Mr. Naik has said that the budgetary support for Railways has been declining over the years. But I think the Railways have been getting budgetary support right from the beginning of the 1st Five Year Plan. It was 75 percent in the 5th Plan, 42 percent in the 6th Plan. It has perhaps come down to 15 percent now.

Now what is budgetary support? What benefit do the Railways get out of it? During his Railway Budget speech he has been looking to the Finance Minister and expressing his agony. He appeared to be demanding some funds for his Railway schemes. I do'nt think the Finance Minister is obliging him...*(Interruptions)* If he has taken some initiative, then please demand more and more money. Railways belong to all of us. All of us will help him but he must present his demands with greater stress...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

[English]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I am just concluding, Sir. I am coming to my part.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken half an hour.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Sir, please give me five minutes more. I come from Gonda district and my constituency is Bahrapur. I have with me a letter dated 13th September 1989 from hon'ble Shri Madhav Rao Scindia. I had made some demands at that time and I want to reiterate them. Uttar Pradesh is being meted out a stop motherly treatment I had demanded gauge conversion of Gonda-Gorakhpur line via Balrampur-Sitapur. In reply, I was told that presently Balrampur-Tulsipur via Gonda-Gorakhpur track is a meter gauge route and it connect the meter line network between Uttar Pradesh and Assam and if this line is converted into broadgauge, the important metergauge system will be affected and there will be chair all round. This means conversion of gauge will create chaos. This is what the then Railway Minister had said.

Today, I again, demand that this is an important Railway line and should be converted into broadgauge line. It has already been converted upto Zakal road. This route provides link to the North-East. This is of strategic impotence. It connects Bihar also. I had also demanded gauge conversion of Mankapur-Katni line. In reply I was informed that a survey was conducted for conversion of branch line of Mankapur-Katni metergauge. But the project was not found finally viable. But this track has now been converted. I had also demanded construction of a Railway bridge over the Sarju river in Ayodhya. He has in his speech said that the work of acquisition of land for the construction of the bridge over the Sarju river to connect Faizabad is being completed. Sir, in 1989, when I made a demand for construction of this bridge I was told that it was not financially viable but today the hon'ble Minister has accepted the project. I demand for conversion of Balrampur-Tulsipur Railway line via Gorakhpur which was rejected at that time and which has not been accepted.

The hon'ble Minister has announced conversion of all the Railway lines in Uttar Pradesh. He had said that conversion of Tanakpur-Pilibhit, Bareilly-Pilibhit, Sitapur-Lucknow track will be taken up in the first phase during the coming years. When will this be started is not clear. He must have come concrete programme. He has not even asked for funds for this purpose. The Kanpur-Mathura-Kasganj, Kasganj-Bareilly and Gonda-Gorakhpur lines have been identified and surveyed. I am grateful to him for this. But no survey has been completed for Gonda-Gorakhpur Line.

In 1977, the hon'ble Minister was also a Member of this House. We were sitting on the Treasury Benches.

The proposed for Balrampur, Utrila and Khalilabad was discussed. The survey for this line had been completed. But this has not found a mention in the proposals of the hon'ble Ministers.

Sir, Gonda railway junction receives trains from all over India. The Gonda-Balrampur section is a 40 km-track and Shrasvasti, the place of Buddhist pilgrimage is 15 km from there. The Govt. of Japan has given an assistance of Rs. 400 crore for providing rail link to the places of Buddhist pilgrimage. The affluent people visit these places by chartered planes but Large number of pilgrims from Srilanka and Burma come to Gonda junction. But they do not have proper retiring room facility. The Government has provided A.C. retiring room facilities in major cities. I would request the hon'ble Minister to provide A.C. retiring room facility at Gonda junction Station also so that the foreign tourists coming by trains during night can rest there and proceed to the places of pilgrimage. We are earning a lot of foreign exchange from these people.

The Indian Railways do not have general sales agent in Nepal as a result of which a foreign tourist, instead of visiting India goes to some other places because of non availability of advance reservation facility. I have raised this issue severel times. I have also written to the Railway Board. He has called for the report from the Assembly in this regard. Infact, the net result is that we have been loosing the valuable foreign exchange. We must have adequate facilities to attract foreign tourists. This will enhance our image abroad and attract foreign tourists to this country.

It is my fortune that the hon'ble Railway Minister is known to me for a long time. He is like my elder brother. Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : (Silchar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, 16th July, 1996 is the red letter day for the people of North-Eastern States. I have been in this House from 1988 onwards. I have heard many things in my career. I have met six Chairmen of the Railway Board. I have met nine Railway Ministers. One day in 1996, as an Opposition Leader, I had the opportunity of listening to the present Railway Minister after his visit to Tripura.

He created a furore in the House and said that "We only give lip service to the North-Eastern Region. Why do you not have Railway lines to these various State capitals, especially Tripura and other parts of the country. Sitting here as a Minister, I thought this would be one of the speeches which would be witten in the parliamentary proceedings but everything would go in vain.

When this gentlemen become the Railway Minister, I heard his first speech from Silcher, speaking to the Television. He again repeated that one of his first priorities would be to develop the Railway line in the North-Eastern States. I thought, he would go to the Railway Board and he would be bantised by the Railway Board officials and again he would be back to normal as it had happened to others in the past.

Then he called a meeting of the North-Eastern MPs. All of us went. I do not want to blame any individual. A book, like this, was circulated to us. Going through the book, I again could see that the Railway Board officials have not changed, though the Minister has changed. He offered us dinner. I took him out of the room and asked him, "What was that meeting for? You have heard so many people, you have heard the Railway Board Chairman, what did you learn from them? He said, "Sontoshbhai, I am a Minister and they are officials, give me time."

I came back and wrote another letter to him expressing my worries. After a few days, he gave me a chance to have interction with some top officials. There also I came to know that such line was not there, such and such line could not be done, such and such line was not remunerative, the CCA has not approved it, the Planning Commission has not approved it, etc. and hence the indication to me was to wait for some time.

I came back again and at some time at midnight, I again rang him up. He said, "I am doing my job, you do your job." I asked him, "What job do you want me to do?" He said, "You speak to the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister, about me you need not worry." I did meet the Prime Minister and talked to him. When I met the Prime Minister, he told me that for the whole North-Eastern Region the Railways was pressurising him. When I met the Minister of Finance, he expressed his willingness to help the North-Eastern region and Shri Chidambaram said "Santosh Da, I will support you."

I am 62 years old. I never got blood pressure unless India loses in hockey or in any football game. But that day I was sitting here thinking what he was going to state. Then he came to page No. 18. What was said in the past in 1995 was reflected in this speech. He said, "hon. Members from the North-Eastern States have been representing about the lack of rail link to the State capitals. This Government has decided to remedy that situation."

They started in this direction and work on traction of the new line from Komarghat to Agartala, to link up the capital of Tripura, has been included in the Budget. This line will meet the long standing expectations of the people of that region.

I was a Member of Parliament from Tripura and I tried with the then Prime Minister also. Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief, the then Minister of Railways or anybody else would always say, "It is a difficult terrain, we cannot go. It will be very difficult to do it." It was about my line, Lumding-Silchar, which I wanted from the hon. Minister. The same analogy is being brought. When it was updated one General Manager (Railway) told me that Konkan Railway was now being done, the tunnel was being constructed, why could not the same be done in the case of Lumding-Silchar? I had requested Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief and he ordered for updating it. That was ready.

My colleague, Shri P. Upendra has said that survey is the reason for the delay. I do not agree with him. This line was updated only a year back. And today this line has come into reality. A sum of Rs. 600 crore is required for this. It may not be possible to give this amount in one year or two years or three years or four years. But, I would like to tell Shri Paswan that on that very day, that is, on the 16th, I took a chance and told my people in Barak Valley, "Probably Shri Paswan is going to give it." It was celebrated by bursting of crackers all over the Barak Valley irrespective of the Parties. This was the demand of the people of the Valley. The line, Lumding-Silchar, was the demand of all the Parties Congress, BJP, CPM and other Parties.

There is a Member from Karimganj also. I take this opportunity to convey my hearty thanks, my gratitude to the Minister and to the new Chairman of the Railway Board, who, I suppose, is slightly positive that the previous one. I do not know how long he will continue. But I must congratulate the hon. Minister for the steps he has taken. One of the demands that was made during the meeting was for the Bogibhool bridge. When the hon. Minister said in his Budget speech: "It has been decided to take up the construction of the fourth bridge on the river Brahmaputra at Bogibhool", the whole of Assam had celebrated it.

The hon. Minister also said that the railway line, which is now up to Tinsukia will be extended further. He also mentioned about the project of Aruanachal and has given a project for Imphal. The Chief Minister of Manipur, being the Congress Chief Minister, gave a Press release saying, 'This is the first time in the Railway Budget that Manipur has got justice from the Government of India and I congratulate the hon. Minister. "The Chief Minister of the Congress Party has brought an analogy that the Congress Government had not given it in the past. For that, I take this opportunity to convey my hearty thanks. Probably you have seen one thing. I am a man who not only demands but I also stand by you.

On the other day when I was talking to Shri Chidambaram, I said: "Yesterday the Railway Minister

gave a speech and said that he would consider about the railway line. What is the problem?" He told me that they had to make resource mobilisation. He said: "If they make a particular point, Dada, I will take care of the balance amount." You had fortunately demanded there and said: "We have arranged to have our resource publication".

If that be the case you will get the support from all of us. On behalf of the North-Eastern States, as a whole, I convey my hearty thanks to the Prime Minister, who was positive. I convey my hearty thanks to the hon. Minister for acting on whatever he had proached while he was in the Opposition. For that, we are grateful to him.

This line will take a long time. I have got two or three problems only. I will not go into the all India phenomenon because the other hon. Members are going to speak.

Now, Silchar is connected by metre-gauge from Lunding and by broad-gauge from Guwahati. Dimapur is going to be extended to Tinsukia. This transshipment is causing a lot of problems to all of us. So, I would like to make a request to him. As the hon. Minister has decided to make it broad-gauge, a provision of Rs. 10 crore has been made and he cannot do it overnight.

It is not my proposal. It was the proposal of your Railway experts. From Lunding towards Silchar there is a point up to which, there is no tunnel and there is no ditch. If you extend the broad gauge up to that point, by another line - and at least if you cannot take the present line, we do not mind - or if the goods, foodgrains and other things can be extended up to that point, then, from there they are transhipped in metre gauge to Silchar. Then, Silchar, Karimganj, Agartala, Mizoram and Manipur will be served. Today, the cost of our essential commodities is too high. It becomes difficult.

Only on the other day, I told Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav that the road from Silchar to Shillong was closed for 15 days. The Railways provide a good service. I spoke to the General Manager. He took some steps. But if to a certain extent this broad gauge line can be extended, the transshipment time will be saved. Whether it is possible or not, that I do not know as I am not a technical man. If it is not possible, then kindly take some steps so that the transshipment does not take unlimited time for the passenger and the goods traffic and we can get our essential commodities without delay. This is one point.

Another point to which I would like to draw your attention is that there was Railway construction office in Silchar. Since the broad gauge was not coming, there was an attempt to close down that office. At my request, both Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief and Shri Suresh Kalmadi kept that office. This should be utilised. As you say very

nicely and the Prime Minister has also said it in a public meeting in Uttar Pradesh, that the construction development work is not only for spending for development but the infrastructure development will also provide employment.

So, the total amount will be spent from Lunding-Silchar, where definitely, there should be a good organisation, an engineering office. There should be an engineering office in Silchar which is my constituency. I am not demanding any other things. I am demanding only a construction office, where the ordinary muster-roll labourers and others will also be able to work and they can participate. This is my humble request to you.

Then I have another humble request to you. Yes, the hon. Member from BJP is here. It is very unfortunate for political Parties like BJP. They are trying to mix up the package given by the hon. Prime Minister along with the election. They must remember that the Government, in the past 10 years, had an all Party meeting in which your Party was also involved. Another Party went to Kashmir also. Everybody is saying that for Kashmir there should be a special package. Now for the Minister of Railways to give Rs. 2500 crores, is next to impossible. To give a national scheme and to absorb this money separately from the Railways, hon. Members, it is saving us. You are asking so many things for your constituency. At the same time, it will send a good message to the people of Kashmir that the Government of India is concerned about them also. When it does something, it will not go to the credit of the Janata party but it will go to the credit of all of us.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : They are, on the one hand, announcing the elections and on the other they are amounting this package. What have they to say about this?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : That is the problem. The BJP can do anything for election. We should not do anything for election. We are all political elements. Why should we do it?

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Thank you for yielding.

[Translation]

I have always stressed this point. I thank the hon'ble Minister for announcing this project for Kashmir. This is intended to bring J and K people in the national mainstream. There is no opposition to it in principle. What we object is that this line is not going to be completed by 30th September. Survey is not going to be completed. They will not be able to mobilise

Rs. 2500 crore and even if they do, the line is not going to be completed. Have they been advised by some astrologer to announce this package today? Therefore, I link this package with elections and the Government had elections in mind while announcing this package. Whatever Mr. Paswan may say, this is the fact. Their supporters staged dharnas on stair cases outside. But here, they have become the yes men of the Government. The fact is that they are two facets.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : To suggest that we are against the package is wrong. Nobody has opposed it. We want railway lines should be provided in Kashmir.

20.45 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

But there should be some way of doing it. Simply making an announcement and not taking practical view of it is not plausible, particularly when elections are approaching...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Agreed. They had 13 days Government. The Prime Minister had gone to Lucknow. Why did he announce the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya? I don't blame him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whether Ayodhya Temple has any bearing on the Railways?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I don not blame Shri Vajpayee. I am countering his proposal. Every man, whether it is Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri L.K. Advani, Shri H.D.Deve Gowda or Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao or anybody else, will think of his political party. There is nothing wrong in it. I do not say that it is wrong. He is telling that it is wrong. Your Government for thirteen days has made provisions for thirty years. May God bless you and Ram bring you here...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Sir, they have been ruling the country for 40-45 year. Their misdeeds have pushed them to this ridiculous situation.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, will you protect me? I have not disturbed him. He spoke for forty-five minutes. He has said about Congress scam and other thing. I did not stand up to disturb him...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : You did the scam...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : During your rule of 13 days, in lunch hour, you approved the deep counter guarantee proposal of Enron. Is it not a scam?

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Was this not approved by this Government also?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : This Government has done it after they got the Confidence of the House. Nobody is against the Enron. But why should you do it in hurry?...*(Interruptions)* So, I am telling you that let us not criticise each other. What has been done for Kashmir is good, the hon. Prime Minister has done something and it will be welcomed by all of us. The hon. Prime Minister is trying to give a message to the people of Kashmir that this House, this Government is looking after the interests of the people of Kashmir Election is another thing...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Member has come here after winning the seat. I know his capability. He can get some seats for his party. You need not worry about it. Leave it to him. But please do not try to send a message. He is very rightly saying, you welcome it first and then criticise. But what you are doing is that you are criticising first and then welcoming. This is wrong...*(Interruptions)* Please do not stand up to disturb me again.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. He is trying to put his words in my mouth. I never said it. I am still on record and let the record be a testimony to this fact that I have stated that it is a very welcome step and let Jammu and Kashmir be integrated in any manner which is possible from the side of the Government. Now, Sir, he is trying to put his vision in my words. That is very bad. Please do not send this signal that B.J.P. is opposing it. It is not true. We are supporting it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Please do not get excited at 9 o' clock...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I am not excited. You are trying to mislead us and trying to mislead the country ...*(Interruptions)*. let me clarify it...*(Interruptions)* I have been repeatedly saying that the project of constructing railway line from Udhampur to Baramula is most welcome. But the Railway Budget does not include any project for my area. In reply to my query, the hon'ble Minister said that resources worth 2500 crores cannot be generated. I opposed it simply because of the timing of the announcement. It has been done of political consideration. The Assembly elections have been announced. The hon'ble Prime Minister made the announcement keeping the elections in view. This was my objection...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Today to the credit of this Prime Minister, I can say that he has the guts to say in this House that elections will be declared by the Election Commission on First or second. That is why he came to the House and declared it. I was present when he said so. He has the guts to say it.

He said so that it is the desire of the people of India so a whole that India is always considering Kashmir as an integral part of India. All of us will agree to it. But what the hon. Member has said is also out they desirable to be said. It will send a wrong message. This is my feeling. He may not agree with me. He has got every right to refute my presentation before the House. Sir, is it that he go the right to criticise the Government and the Prime Minister and I have no right to criticise his speech? What sort of tolerance is it? I do not understand. This is not fair...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You take up some other point.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I would conclude by saying that this Railway Budget burden to the common man and not putting burden for the movements of goods which are essential commodities and which are needed for the common people and also keeping in mind the commuters in the city and suburban areas.

On behalf of my Party and on behalf of myself as well as on behalf of the people of the North east I wish all the best for the Railway Minister. I will again put it on record to say that what the hon. Minister has done will ever be remembered by the people of the North East. I will request you to visit all our States so that we can welcome you. We do believe that you have a constraints of funds. But within the limitation of funds, I am sure that, you will do justice to the North East.

With these words I thank Shri Paswan and I support this Budget in toto.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak on the railway Budget. I shall try to finish my speech in five minutes. It is the misfortune of Andhra Pradesh that no railway Minister has come from there. Still I support the budget and would like to place some suggestions before Shri Paswan Sahib.

Sir, Hyderabad-Jaipur-Ajmer one is a meter gauge line. We have been demanding its conversion into broad gauge line in the absence of which rail users face a lot of difficulties. I once again demand that this meter gauge line should be converted into broad gauge. As you know, Sir, the naxalite activities are increasing in Andhra Pradesh and the people are afraid of travelling by trains. Steps should be taken for the security of railway passengers so that they reach their destination safely.

Hyderabad city is expanding in a big way and there is no overbridge in the city. And as a result, the traffic gets jammed for hours together. It is a very strange

thing that an over bridge at Wazirpura was sanctioned five or seven years ago and it has been completed but has not been officially opened for traffic. This bridge is located in the heart of the city and is being used for traffic unofficially. Sometimes its opened to traffic and sometimes it is closed. I don't know what the reasons are-I would like to be enlightened in this regard because as Member of Parliament we have to the obligation towards our people. People ask us the reasons for not opening this bridge to traffic. The railway officers are also unable to give us the exact position. I would like to know the definite date whether it is 1996 or 1997 or 2000 when this bridge will be officially opened for traffic?

My second point is about catering. Very substandard and poor quality food is served in trains. Most of the Ministers travel by planes. They could ascertain the exact position if they travel by trains. The railway tracks have become very old and uneven. The running trains keep jumping and it becomes difficult for the passengers to sleep during the night. The maintenance is poor. These small things cause great hardships to the passengers.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I would like to tell the hon'ble Members that from the day I assumed the charge of Railway Ministry I tried to travel by trains. I travel by plane only when it is absolutely necessary. I have travelled upto Mumbai by train. Offcourse, there are two or three aspects which caused irritation to me also. One is the lack of proper maintenance. Hon'ble members have been raising this issue time and again. Other is catering. We have private as well as official catering system. 75 percent catering is handled by private agencies. 25 percent by Railways themselves. The services of both are not satisfactory. I am worried about this and I have created special cells in my office and in zonal offices also but I would like to assure the hon'ble Member that I will do whatever is possible to bring about improvement. If necessary I will constitute a committee of Members of Parliament I accept the short comings and deficiency in the catering department but I shall be grateful if the hon'ble Members give their suggestion for bringing about improvements. I will have no objections in accepting them.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Thanks a lot. He is setting a very good practice. If he travels train during summers he will find that cold drinking water is not available. The water containers are empty...*(Interruptions)* Cold drinking water is not available even at major Railway stations. Similarly, there is difficulty in reservations. A major part of the population lives in Hyderabad but the reservation facility has been provided in Secundrabad. Secundrabad has 20 percent population while 80 percent population lives in Hyderabad. The trains stops at Secundrabad. The trains

have started now coming to Hyderabad-Nampalli station after making repeated demands.

21.00 hrs.

But it gets late by two hours and the passengers get down at Secundrabad. I want the trains must observe punctuality. There have been instances when trains got late by 24 hours. I would like that the Railways must observe punctuality.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have consumed your time. Now please finish. I have deducted the time taken by the hon'ble Railway Minister.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Similarly, the trains lack facility of medical care. People travel far off places and there is no medical facility and they have to wait for the medical aid till they reach the next station. In case any passenger gets ill there should be some arrangement in the train for medical care.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have made repeated request for introducing a train between Hyderabad and Warangal. There is heavy passenger traffic and an extra train is absolutely necessary.

I will not give you the trouble of ringing another bell. While concluding my speech I with all humility at my command request you to catch our eyes also because you belong to the entire House and not only to that section of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will definitely keep your advice in mind.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the railway Budget. India is the second largest country population-wise. It has a population of 95 crore people 80 crore people travel by train. The Railway Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is present in the House. There is always a debate between the treasury and opposition benches. We have a strong opposition here in the House. It is their obligation to make criticism. The criticism is welcome but they must accept whatever is in public interest.

The opposition had been conducting themselves on religious sentiments. Their political philosophy is religion based.

The people who are concerned only with securing votes cannot understand the importance the Railway has for the rural people. Our friends sitting in the opposition have only tried to know, as one of them was saying 'the bottle is the same but wine has changed'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He had said some thing different. I was listening by sitting on some other seat. He said 'wine is the same but bottle has changed'.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : May be, I have put it the other way. I correct myself but the temple is the same and they change the God ...*(Interruptions)* I am going to speak on Railway but want to keep those things close to my heart. Today we have a population of 90 crore and 80 crore of them are rail users. I would like to urge the Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Ram Vilas Pawan and also congratulate him, that now he is the Railway Minister and many hon'ble Members alleged that this is a Bihar Budget ...*(Interruptions)*.

Sir, he has a great dream, he has travelled a lot and become a Minister though he comes from a Dalit family. He got the opportunity of becoming Minister twice and also has adorned many other positions. Today, he is the Minister of the biggest Ministry. 90 crore people are looking to him. He his a Minister in the United Front Government led by Shri Deve Gowda and the farmers have great expectations from Shri Gowda ji. The Railway Minister has presented the Railway Budget keeping in view the welfare of the weaker section, the poor people who are the real users of the railway. Shri Paswan Ji used to say, he wants to lit a light in the homes where darkness has been prevailing for centuries. He has enhanced the prestige of the weaker section by following the way Dr. Ambedkar had shown. I congratulate him for all this.

I hope that the respectibility of weaker section of the society of oppressed section will go on enhancing till he is there. The transparency he has shown in the Railway Budget shows that the United Front Government is really concerned about the 90 percent population of the country.

Sir, now I would like to turn to Bihar which is the second largest state of the country. It is a backward state. Bihar has given many Minister like Lalit Narayan Mishra and Kedar Pandey. Shri George Fernandes had also been a Minister. Shri Paswan ji is fifth or Sixth Railway Minister from Bihar. There is no denying the fact that the Minister has some leaning towards his state. Bihar which is the most backward State and second largest from population point of view has today received a little attention after 47 years of independence. If the expectations of the people of Bihar have arisen there is nothing new. Other Railway Ministers had done every thing for their respective States. I would request the hon'ble to do something more for Bihar.

He has announced conversion of many meter gauge lines into broad gauge. He deserves congratulations for this. But I would like to say Bihar needs new meter gauge railines besides broad gauge lines. The State is poor and people cannot afford surface transport fares. I don't grudge the A.C. first class and second class facilities but I would like he should pay more attention

to middle class people of the society. I have been making repeated demands that Sharasa - Manasi, Manasi - Farvisganj, Sharasa - Katihar line should be converted into broad gauge. I have met the Prime Minister personally in this regard and also Shri Kalmadi ji. I myself had inaugurated the survey work. He has earned the appreciation of crores of people. Shri Lalit Narayan Mishra had taken up the job-his house is hardly 35 km from my house - but that was left uncomplete and nobody has paid attention to the job so far. Now the hon'ble Railway Minister's attention has gone to this unfinished task. I shall request him to construct a railway line from Saharasa to Jogbani via Purnia - Katihar. Jogbani is situated on the Indo-Nepal border. It is a tourist spot. It is an international place like International Raxaul station. Special attention must be paid to Jogbani. It will strengthen Indo-Nepal Trade.

Sir, I have been requesting from time to time for connecting Pursala and Bihariganj via Rupoli, Bhawani pur and Barhara. It will curtail 18 hours' Journey to 1 1/2 hours journey. If the Ban Bankhi- Bihariganj rail track is connected from Bihariganj to Saharasa or Bihariganj is connected to Manasi Railway line, it can save 22 hours to 24 hours journey.

Similarly, if Banbankhi is linked to Kishanganj via Jalagarh and Jogihat then we will not have to go via Katihar, which takes us about 4 hours, it will reduce the distant considerably. As I had said during my meeting with him, if Madhubani is connected to Saharasa via Nirmalli and if Madhepura - Singhesar, which is the second tourism centre of the State, is connected to Jogbani via Triveniganj it will reduce the journey by 22-23 hours. The poor people cannot visit this place by bus because there is river in between. If this is linked even by meter gauge, then, I think it will be a great achievement for the Railway Minister.

He is aware that we had been fighting for the Raptal road which links Jagbani to Uttar Pradesh via Darbhanga. This has not been constructed so far. There is no alternative for the people. We have to travel from Darbhanga to Samstipur via Khagaria and Begusarai. It takes us 24 hours when this can be covered in 1 hour if the above link track is provided. If this railline is provided, it will be a boon for the North Bihar. I would, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to consider this seriously. Katihar is third or fourth big railway junction of Bihar. We go from here to Bengal, Howrah, Guwahati, Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Shillong, Nepal etc. This junction does not have the facility of direct superfast train. I request a direct superfast train should be introduced. Mahananda train is there but it takes 48 hours to 72 hours. It has no A.C. class. Don't give us A.C. first class or second class, at least give us A.C. third class.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is there any A.C. third class?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I mean A.C. three-tier. If only that is provided that will be a great achievement for us. We have not been given any direct train. There is an superfast train from Howrah. The lone day train from Howrah has many stoppage and corres 12-13 districts. If a superfast train is introduced in public interest, for the benefit of traders, poor people, it will add to the benefit of the Railways. So I request a superfast train from Howrah be introduced.

I have said many times that there is no movement facility from North Bihar to South Bihar. If we travel by bus we reach Ranchi next day and have to travel the whole night. The bus that operates from Barauni for Saharasa, Katihar, Madhepura, Araria reaches Ranchi in 22-23 hours. There is no train service. We have either to go to Baruni or Patna to catch the train. It takes us three hours to reach Bokaro, Dhanbad. If it is not possible to give us any train then some more bogies may be attached to the train that starts from Barauni. Some bogies should be attached from Katihar for Dhanbad. I fail to understand why no attention was paid for linking North and south Bihar even after independence. I would personally request the hon'ble minister, if he wants to link North Bihar with South Bihar, he can provide a route via Barauni and Chul.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are more names from your group. I have no objection, but other members of your group will not get time to speak.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : There are only two names from SP.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Other names are also there. Alright, you continue.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : If he looks into all these matters it will be a big thing for us.

I would like to make yet another request. The former Minister Kalmadiji has ordered linking Hariharnath to Katihar. The train which Covers many districts and goes to Sonapur-Chapra has no A.C. first class bogie. All the M.L.As of these 11 districts desire to go Patna by Hariharnath Express because it takes too much time in going via Katihar. We will be grateful if a second class A.C. bogie is attached to Hariharnath Express. We had requested Paswan ji to introduce an EMU from Katihar to Patna because there is no train during day time and people are greatly inconvenienced. This EMU should start at 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning from Katihar and Patna simultaneously. This train be named Kosi train or with any other local name. I would request that this EMU train should be introduced. I would also like to say

that in a meeting called by the Minister that large number of labourers from Bihar go to Punjab and other places because we have no factory in our area and it is a flood prone area. All the labourers have migrated to other States because they get only one time meal here for want of work.

An hon'ble Member was saying that poor people travel by trains and cover long distances but these days only 10 percent affluent people travel by planes or Rajdhani Expresses. Mahananda is one train to which only poor and middle class people travel and it covers long distance. This train had only one or two bogies. The passengers travel on roofs. It is over crowded and passengers travel even in the train toilets resulting inconveniences to those passengers who want to use the toilets. So I will request the hon'ble Minister to attach more bogies to such trains to avoid the difficulties of the poor and middle class people travelling in these trains.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have taken 27 minutes.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I am concluding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude in two minutes.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I would like to draw the attention of the hon Minister to his promise of providing over bridges. There is no overbridge between Farvisganj and Rukmani Road. The trains get detained there for many hours. I had requested him personally earlier and request him again to pay personal attention to this problem. It will be in the interest of the local people. I am concluding. I have to drawn attention to some more problems. Mahananda express has no canteen facility. It is a long route train. I have written many times in this regard. I was a member of that Board and raised this point time and again. I don't know why they forget the request made by the Members of Parliament. The hon'ble Minister never forgets but we have no prestige before big officers of his Ministry. I am happy that he listen to both ruling and opposition people and respects them equally. As for electrification, I would request that the railline from Mughal Sarai to Patna should be taken up in the first phase and Patna to Barauni and Barauni to Katihar route should be taken up in the second phase.

In the last, I would like to make yet another request. The trains operating on Guwahati - Katihar route via Barauni get late by half an hour because of change of engines. I would request that some alternate arrangement should be made so that the trains operating

from Guwahati and Katihar routes are not required to change engines in between. The Katihar - Manihari route is an important route. I would like to suggest that if road and rail bridges are constructed simultaneously by state Government and Ministry of Railways it will reduce Capital expenditure. There is no railway lines between Bhagalpur and Sahibganj and Bhagalpur and Naugachia. Road bridges are being constructed to connect these places and if the hon'ble Minister takes a decision to construct railway bridges along with these road bridges, then, I think, it will bring down the expenditure to be incurred by Railway Ministry and the State Government.

Sir, I thank you for giving me time. There are many other points which I could not touch. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to Darbhanga - Lokah, Darbhanga - Nirmali broad gauge line. The halt provided on Indian side at Narayan pur Patra between Barauni and katihar is lying closed. This is a very important halt from Indian Railway point of view. This halt should be restored. It will be in the public interest. There is no overbridge at Banmanki junction or at other junctions like Nayayanpur junction and many fatal accidents take place there. I would request that overbridges should be constructed at Banmanki and Narayan Pur. I congratulate the hon'ble Minister. May he continue to serve the society, the country, the downtroddens. This will enhance the prestige of this August House also.

[English]

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was a bit hesitant to take part in the discussion, but the congenial atmosphere of the House has emboldened me to take part in this healthy discussion on a very essential service, the Railways. I would like to make use of this opportunity to thank the Minister of Railways as a consumer and appreciate him as a Member of this House, and to congratulate him as a constituent of the United Front.

The very next day after the Railway Budget was presented in the House, the newspapers flashed headlines, "Paswan has increased 10 per cent on freight charges" and "Rise in upper class fares", etc. The very basic features that have not been highlighted by the newspapers are - no increase in fares of second class ordinary and second class mail and express, no increase in fares of monthly and quarterly season ticket for second class and first class, and no increase up to 200 km in existing fare of sleeper class mail and express and ordinary trains.

We have to appreciate this. I thank, and congratuate, and appreciate the hon. Minister of Railways for not having taxed the common man. In spite of the hike in the administered prices of diesel,

the academic apprehensions were turned upside down without an increase on the burden of the common man who happens to travel most in trains. I have the right and privilege to praise the hon. Minister of Railways. At this juncture, I believe, there could not be a better Railway Budget than this.

While praising and applauding the hon. Minister, I have certain demands to put forth. I actually feel sorry to mention here that we have always been a neglected State in the past so far as the Railway are concerned. We expect that that would not be repeated in the regime of our hon. Minister of Railways Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. We see in him a pioneer of social justice. He has no bias on any thing in the country and the people and so, we expect a lot from him. I would like to say that certain things might have escaped his notice. I am making use of this chance to bring to his notice some such issues concerning our constituency and our State.

The hon. Minister of Railways has announced nine diesel push-pull trains, but none of them has been allotted to our State. He has announced seven electrical push-pull trains, two in broad-gauge and 5 in metre-gauge, but non to our State. He has declared that conversion of Madras-Dindigul line into broad-gauge will be completed by March, 1998. I am sorry to say that it has been a very long process and only 30 per cent of the work has been completed due to lack of allotment of funds. We wish it could be finished by 1997. The MRTS system which he has mentioned between Madras and Velachery is a successful scheme owing to the contribution of the Tamil Nadu Government headed by our leader Dr. Kalamangal Karunanidhi. The hon. Minister has come forward to fulfil that.

We have many demands which we have conveyed to the hon. Minister. Along with that I would like to bring to his notice certain important issues for his perusal, consideration and action. He has increased the frequency of the train from Nagercoil to Mumbai from weekly to tri-weekly. We thank him very much for it. I would request him to attach one Sleeper coach at Karur because the people of Tiruchy, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai have to come to Madras to go over to Bombay.

If the hon. Minister can attach a coach at Karur, starting from Tiruchi and if it is attached to Nagercoil-Mumbai CST Express, it would be of much help to the people of these districts. The hon. Minister may take this into consideration. When he came to Madras to get the opinion of our people, we expressed certain views, to some of which he had paid heed. I would like to remind him again that from Pudukkottai, which is my constituency, to Madras, fast passenger train during the night time is badly in need because some 100 buses ply during nights only and people prefer buses because

of the low fare compared to the express trains. If a fast passenger train starting from Pudukkottai in the chord line to Madras is introduced, full patronage will be given as the beneficiary will be not only the people but the Railways also.

Sir, one sleeper coach may be attached to 6176A Kamban Express for the convenience of the people who are travelling from Peravurani, Arandangi, Pattukottai, Abhiramapattinam and other places.

While delivering his speech, our hon. Member, Shri P. Upendra congratulated the Minister of Railways and the Railway employees who are solely responsible for its development. I take this chance to put forth certain demands of the Railway employees which can be solved by the hon. Minister and only during his regime and under the United Front Government, which is for the poor, which is for the working class, which is for the have-nots.

I would like to mention here about a very important problem concerning the Group C and Group D employees. While in service they are given three sets of 'P' passes in one calendar year. But after retirement due to superannuation, the Group C employees are given two sets of passes whereas the Group D employees are given only one set of passes. This anomaly must be scrapped and they must be treated on a par. On behalf of the Group C and Group D employees, this is my request.

I would like to state that the policy of providing appointment on compassionate grounds to the wards and dependents of Railway employees, who die in harness while in service, have been in vogue for several years in all the departments. I would like to mention here that during 1977-79, during the Janata Government regime, a huge backlog was cleared by a fill up within a reasonable time.

Sir, in the Southern Railway, it has been neglected to a considerable extent with the result that there is a huge backlog. I am afraid that it may be due to the misapprehension that the ban on filling up of vacancies applies to this also. Necessary instructions may be given by Railway Minister to till up the vacancies to wipe out this backlog within a period of three to six months by enabling the employees, their dependents, their wards, to get employed in Group C and Group D cadres. Otherwise the very purpose will be defeated.

I present all these things because our hon. Railway Minister could understand these difficulties. An hon. Member has just quoted here that the hon. Minister hails from a poor family. He knows the conditions of the poor people. He knows the needs of the people.

Sir, the Golden Rock Workshop in Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu has been considered to be the best in Asia. But,

for the past one year, the turnout of diesel locomotives for periodic overhauling allotted to that Workshop has been reduced from 120 to 108. Due to this drastic reduction of turnout of diesel locomotives, the general workload of this prestigious Workshop has been considerably reduced leading to a curtailment of overtime allowance, incentives and payments to Workshop staff, in addition to stoppage of promotion and recruitment of additional workmen. Hence, Sir, additional locomotives may be allotted to the Golden Rock Workshop enabling the employees as well as the Railways to reap a rich income.

Along with that I would like to mention here, Sir, that, being a new member, I took the chance of felicitating you and you can consider this as my maiden speech and can give me some more time. I am in a mood to talk to this House. I expected a very big forum here. I expected my veteran leader to hear, the speeches of newcomers like me here. But may be, due to certain situations, we are facing an empty House here. In spite of that, we are having some hon. members, the Deputy-Speaker and the hon. Railway Minister here. So, as I said earlier, the congenial atmosphere here in this House has emboldened me to speak now. So, I take this chance to present certain points because I expect a lot from the hon. Railway Minister.

Sir, the Railway Ministry is the single biggest employer employing more than 16 lakh men and women. It is the only avenue where reservations for weaker sections are scrupulously observed. With a total ban on filling up of vacancies and ban on recruitment, the social justice plan appears to be only on paper. Moreover, the privatisation, I am afraid may suffer a set-back in the social justice for which, Sir, the Railway Minister had suffered a lot and achieved a lot also. Kindly see to it that social justice may not suffer a set-back because of this privatisation. We have seen in you the qualities of Dr. Ambedkar and less characteristics of politician. That is why I present all these things here. In general, the common man is reposing his confidence in this august House. He is seeing his relievers of pains here. During this night time we are discussing about his needs, his problems. His life which was once gazing towards a gloomy future, is now marching towards a blossoming future because of the plans and proposals of this U.F. Government and its intense interest in executing them.

Sir, I think it would be right for me to quote a few lines from Tagore's Gitanjali it is because this was the mentality of the common man.

"The song that I came to sing remains unsung to this day.

I have spent my days in stringing and unstringing my instrument.

The time has not come true.

The words have not been rightly set.

Only there is the agony of wishing in my heart."

This was the note. This was his state. This was his stage.

Sir, now the time has changed. We are on the path of progress. We are on the path of developmental progress. For the information of the Deputy Speaker, Sir, I always dream more because dreams come true. Freedom of this nation was once a dream in the mind of Gandhiji. Casteless society was once a dream in the mind of Periyar. To be a democratic forefront in the world sphere was the dream of Panditji once. Now there is a dream for a better nation, for a contented future and for a self-sufficient nation. I believe under the U.F. Government, the R.M., the I.M., the F.M., under this P.M. will bring a prosperous future and the day is not far away for us to walk with our heads held high.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Respected Deputy-Speaker, I want to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak now because this is my maiden speech in the Lok Sabha. I feel very proud that I am son of a Railway employee. Both my father and mother had participated in that very famous Railwaymen's struggle i.e. the Railway strike. I want to bring to your notice and also to the notice of hon. Railway Minister and the entire House about my impressions on this Budget. I feel this Budget is only full of project proclamations without requisite allocations which has created disillusionment and frustration among the people.

It is long on proclamation of projects and short on policy. Especially this Budget should have spelt on policy matters like expansion of network, strategies for freight traffic, framework for passenger services, reforms in internal management, financial arrangements, removal of rampant corruption plaguing the Rail system.

I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister of Railways that Karnataka has given the Prime Minister to the United Front. But our dear Minister of Railways has not given anything in adequate measure to Karnataka. There has been a regional imbalance in the Railway Budget.

Actually in the last Budget, in the last Government's priorities the gauge conversion of Karnataka were high and they had fixed the year 1997 to complete all the gauge conversion under Unigauge Project. But if the hon. Minister considers the allocations that have been made in this Budget, the gauge conversions in Karnataka cannot be completed. For example, the Mangalore-Hassan-Arasikere route which totally requires Rs.185 crore for its completion, but in the year 1995-96 only Rs.17.1 crore has been given and the provision for the

year 1996-97 is only Rs.30 crore. The balance amount to complete the work is Rs.138.15 crore. That is at this rate, it requires at least five years for commissioning.

I want to bring it to the notice of the Railway Minister that MRPL, i.e. Mangalore Refineries Private Limited, is there and if the crude and refined products should be transported then immediately this line should be commissioned. I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways to the fact that HPCL had offered earlier to fund the gauge conversion between Hassan and Mangalore. Therefore, I request the hon. Railway Minister to have a dialogue with the HPCL.

Secondly, new lines have been announced. But these new lines like Kotur-Harihar via Harpanahalli line which requires a sum of Rs.65.94 crore have been allocated only Rs.1 crore. Another new line, that is, Kadur-Chikmagalur-Sakleshpur of 100 kilometres with a cost of Rs.157 crore has been allocated only Rs.1 crore. Therefore, these lines will not start in the near future. These are only costs for the establishment.

For the doubling of the line from Hospet to Guntkal, Rs.105.77 crore is required and only Rs.1 crore has been allocated. The same thing is being done in the case of doubling of Bangalore-Kengeri line of only 12.45 kilometres. For that also only Rs.1 crore has been kept in this year's Budget.

For Konkan Railway Rs.400 crore is required to complete that project. It has been assured in the Budget that by October 1996 the goods will start moving on that line and by December 1996 there will be passenger traffic also. But I want to bring it to your kind notice that the tunnel between Baindur and Bhatkal has collapsed in June because of sub-standard work and there is no provision in this Rs.400 crore for that project. I do not know from where this Rs.400 crore is going to come.

If we consider the loss because of the collapse of the tunnel also, then there is a big question mark whether the entire thing can be completed before 1996. It may take one more year.

It has been mentioned that survey for laying of a new railway line between Ankola and Hubli has been referred to the Planning Commission. I want to bring to your kind notice that it is hundred years' dream for Karnataka.

Sir M. Visweswariah had a vision regarding Ankola-Hubli-Guntkal-Madras line because in the world, there are three important natural harbours - Karwar, Sydney and California. Karwar, being a natural harbour, has not been developed due to lack of this very important rail link. There is a very big naval project, Seabird also. Therefore, if you take up this project of linking Karwar-Ankola-Hubli to Guntkal and to Madras, then the entire

manganese and iron ore can be shipped both the ways from Hospet to Madras, Hospet to Karwar. It can be a trunk route across the two coasts, that is, the Western coast and the Eastern Coast.

In regard to Bangalore Additional Zonal Headquarters, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Railways, what is the territorial extent of Bangalore Zonal Headquarters? What is the name of that Zone? Actually, there was a proposal from the entire Karnataka that it should be named as 'South Western Zone' and its territorial extent should be finalised. It has not been done. There is no provision in this Budget for this Additional Zonal Headquarters. We do not want Additional Zonal Headquarters. We want only Zonal Headquarters for South West Zone clearly clarified.

Bangalore has 51 lakh population. It is getting the Metropolitan status. I request the hon. Railway Minister to come out with a proposal in the Supplementary Budget in regard to the survey for a circular rail or a metro rail for Bangalore because it is essential. There is metro rail for Calcutta; there is metro rail for Madras; and there is metro suburban rail for Mumbai. The same transportation facility should be given to Bangalore also. Therefore, I request that the Railway Ministry should have a feasibility survey as to what can be done in regard to Bangalore circular rail or metro rail.

In this Budget, there is additional terminal facilities and second entry for Bangalore. For that, only rupees one crore has been given. That will not be sufficient and it should be hiked.

As the hon. Member, Shri P. Upendra has suggested, for Bangalore-Visakapatnam train, I also request you to have a new rail between Bangalore and Visakapatnam. Then a new rail between Bangalore and Bombay via Bhubli is required because that becomes the trunk route from Bangalore to Davangere to Hubli upto Mirja, then to Pune and Mumbai. That becomes a trunk route covering the entire Karnataka. Now, the Bombay route is outside Karnataka which traverses more in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, I request you to start a train between Bangalore and Bombay via Hubli.

Another thing is that from Bangalore to Rajasthan, at present there is no train. A lot of Rajasthani people are there in Bangalore. I request that a new train between Bangalore and Ajmer or Bangalore and Jaipur can be announced.

All the Northern States have four to five trains to the capital of the country, that is, Delhi. But the Southern States have only one train each. For Karnataka, we have got Karnataka Express and bi-weekly Rajdhani Express. Therefore, I request you to make this Rajdhani Express tri-weekly. And one more train between Bangalore and Delhi should be introduced so that once in a day our hon. Prime Minister can also travel in that train. I request the hon. Railway Minister to visit

Karnataka, which is underdeveloped as far as Railways are concerned so that you do not leave all of us under the mercy of the hon. Prime Minister, who has been much burdened with the country's entire problems. I request you to visit Karnataka so that you will take note of all these suggestions and make some amendments in your Supplementary Budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned.

22.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, July 25, 1996/Sravana 3, 1918 (Saka)