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Thursday, August 29, 1996

Bhadra 7, 1918 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IV contains No. 11 to 20)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 29, 1996/Bhadra 7, 1918 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at One Minute Past
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, it is said that justice delayed is justice denied. But in the case of the riot victims of 1984, justice has not been completely denied. 93 persons have been sentenced to five years, rigorous imprisonment. We need to have a discussion on this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us first complete the Question Hour. After that you might take it up.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it is a very important issue.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, it is the first question of the day?

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Shri Madan Lal Khurana deserves congratulations for this. It is because of his initiative that legal action could be taken and the culprits have been awarded imprisonment.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : All the 93 accused persons have been sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Bauxite Reserves in Bihar

*381. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) The quantity of bauxite reserves in Bihar, location-wise;

(b) whether a sufficient quantity of bauxite is available for setting up of an Aluminium Plant in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up an Aluminium Plant or propose to invite foreign companies to set up the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The district-wise recoverable reserves of Bauxite in Bihar is given below :—

District	(Unit : 000 Tonnes)
Monghyr	813.00
Palamau	3323.20
Rohtas	1300.00
Gumla	37132.50
Lohardaga	12120.50
Dumka	6415.00
Total :	61104.20

(b) The Alumina Refinery of Indian Aluminium Company Limited is already located at Muri in the State. Any new capacities can be created on establishment of additional reserves in the State to justify setting up of such a plant.

(c) and (d). The Government at present has no such proposal. However, to encourage private sector investment in the aluminium sector, aluminium metal and its downstream products have been exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing. Further, to attract foreign investment, aluminium has been included in the list of industries where automatic approval of foreign equity participation upto 51% is available.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Birla Group of Industries have set up an Aluminium Plant in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar has adequate deposits of Bauxite required to produce Aluminium. The Government of Bihar had given lease to Birla Group on the condition that they would set up Aluminium Plant in Palamau District. But Birla Group of Industries have not set up the plant even after lapse of three years. I, therefore, want to ask as to why their lease should not be cancelled?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, there is a bauxite recovery unit in Bihar. Bihar holds sixth position in regard to bauxite reserves in the country. There is already one unit in Bihar and another unit in Uttar Pradesh and both these units use bauxite that is recovered from Bihar only.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : An agreement was signed between the Birla Group and the Government of Bihar. I, therefore, want to ask as to why the plant has not been set up even after lapse of 3 years whereas entire bauxite goes to Uttar Pradesh from Bihar and a plant can be set up there.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : The Government will examine it. This practice is not readily available with us.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : May I know from the hon'ble Minister names of industrial groups who have sent proposals to set up Aluminium Plant with names of places, where they propose to set up the same?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : In the aluminium industry, about six tonnes of bauxite is required to produce one tonne of aluminium. There is proposal to set up the aluminium industry. After the new Mineral Policy, both foreign and domestic parties have been invited to set up the aluminium industry in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is learnt that a large number of foreign proposals regarding investment have been received in respect of every state under the new economic policy. But Bihar is the only exception in respect of which no proposal for any significant investment has been received so far. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any proposal from abroad has been received in respect of Bauxite and Aluminium and whether any such proposal has been received from Bihar?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : There is no foreign investment proposal received by the Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : My question is 382.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Who will give answer to 382.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I have to ask a question.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have passed to the next question.

[Translation]

I had called twice-thrice but no one raised his hands.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I had raised my hand but you did not bother.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Anyway, now the train has left.

Telephone on Demand under National Telecom Policy

*382. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to provide telephone connections on demand in the Metropolitan cities by April, 1997 under National Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the progress made so far in this regard and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages provision of telephone connection on demand by 1997. This was to be accomplished with the participation of private sector complementing the efforts of Government. The waiting list of the Metro districts as on 31st March, 1995 and 31st March, 1996 the targets for providing telephone connections during 1996-97 and the achievements during 1995-96 and upto 31st July, 1996 are given in Statement. Waiting period for telephone has gradually reduced. Availability of telephone on demand will depend upon the growth of demand the extent of participation of private sector in providing this service.

STATEMENT

Metro District	Waiting list As on 31.3.95	Telephone Connection Provided During 1995-96	Waiting list As on 31.3.96	DELs Target 1996-97	Achievements of 1996-97 upto 31.7.96
Delhi	130243	200070	9221	250000	42029
Mumbai	50039	200167	10572	250000	19709
Calcutta	52393	65107	47588	55000	11602
Madras	85743	60348	83187	75000	9712

[Translation]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : May I know whether Government will be able to accomplish this task with participation of private sector? I want to draw your attention towards a statement made by Shri Sukh Ram, when he was a Minister in reply to a question that Government will accomplish this task independently whether his Department is unable to do this task independently and if so, the reasons therefor?

[English]

Why are you taking the help of the private sector?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the policy of liberalisation was adopted with the concurrence of the august House and it was accepted keeping in view the increasing demand of telecommunication services and because it was felt that in the absence of participation of private sector, resources available with the Government were hardly sufficient to meet the demand. Keeping in view all these facts private sector was allowed to participate in this field. This policy was adopted and a target was fixed under this policy that by the end of 8th Five Year Plan i.e. by 1997 telephone connections will be provided on demand. However our Department is making every effort in this direction. This question relates to metropolitan cities and I would like to tell him in this connection that 82,000 telephone lines have been provided in the metropolitan cities but by the end of 31 March, 1997 we shall provide nearly 5½ lakh more telephone connections. As we are extending telephone facilities, demand is also increasing day by day. It is expected that even after providing 5½ lakh telephone connections we shall be having a waiting list of more than 1 lakh. Although our Department is taking every possible step to extend the facilities yet it will take sometime to provide telephone connection on demand without participation of private sector.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : My next question is that hon'ble Minister should have given a fix date in the statement furnished upto March 31, 1996 that by March 31, 1997 there will be no waiting list in respect of Delhi. Had this been done, I would have not asked any more question. Now suppose, somebody applies on April 1, then after have much time, he would get his telephone connection? It will be very useful information for the people, if it is furnished.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, he has put the right question. The present list in respect of Metropolitan cities will be exhausted by 31-7-1997. Even after this we shall be having a waiting list of more than 1 lakh but the present waiting list will be completed.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : It may be correct but my question has not been answered. I had asked that is some body applies on April 1, after how much time—say 3-4-6 months—he would get his telephone connection?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, this is hypothetical question....(Interruptions)

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : No, this is not hypothetical but a practical question....(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : One cannot say as to how much demand would increase by that time.... (Interruptions)

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : The Government should inform the public that their demand would be met by a particular date.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We hope that the demand for telephone connections would be more than one lakh on April 1, 1997....(Interruptions)

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : I had asked the time by which that demand would be met?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, about 25 percent of the connections being extended to the entire country are being allotted to metropolitan cities....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Kindly let us know the time by which you will be able to complete the list—say 3-4 or 6 months.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Kindly do not ask such questions, otherwise you will say that we have misled the House.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Alright, Sir, Thank you.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We shall make every effort to extend telephone facilities and also reduce the waiting list to the minimum.

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the statement laid on the Table by the hon. Minister, it has been mentioned that the target for 1996-97 for Delhi and Mumbai is 250000 connections each. However, in the case of Madras it has been considerably reduced to 75000 connections. Will the hon. Minister take steps to increase the target for Madras for 1996-97 from the present 75000 connections to atleast 150000, if not 250000?

Secondly, I would like to know the hon. Minister as to when he is going to reconstitute the Telecom Advisory Committees which were constituted long back.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, I would like to state that target of 75000 given in the statement for Madras will be achieved by 31st March, 1997. Since demand of telephone connections in metropolitan cities remains more, it is always our effort also to extend facility of telephone connections more and more. He has asked about T.A.C. I would like to say that I have not yet gone through it but I have been told that Telephone Advisory Committees are already there but if they do not exist at certain places, he shall do so after this Session as suggested by hon'ble Members. We shall always respect their views.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In Delhi, the waiting list is 9221 and the Government is promising to provide 250000 connections.

What is the sense in it? Are there mistakes in the figures? How is it that while the waiting list is for 9221 connections, the target is to provide 250000 connections?

Similar is the case of Mumbai. I do not know whether the figures are correct or not. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Madhukar.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, let me congratulate the hon. Minister for taking certain decisions after holding the responsibility as the Minister of Communications.

Secondly, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to see the waiting list and the actual connections given. There is a vast difference. The number of connections awarded in 1996-97 have also been given. My question is regarding Mumbai. Since more than one year now, the Advisory Committee in existence in Mumbai. The Lok Sabha elections are already over, this has still not been formed. I would like to know when this will be formed.

Thirdly, after switching over the entire system of telephonic connection, yet we have been receiving complaints and because of cable faults and earthing problem, telephone connections have been disconnected. For a number of days the connections have not been restored. What remedy would the Government suggest in this regard? How the subscriber will get relieved out of this problem?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : You have raised the question of constituting Advisory Committee. Since Session is going on, I do not to work in haste. We want to respect the views of our hon'ble Members who are on this Committee. I do not have any prejudice. I shall take all steps to streamline the working of my Department. At present waiting list of Bombay is 52717 and an target is to provide 2 lakhs and 50 thousand new connections by the end of this year. The waiting list will be completed but demand for new connections will be received again. Therefore, waiting list would always remain there. Even after providing 6 lakh new connection to these metropolitan cities, we shall be having a waiting list of nearly more than 1 lakh applicants. Let the list be longer. It is because of this reason that private sector participation was allowed. There is some delay in it. Had they started participation, the scheme of telephone on demand would have been implemented by the end of 1997... *(Interruptions)* You have asked for the steps taken to remove the faults of working of telephone connections.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Cable fault and earthing problem are the two specific reasons.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : I paid my attention towards this aspect immediately after taking over this portfolio and I had issued instructions that cable faults should be removed within 48 hours. New telephone connections would be installed in 15 days after issue of O.B. In case shifting pertains to the

same exchange, it will be done within 15 days. In so far as Bombay is concerned, the percentage of shifting in 7 days is 23, the percentage of installation of new connections in 15 days is 23, the percentage of removal of cable fault in 48 hours is 73. But I am not yet satisfied. I am going to issue fresh instruction to officials of the Department that compliance of my instructions should be ensured. I am thinking of making entry into the C.R. of the person concerned if he is found guilty of not following the aforesaid instructions. I am paying special attention to see that facilities being extended to the consumer should be increased. There should be no grievance and officers and staff of the Department should comply with the rules.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is large scale bungling in providing telephone connections and discrepancies in the Bills. Whenever a consumer files a complaint about the discrepancies in the Bills, officials do not pay sufficient attention. I, therefore, want to know whether Government would like to set up an Advisory Committee of hon'ble Members and the consumers who should look into the irregularities in installation of telephone connections and Bills. Whether Government would examine it and ensure that no irregularity is committed. Besides...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One supplementary is enough.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: I am giving suggestion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Leave aside the suggestion. You have put your question.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Telephone system is worst in Bihar. The Government have not spent Rs. 7 crore and surrendered it. Average per capita telephone connection comes to .07 percent in Bihar whereas national average is 4. What is the reason therefor? I want to ask whether Government would give special attention to provide telephone facility in backward States and regions?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Sir, the provision of constitution of Advisory Committees already exists in Bihar. This question pertains to Bihar. There is another question regarding Bihar in today's list...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Let that question be taken up alongwith this. Question No. 387 may be taken up alongwith this.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: I shall reply to the same when it will be taken up.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that telephone connections will be given on demand by 1997. I would like to congratulate him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: I have not said so.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: It is expected that telephone connection will be available on demand by 1997. I congratulate you for this. In these days telephone services have been deteriorated. Nagpur is a central city from where I have been elected. There is a population 20 lakh of that city. Incidents of breakdown of telephone services are very frequent there. The telephones remain dead for months together. The staff is arrogant. Even if you complain to the General Manager, his reply would be "You may do whatever you can". If an M.P. is treated like this, how the public at large would be treated? When we write a letter to you, we get this reply on the third day. That is why I admire you and congratulate you. I have written letters to the General Manager there but no reply has been received. If your staff behaves arrogantly then how can you provide better services. You should take action against guilty officers. I would like to know the effective steps being taken to streamline the telephone services? Please assure the House in this regard.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Sir, if the hon'ble Member has been treated like this, he should give me in writing. My top priority would be to maintain dignity of hon'ble Member of this august House. In case any officer of our Department would behave like this, I shall not hesitate in taking stern action against him and punish him.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has just now mentioned the good work being done at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. I want to know whether any scheme is being launched to provide better telephone services in big cities of Maharashtra such as Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad? First of all power was centralised. One had to approach Shri Sukh Ram if he has to take telephone connection. In case you want to get a telephone booth allotted to a handicapped boy, then you have to bribe somebody. Now he has to bear the burnt...*(Interruptions)* You have centralised your Department and consequently power have also been centralised. Do you propose to decentralise them now? Our colleague and older brother Purohitji has rightly pointed out that telephones remain dead for 10-15 days in our rural areas. In case we write a letter, we do not get any reply. I want to say that you should decentralise powers and delegate powers to them and ask them to behave properly with representatives of the people.

Second thing is that Government have placed 25 telephone connections at the disposal of M.Ps. but if we write a letter to give telephone connection to somebody, it takes one or two months in installation of that connection. I want to ask whether it is proposed to enhance the quota of M.Ps.? Many people approach us and say that number of 25 connections for the whole year is less. They say that since we are representatives of the people, we should be given 25 connections every month or 200-250 telephone connections per year. Is there any such scheme under consideration of the Government? Government should give an assurance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. You have put your question.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: We don't mind, if you withdraw that privilege 500-1000 people approach us, how can we oblige them?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him give the answer.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as power decentralisation is concerned, United Front Government have withdrawn out of turn-quota of the Minister. My quota has also been withdrawn.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The quota of M.P. should also be withdrawn.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: The quota of M.P. will not be withdrawn. I can also M.P. your quota will remain in tact. There is nothing to bother. In so far the question of increasing the quota is concerned, we have to keep in view the capacity of our Department. When we have fixed our target to give telephone connection on demand, there will be no significance of out-of-turn system. When private sector would start participating, then we hope that telephone connection will be provided on demand and out-of-turn or quota system will automatically became meaningless.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: When Shri Sukh Ram was at helm of affairs, a committee was set up which used to accept money for providing telephone connections, that committee should be disbanded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please maintain decorum in the House.

[Translation]

DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have written several letters to hon'ble Minister and told him that S.T.D. facility is not available in Machhlishahr, which is my constituency and this matter is pending since years have passed but street tower could not be installed upto now. We have also written letters to the effect that Machhlishahr, constituency may be linked with Mugrabad Phulpur so that S.T.D. facility could be provided to them but we have not received any reply so far. I, therefore, want to know as to what Government propose to do in this connection.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Sir this question relates to metropolitan cities and he is asking about Machhlishahr. I myself belong to Uttar Pradesh but I am not aware what

Government propose to do there. I, therefore, cannot give answer to his question.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I find in the reply that in the case of Madras, the waiting list was 85,743, the telephone connections provided during the period 1995-96 were 60,348 and the waiting list as on 31st March, 1996 is 83,187. In the case of Delhi and Mumbai, they are far more than those of Calcutta and Madras.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the criteria for fixation of targets. Is it growth pattern or is it urbanisation or is it industrialisation?

Secondly, I would also like to know whether, after the revelation of major scandle relating to Sukh Ram dealings in telecom, the Government is trying to revise the targets; and lastly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Only one supplementary is allowed.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I would like to know that after the reports that so many companies including the multinational companies have formed a cartel in the matter of price quoting in response to the tenders, whether the Government will have to revise and review the whole step taken by the previous Minister or not.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Sir, this question has no relation to the main question, whatever. In so far as the allotment of new connections is concerned, targets have been fixed in accordance with the demand being made in a particular region and our target is that we shall meet the present demand by 31.7.1997. In so far as the 2nd question is concerned, I believe that activities of my Department will remain transparent and in view of this previous practice of finalisation of tenders by the Minister has been abandoned. Now the officers will finalise and Minister will simply exercise their control. Our business would be to control, to enquire into the matter and punish the guilty we should not intervene in any transaction. Therefore Telephone Advisory Committee would finalise it. I want to assure the House that I have full faith in officers of my Department. They are not less competent or less intelligent than any body else. We should not doubt the integrity of all the officers. I shall try my best to keep the activities of my Department transparent so that people may also realise the sincerity of an officers. I assure you that if you send me any Complaint on this subject, we shall take our decision in all earnest and even if you have any doubt about my working, I shall try to remove that doubt also...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is not doubting your integrity.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: I shall leave politics. The way political personalities are being maligned, it is very sign for the democracy. Therefore, it should be our duty to see that political personalities should keep themselves clean. Because aim of freedom of our country, which was in the minds of freedom fighters and Mahatma Gandhi has become meaningless. Our effort would be to see that our democracy emerges before the word once again in the form of clean and healthy democracy...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAN': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has said that this question has been asked about metropolitan cities. But in case you would take care of big cities only then what would happen to villages about which you speak so often after drinking water time and again. What steps are being taken to provide telephone connections in the rural areas urgently?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is a linked question.

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAN': This is a valid question because I belong to a village.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: The village always remains on our priority list but this question pertains to metropolitan cities and therefore cannot answer his question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Choubey, please do not behave like this. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question is of phenomenal expansion in the capacity of the telephone exchanges. Now here according to the reply given, I find that the Government is totally dependant on the coming up of private participation in providing these telecom facilities. The point that I have to make is that there is a technological revolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not the point but it is the question that has to be asked.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There is already a technological revolution and a lot of new technologies are coming forward to enable phenomenal expansion of capacities as far as telephone exchanges are concerned. For example, there is the remote control system through which a phenomenal expansion can come without much of investment. So the question is, whether the Government would study this technological revolution that is there in the world for the phenomenal expansion of the telecom facilities and whether that would be applied in our country in order to meet the growing demands?... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let him answer the question. Have you not followed the question, he means to say that whether you would adopt modern technology and you will study it.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : There is regular study of modern technology in our Department and we are adopting also and expansion is also taking place on that basis but the demand of our country is...

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Remote control system can being revolutionary changes, why are you not adopting it.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after China, maximum expansion is taking place in India and modern technology is also being adopted. But the demand is also increasing side by side. We shall try our best to limit that demand.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall allow one more question and no further question will be allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: We are following the remote control system also.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, working list in respect of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras given in the statement is upto March 1995. On that basis only 20,167 telephone connections have been given during 1995-96. According to these figures there is deficiency of 30 thousand approximately. It has further been stated that the waiting list has further been increased by 10572 which means the number of waiting list would be more than 40 thousand. It has also been written therein that it is being contemplated to provide 2-1/2 lakh connections each to Delhi and Mumbai in 1996-97. It has further been stated that you have given 19709 connections to Mumbai upto July 1996. Now if you could give only 19709 connections out of 2-1/2 lakh, how many more connections would be given to Mumbai by the end of 1996. You have fixed the target of 2-1/2 lakh and I want to know that how many connections can be given by the end of 1996. Can you give any guarantee in this respect? This question is based on the figures given by you because figures of 1997 would be separate, how many connections would be given by the end of it?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Sir, at present waiting list of Mumbai is 52717 upto 31.7.1996 and our target is to give 2-1/2 lakh connections by the end of this year.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: This is upto 1997.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: This is upto March, 1997. But demand would further increase beyond this waiting list. However at present waiting list is that of 52717 and we propose to instal 2-1/2 lakh connections.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: I want to clarify my point on the basis of figures given by you.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Figures given in the statement are upto 31.3.96 and I am giving you figures upto 31.7.1996. You should be satisfied with this. We intend to give 2-1/2 lakh connections whereas the waiting list is that of nearly 52 thousand. What more do you want?

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA METHA: My question is that you have fixed the target of 2-1/2 lakh but actual number of connections being given is very less, so in how much time you will be able to achieve this target?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This question has consumed more than sufficient time.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: We shall the target by 31.7.1997.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister while replying to the question has stated that he would like to being cleanliness in politics and transparency in his Department. I welcome these steps. In this contact I would like to ask him whether he would like to constitute an expert committee to review all the tenders passed during the last 3 years keeping in view the charges levelled by the hon'ble Members about various scams detected in the recent past. It will prone sincerity of purpose in respect of cleanliness in politics in so far his Department is concerned. The Parliament would also know the factual position of transparency. This is what I want to know from the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: I have nothing to add to what I have already stated in respect of transparency...(Interruptions)...

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : It has been revealed recently and that is why I have asked to review the cases of last three years. (Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : There is no question of past days, whichever case will be detected, no leniency would be shown.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is enough.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : A question mark has already been put in the recent past and that is why I have demanded review of cases passed during the past 3 years

so that we may go one step ahead of transparency. (Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Past cases are being reviewed and if some new cases would be detected, then no leniency would be shown whatsoever. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This question is very important. Many hon'ble Members are interested in it. It would be better if the matter is discussed in the form of Half-an-Hour Discussion. I shall now proceed to next question.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, all our efforts have been proved futile.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, not at all.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : I am speaking for the last 3/4 hour.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next question also concerns your Department.

[English]

Loss in Department of Telecommunications

+
*383. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI I.D. SWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has lost a potential revenue of Rs. 804 crore per annum as reported in "Hindustan Times" dated July 19, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which capacity utilisation of telephone exchanges dropped during each of the last three years;

(d) whether any study has been conducted to establish the reasons of the above loss and to meet the loss;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

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

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

(c) Capacity utilisation figures for the last three years are given below:

As on 31.3.1994	-	81.93%
As on 31.3.1995	-	81.46%
As on 31.3.1996	-	81.89%

(d) A study has been conducted on Switch Capacity Utilisation by an independent professional group in October, 95 and their report was accepted in February, 1996.

(e) Details of the study are given in Statement.

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

STATEMENT

A consultancy study on 'Optimum utilisation of exchange capacity' was entrusted to an independent professional organisation (ICICI) in October 95 and they submitted their report in December, 95 which was later accepted by the Telecom Commission in Feb., 1996.

In conclusion of their report ICICI has indicated the overall switch capacity utilisation of the Indian network is comparable with that of other developed and developing countries in world. However it may be difficult to maintain the same level of utilisation in the coming years given the size of the network, telecom growth plans, telecom policies of achieving "telephone on demand, ..."

The findings of the study states the reasons for lower utilisation of capacity as follows:

"Given the proportionally high modular jumps for smaller switches, it will be difficult to attain a high level of utilisation in rural and, to some extent, semi urban exchanges..."

"For bigger switches where these jumps are less severe, advance planning of several expansions of a switch in an urban area can ensure high capacity utilisation even under situations of "telephone on demand". A loading of 82%—85% could be achieved if the average interval between expansions is maintained at 5 months and multiple stages are planned in advance".

"In case this is not feasible in the present planning process and the organisational structure, and planning has to be done stage by stage, then the overall utilisation of the urban network would be around 76% for a demand growth rate of 20% given the average interval between expansions of about a year".

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Normally the hon. Minister may not give much importance to a report in the newspapers. *The Hindustan Times* is a very important newspaper of New Delhi and it is responsible for

this news. But it is reported on July, 1996 that the Department of Telecommunications has lost a potential revenue of Rs. 804 crore per annum due to under-utilisation of capacity and the hon. Minister gives a reply that there is no such loss. The figure of Rs. 804 crore is not a round or an odd figure. That means, there would have been some basis for *The Hindustan Times* newspaper to arrive at this figure of Rs. 804 crore.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how he could give a reply that there was no such loss. Why should he simply wash out such an important report given by *The Hindustan Times*?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : I have also gone through the newspaper reports. That is their technical calculation. In 1992, 85.68 percent of the total capacity of our telephone exchanges was being utilised which has been reduced to 81.89 percent in 1996.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am not asking that.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : I am telling you the same thing that capacity utilisation of our telephone exchanges was reduced from 85% to 81% and in view of this they calculated that had 85 percent capacity been utilised, then we would have earned that much profit... (*Interruptions*). Please listen to the entire story on this basis, they calculated that this much loss has been incurred. When expansion takes place so fast, then utilisation of full capacity of exchanges is not possible. At present new telephone exchanges are being installed in rural areas. Where demand is for 10 telephones, we are providing telephone exchange of 50 to 100 capacity. I have issued instruction that 60 percent capacity should be utilised in 6 months and then there after upto one year, this much capacity should be utilised. When expansion takes place, full utilisation is not possible China is doing maximum expansion in the whole world at this time but even they are utilising 60 percent capacity only. Their growth rate is 30 percent whereas is ours is 22 percent. We are utilising 81 percent capacity whereas China is utilising only 60 percent capacity. Expansion has taken place very fast during the past years and therefore full utilisation of capacity was not possible. Therefore it was a technical calculation that had the full capacity been utilised, there would have been that much loss. In fact there was no question of loss when expansion work would be completed then we shall utilise 94 percent capacity. At present it has been reduced from 85 percent to 81 percent and on this basis loss has been calculated. We shall utilise 94 percent capacity. We want to reserve 6 percent capacity for emergency. We shall earn full revenue. Therefore, it is a technical calculation. It is because of expansion that we are unable to utilise full capacity. We are sending a reply to C.A.G. also.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister has given a very logical, technical and idiomatic reply.

I will put my second supplementary question. I am happy that our hon. Minister of Communications has got a determination and dedication to give full supply of telephone connections all over the country. In his reply he has mentioned that only for metropolitan cities, by end of March, 1995, three lakh and odd applications were in the waiting list. As per my own information there are 21.5 lakh applications which are pending in the waiting list. It is for all over the country. That means that there is a phenomenal task in the hands of the Government to satisfy all of them when so many applications are to be cleared, and to say that they get telephones.

Regarding the utilisation, he also knows that the optimum utilisation level prescribed by the Department of Telecommunications is 92 per cent. In 1991-92, the utilisation was 85 per cent and it has now come down to 81 per cent. We have already lost by four per cent. It is not that you are responsible for this. Something has gone wrong somewhere. I am happy that recently the Ministry has taken pains to get a study conducted by I.C.I.C.I. about the optimum utilisation of the exchange capacity. But, with all this, still I have my own doubts that unless some effective measures are taken to utilise the capacity... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please put the question.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Yes Sir. Unless the utilisation is complete, you cannot get the 21.5 lakh connections. Therefore, my question is that when 21 lakh applications are waitlisted as on March, 1995, you have only shown three lakh connections for metropolitan cities, which means that you have to see that another 18 lakh persons are also given telephone connections. You have assured this august House that by 1997 you will provide telephone connections to all the applicants. It is impossible unless some *Jai Patala Bhairavi mantra* or Aladin's lamp is with you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : "Therefore I want to know"...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Therefore, I want to know whether the Minister is going to get an Aladin's lamp or *Jai Patala Bhairvi mantra* or *Rama mantra* or how is he going to do it. I want to know how it will be completed as this is a burning problem of the entire nation. It will help in the prosperity of the country. I want to know this. I also want to know as to why there is so much of difference between the metropolitan cities where you have shown the figure as three lakh and odd and for the entire nation the demand is for 21 lakh and odd connections. How could there be a difference of 18 lakh? I must know this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Anyway, the question is over. No other speech please.

[Translation]

You have asked reason for the difference and he has explained it.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, another point is that as per the Comptroller and Auditor General's report, they have mentioned very clearly that 12.5 lakh lines were not fully utilised. It is not either our report or the report of the *Hindustan Times*. It is C. & A.G.'s report. What reply will you give to this? Why is it that 12.5 lakh lines are not utilised fully?

Sir, I want to know all these things.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Today's questions relate to Shri Varma only.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : I have already told that hon'ble Member has, perhaps, not heard properly. The percentage of utilisation of the capacity was less as compared to 1991 but the expansion activities was more than 1991. I have already told that when process of expansion will be fast, it will not be possible to utilise full capacity of the Exchange. We install one exchange. It has the capacity of 100 lines, cables are being laid, how can we utilise all the 100 lines simultaneously in such circumstances. At present expansion is taking place in China with great speed. They are utilising 60 percent capacity only. Whereas we are utilising 81 percent capacity. However we shall try and take into account suggestions made by hon'ble Members. We respect their views. But it is not mistake of the Department. There is a C.A.G. Report and technical calculations, but if we compare our position with other countries, utilisation of capacity in our country is not less keeping in view our growth rate.

[English]

SHRI I.D. SWAMI (Karnal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the target prescribed for optimal utilisation was 92 per cent for your Department according to the Comptroller and Auditor General Report and according to the report of *The Hindustan Times* which the hon. Member has referred to. Is correct?

Just now, the hon. Minister has mentioned that they have issued instructions for telephone connections in villages and villagers are assured that if they give 15, 20, 25 or 35 applications and deposit the security, they would be provided telephone connections or telephone exchange. Not only for six months, but for years together they have not been provided telephone connections although they have managed to deposit more than 25 or 35 applications and the security

deposit with the Department. May I know from the hon. Minister, when these villagers would be able to get these telephone connections where they have deposited applications alongwith security deposit for more than one year or two years?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, Hon'ble Member has asked the question about providing telephone facility to villages. In this connection I have already stated that the village is on our priority list and we have fixed a target of providing 75 thousand Telephone to villages this year. We have made an exclusive provision of Rs. 600 crore for this purpose. Such provision has never been made heretofore and I would like to say that this amount will be utilised for providing telephone facility to villages only.

Hon'ble Member has asked for installation of an Exchange for more than 30-35 telephones whereas according to our policy, even if there is a demand of 10 telephone connections in a village, an Exchange would be set up there.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has told a provision of Rs. 600 crore has been made to provide telephone connections to villages and village is on their priority list, this is very good and he has stated that a telephone exchange will be set up for 10 telephone connections but there are hundreds of villages where 30-35 persons have applied for telephone connections and deposited the required amount also but no telephone exchange has been set up there even after lapse of two years. Now he is telling in his reply that a provision of Rs. 600 crore has been made and priority is being given. In case he wants I can provide him a list of such villages 30-35 persons have deposited the required amount and a period of 6 months to 2 years has passed but they have not got telephone connection so far.

When we enquire of the General Manager, then he says that there is a dearth of equipment required for installation of telephone exchange for 35 telephone connections. He suggests that we should take to the Chief General Manager. He says that village is on their priority list and they have made an exclusive provision of Rs. 600 crore for providing telephone lines to villages only, and there is a policy of providing an exchange for even 10 connections but the fact is that there are many villages where 30-35 persons have deposited the required amount for getting telephone connections and 1-2 years have passed and neither any telephone exchange has been set up nor any telephone has been provided. I can quote that it was the policy of Ministry of Communications that a telephone will be provided to each Panchayat?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Alright Swamiji, you have asked your question, please sit down now.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member is talking of each Panchayat. There are

6 lakh villages in our country. According to our new communication policy a 'village' means 'Revenue Village' where there is provision to give a telephone connection.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : By when? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : If two persons would ask a question simultaneously, how can I answer? Telephone connections have been given in 2 lakh villages upto now. In case, there will be no dearth of resources and private companies would be allowed to enter in this field and they started their work, we shall be able to provide telephone connections 'on demand' in urban as well as rural areas. When private sector companies were allowed then it was taken for granted that telephone connections would be given on demand. We have prescribed a condition for private companies to provide telephone connections to 10 percent villages. You have asked for the period by which, it will be done. Our effort will be to do all this within a year.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the reasons for the losses of the Telecommunication Department is that they work according to their whims and without taking people in to confidence. For instance, they have recently appointed Appointment Committees for STDs, ITs, PTs in East Godavari district upto 31.3.98. They are appointed without our knowledge. Sir, through you, I would request the Minister to send a reply to that letter also.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: What sort of estimate. We have not prepared any estimate.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: I have written a letter to you 15 days back....*(Interruptions)* You have appointed the committee without our knowledge.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Yes, you have written a letter we have not appointed any STD Committee.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: Your General Manager has appointed that committee.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: I have not appointed any body. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He will send you a reply in a letter in response to your letter. This is Question Hour.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a simple and straight question from the hon'ble Minister. He has termed the report published in "The Hindustan Times" as baseless and said that loss of Rs. 804 crore is not being incurred.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: I have not termed it baseless.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I want to ask how much revenue loss is being incurred every year according to your Department? Because it has become a practice in giving a reply in our parliamentary system that if there is a loss of Rs. 803 crore and if we ask, by mistake, that you are incurring a loss of Rs. 804 crore, you will deny it but you will not give the correct figure of loss. Therefore I want to ask as to how much loss is being incurred every year according to your own Department?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Sir, there is a report of CAG about the fact that capacity of telephone exchanges have not been fully utilised and I have tried to convince you that it was their technical calculation.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I have simply asked that if it is not Rs. 804 crore, then how much? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: If two persons speak simultaneously, how shall I give answer? If your question is over then I may give my answer. I treat it a technical calculation. I do not treat it as a loss to the Department. *(Interruptions)* If expansion takes place rapidly full utilisation of the capacity is not possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Her question is that if the report published in "The Hindustan Times" is wrong then how much loss is being incurred according to your Department?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: This is based on CAG report. We are sending a reply to CAG that it is because of expansion..... *(Interruptions)* There is no loss to the Department.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are not giving reply to even my question.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Do you mean to say that there is no revenue?....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How much loss is cecoded by your Department.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: We do not treat it loss.

[English]

Establishment of Air India and Indian Airlines

* 384. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons working in Air India and Indian Airlines and the number of operational Aircraft in domestic and international sectors; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to provide professional management to the above oraganisations with a view to make them economic viable and more productive?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Air India has 18,502 employees and a fleet of 26 aircraft. Indian Airlines has 21,439 employees and a fleet of 54 aircraft.

(b) Both Air India and Indian Airlines are manned by experienced professionals. They have a Common Board with versatile and qualified members drawn from various fields. Both the organisations are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Sir, it appears from the statement that the Indian Airlines is having 54 aircraft and the Air India is having 26 aircraft. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any decision has been taken, keeping in view the increased chain of the passenger traffic in Asia, Africa and also Europe, to increase the fleet of the Air India and whether professional management has been kept in view or not. Sir, I am raising this question because in the tiny nation of Hong Kong, the Cathay Pacific and the Singapore Airlines take over the entire tourist traffic of the Pacific due to their increased fleet. I would like to know why the Air India is failing in this regard.

Sir, the Jumbo Jet takes, from time to time, the Prime Minister and the *Rashtrapatiji* for their visits abroad. During the time the entire passenger amenities are cancelled and all the bookings are also cancelled, thereby causing hardship to the passengers. I want to know whether this position could be looked into that a separate aircraft is arranged for the visits of the Prime Minister and the President without affecting passengers' scheduled trips.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that there is a shortage of aircraft. It is because during the last five years, they are meeting, discussing and putting up the file for the purchase of new aircraft but a decision could not be taken. Last time, the decision in this regard was postponed due to elections. But now I have told them specifically that we have to increase the fleet.

12.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Beni Prasad Varmaji, let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Number one is we have to increase the flights. Number two is the destinations. Now I have instructed my Department. we are starting four new destinations towards Chicago *via* Toronto and also for Hong Kong region, as the hon. Member has mentioned, *via* Calcutta. We are having an ambitious plan to have international airports even in North East and in Srinagar. We want to show the world what facilities are available there.

The hon. Member has given a suggestion on the cancellation of regular flights and bookings at present. The moment I will get the new fleet, I will request the hon. Prime Minister and the President to have a separate aircraft out of the fleet.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

New Airports

* 385. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 284 on July 11, 1996 and state:

(a) the allocation made during the current year for each of the new airports proposed to be set up;

(b) the status of the construction work, acquisition of land etc. in respect of each of the above airports;

(c) the time by which the new airports are likely to be made operational; and

(d) the details of new airports proposed to be set up during 1997-98, and the funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). A detailed statement indicating the allocation made, status of construction work, time by which the new airports are likely to be made operational is attached.

(d) The plan for 1997-98 is yet to be formulated.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the New Airport & State	Est. Cost (Rs. In Crores)	Budget Allocation 1996-97	Status of Const. Work & Land Acquisition	Time by which Aerodrom becomes operational
1	2	3	4	5	6
(1)	Devanhalli (Bangalore) Karnataka	770.00 (Ph-I)	Under State Govt. plan through public/private participation.	(a) Feasibility report submitted by M/s. Tata Industries and the Consortium. The report is under study of State Govt. (b) Land acquisition under process by Govt. of Karnataka.	5 years after the award of the work
(2)	Mangalore Karnataka			Central Govt. has accorded approval to the State Govt. of Karnataka for the construction of a new airport near Mangalore by an NRI on Build-Own-Operate basis.	

1	2	3	4	5	6
(3)	Nedumbassary Near Cochin Kerala	288.00	Under State Govt. plan through public/private participation.	(a) The work on construction of runway, apron, taxi- track and boundary wall is in progress. (b) The work on the construc- tion of Terminal Building is likely to start shortly.	By 2000
(4)	Androth Union Territory of Lakshadweep	65.00	1.00	(a) Estimates are under preparation. (b) Environmental clearance for the project is awaited from the Ministry of Envi- ronment & Forests, New Delhi. (c) Requisition for acquiring land measuring 100 acres has been put up to Union Territory Govt.	3 years after the award of the work.
(5)	Tura Meghalaya	12.21	7.00 under State Govt. Plan.	(a) Construction work for runway commenced in December, 1995. (b) Award of work for Terminal Building is held up for want of revised sanction of Rs. 12.21 crores from State govt. of Meghalaya.	Dec. 1998
(6)	Lengpui Mizoram	92.00	10.00 under State Govt. Plan.	(a) Development of site for con- struction of an airport commenced on 7.6.1996. (b) Tenders for construction of Terminal Building Complex have been called for by State PWD.	Dec. 1999
(7)	Itanagar Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	(a) Existing Helipad site near Naharlagan, 14 Kms from Itanagar on NH-52A was considered suitable for construction of an airport for 20 seater aircraft operation. (b) State Govt. has been advised to acquire land. (c) Land is yet to be acquired by the State Govt. (d) Clearance from Ministry of Defence & Ministry of En- vironment & Forests are yet to be obtained by State Govt. for construction of an airport.	

1	2	3	4	5	6
(8)	Shirdi Maharashtra	-	Under State Govt. plan through private partici- pation.	(a) A site near Asta Gaon, Village Taluka Koper Gaon, Distt. Ahmednagar has been identified for construction of an airport for 50 seater aircraft operation. (b) Land is yet to be acquired by the State Govt. (c) Clearance from Ministry of Defence & Ministry of En- vironment & Forests is to be obtained by State Govt.	
(9)	Sindhudurg Maharashtra	-	0.50 under State Govt. Plan.	(a) Feasibility study carried out by AAI for construction of a new airport of international standards at Mhapan in Sindhudurg Distt. (b) State Govt. has been advised to take up project with private financing on the lines adopted by State Govt. of Karnataka and Kerala for development of air- ports near Bangalore and Cochin on B.O.O./B.O.T. basis.	
(10)	Kargil J&K	18.19	6.00	(a) Work for the construction of runway of dimensions 6000'x150' is in progress. (b) Work for construction of Terminal Building for 100 passengers and Control tower has been assigned to State PWD. (c) Drawings have been approved by AAI. Tenders are being invited.	Oct. 1998
(11)	Kishtwar J&K	15.00	0.50	State Govt. has been requested to - acquire additional land for runway extension.	
(12)	Ajmer Rajasthan	40.00	1.00	(a) Site near Sardana Village has been identified for construction of an airport for 50 seater aircraft. (b) State Govt. has been requested to acquire 460 acres of land in desired orientation.	2½ years after award of work.
(13)	Hassan Karnataka	50.00	0.25	(a) State Govt. has been requested to acquire additional 145 acres of land for building an airport to cater for operation of 50 seater aircraft.	2 years after award of work.

[Translation]

Sale of Boeing 747-200 Aircraft

386. SHRI ANNA SAHIB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has decided to sell its two very old Boeing 747-200 aircraft;

(b) whether tenders have been invited for their sale;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of aircrafts of Air India which have completed their life period; and

(e) the time by which new aircrafts are proposed to be purchased in their place?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Air India invited bids through advertisements, for sale of six B747-200 aircraft. No final decision in the matter has been taken by the Government.

(d) and (e). No life span is specified. The aircraft may continue to operate as long as it is airworthy as per regulations of the Director General of Civil Aviation. Air India plans to continue renewal and expansion of its aircraft fleet during the Ninth Plan Period.

Communication System in Bihar

*387. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the development of communication system in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether the above system is still poor in the State in comparison to other States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the communication system in Bihar during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Plan expenditure on development

of Telecommunication system in Bihar during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Plan Expenditure (in crores of Rs.)
1993-94	180.89
1994-95	222.61
1995-96	189.01

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During 1996-97 it is proposed to provide 47,000 Direct exchange lines against waiting list of 42,481 as on 31.3.96, add 67,800 lines of Electronic switching capacity, provide 6,500 village public telephones and 10,000 lines of Trunk Automatic Exchange capacity.

[English]

Multinationals/Pvt. Sectors to Explore and Mine Gold and other Metals

* 388. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI GEORGE FERNADES:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision for allowing Indian private companies and multinationals to explore and mine gold and other precious metals in the country and particularly in Karnataka;

(b) whether a request from the Government of Karnataka has been received in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons for allowing multinationals to explore gold and precious metals in Karnataka;

(d) the details of the proposals received from various companies;

(e) whether Karnataka have stipulated any condition on companies to explore and mine gold;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(h) the arrangements ensured for rehabilitation of the people living there who are likely to be evicted?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (c). The National Mineral Policy, 1993 encourages foreign investment and technology in the exploration of high value and scarce minerals. The Policy also deserves minerals earlier reserved for exclusive exploitation by the private sector, so allowing exploration and exploitation of all minerals including gold, by the private sector, both domestic and foreign. Any company registered in India can apply to the State Governments for grant of prospecting licence/mining lease.

(b) No, Sir.

(d) to (g). The Govt. of Karnataka has informed that it had invited applications from private companies, both domestic and foreign, to submit proposals for mineral exploration especially that of gold, subject to multinational companies entering into a joint venture with Indian companies. In response, they have received proposals from 281 companies. The Government of Karnataka has stated that it has yet to take any view on these applications.

(h) The question, of this stage, does not arise. However, it may be added that the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder, provide that prospecting/mining operations can only be carried out with the written consent of the land owner.

Unmilled Paddy

* 389. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR:
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of paddy lying unmilled in the Food Corporation of India godowns, State-wise;

(b) whether the millers have refused to mill this paddy; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to get this paddy milled before the same is declared unfit for human consumption?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) A statement giving the requisite information is attached.

(b) A few problems in milling of paddy of 1994-95 crop have been experienced mainly in Punjab. A record quantity of 73.76 lakh tonnes of paddy was procured in Punjab by FCI and State Government agencies, which was 33% higher than the previous season. Uncooperative attitude of rice millers of Punjab by raising demand for relaxation in the percentage of brokens far beyond the prescribed limits further compounded the problem. Even then except for a balance of 4.68 lakh tonnes of paddy, the entire stocks have been either milled or disposed of through sale. The entire stocks of unmilled paddy in Punjab, except a small quantity of 1.03 lakh tonnes, are contracted under which the millers are under obligation to complete milling of the contracted quantity of paddy.

The milling of 1995-96 crop paddy is in progress.

(c) The following special steps were taken to expedite milling of paddy:—

- (i) Some quantity of Paddy was moved from Punjab to other regions like Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95 and 1995-96 seasons to the extent of spare milling capacity available in these regions.
- (ii) Brokens percentage of rice was relaxed upto 30% for 1994-95 crop paddy;
- (iii) Relaxations in certain parameters of specifications have been allowed during 1995-96 season.
- (iv) Driage allowance for production of raw rice was allowed at 2% during 1995-96 season.
- (v) A memorandum of understanding was signed with Government of Punjab on 21.12.95 which provides for completion of milling of the paddy procured by Government of Punjab/agencies in the year 1995-96 by 31st May, 1996. This period has now been extended upto 31st August, 1996.
- (vi) Additional incentive of Rs. 5/- per quintal over the normal milling charges for production of parboiled rice during 1995-96 season with effect from 27.5.96.
- (vii) A total quantity of 21.66 lakh tonnes of 1994-95 crop paddy in Punjab was sold under tender or through open sale. The disposal of paddy through tender is in progress.

STATEMENT*Statement Showing the Yearwise Stocks of Paddy Awaiting Milling in FCI Godowns*

(Lakh MTs.)

Sl. No.	Regions	Qty. of Paddy Lying Unmilled			Total	Position as on	Remarks
		1993-94 Crop	1994-95 Crop	1995-96 Crop			
1.	Punjab	-	1.03	0.59	1.62	19.8.96	Besides above the State Govt./ Agencies of Punjab are having the following quantities of unmilled paddy procured for Central Pool:
2.	Haryana	-	0.46	0.52	0.98	10.8.96	
3.	U.P.	-	Neg. (181 MT)	0.07	0.07	31.7.96	
4.	Bihar	0.015	0.013	0.002	0.03	26.7.96	1994-95 Crop—3.65 lakh MT
5.	Orissa	-	-	-	-	31.7.96	1995-96 Crop—5.17 lakh MT
6.	A.P. (Prov.)	0.19	0.10	0.09	0.38	31.7.96	<u>8.82</u>
7.	Rajasthan	-	0.24	0.005	0.246	-do-	
8.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-do-	
Total :		0.205	1.843	1.278	3.326		

*[Translation]***Facilities for Handicapped Employees**

*390. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities being provided to the handicapped employees in various departments under the Ministry;

(b) whether they are also provided reservation at the time of promotion;

(c) if so, the details and percentage thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The following facilities are being provided as per the instructions of Department of Personnel and Training:

1. Provision for reservation in Group C and D posts subject to conditions stipulated in OM No. 36035/8/89/Estt. dated 20.11.89 for promotion.
2. Relaxation of upper age limit.
3. Conveyance allowance upto a maximum of Rs. 100 per month.

4. Exemption from payment of application and examination fee.

5. Financial assistance from welfare fund for purchase of artificial limp/wheel chair/tricycles etc.

(b) The reservation in promotion is provided as per DOP & T instruction as indicated in (1) above.

(c) One percent each for visually handicapped, hearing handicapped and orthopedically handicapped in identified Group 'C' and 'D' posts.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Investment by EPF Organisation**

*391. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of violation of procedures for investment by the Employees Provident Fund Organisations have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an inquiry was instituted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the officers found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e). The EPF contributions collected but not immediately needed for payment are required to be invested in accordance with the pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance from time to time. Under the present pattern 40% of the investible surplus is to be invested in the Central/State Government securities, 30% in the Special Deposit Scheme of the Central Government and the remaining 30% in the banks and other public financial institutions/companies. As the responsibility for making investment with different agencies, on the basis of pattern laid down by the Central Government, is that of the State Bank of India as port-folio manager, there is no question of violation of procedure for investment by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation.

Disinvestment in Tourism and Hotel Undertakings

* 392. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM, be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to have complete disinvestment in tourism and hotel undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement of Airports

*393. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH:
SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1040 on July 18, 1996 and state:

(a) the status of the work relating to modernisation/upgradation of airports, airport-wise;

(b) the time by which the airports for which funds have been allocated during 1996-97 are likely to be upgraded/modernised;

(c) whether the Government propose to modernise or upgrade some more airports during the next year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d). A detailed statement indicating the modernisation/upgradation being done at each airport by the Airports Authority of India is attached.

STATEMENT

State	Name of Airport	Scope of Work	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Status of work	Projected date of completion
Andhra Pradesh					
	Hyderabad	Construction of new Integrated Terminal Building	43.60	65%	December, 1997
	Tirupathi	Construction of new Terminal Building.	7.50	1%	June, 1998
	Vijayawada	Strengthening of runway and associated pavements, development of Terminal Building.	16.29	Tendering stage	June, 1999

State	Name of Airport	Scope of Work	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Status of work	Projected date of completion
Assam					
	Dibrugarh	Pavement works	11.33	65%	December, 1996
		Expansion and modification of Terminal Building		Planning stage	
	Guwahati	Construction of new Terminal Building.	12.45	54%	April, 1997
		Extension of Apron.	2.52	Nil	April, 1997
		Installation of ASR/MSSR	29.40	Installation in progress	October, 1996
	Lilabari	Extension and strengthening of runway	13.89	4%	July, 1998
		Construction of new Terminal Building.	14.46	Tendering stage	July, 1999
	Silchar (IAF)	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building	3.87	10%	January, 1998
		Installation of DVOR	1.20	Installation in progress	December, 1996
	Tezpur (IAF)	Construction of new Civil Enclave.	18.60	Tendering stage	December, 1998
		Installation of DVOR	1.20	Installation in progress	September, 1996
		Installation of DME (HP)	0.85	Installation in progress	September, 1996
Bihar					
	Patna	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building	6.08	70%	December, 1996

State	Name of Airport	Scope of Work	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Status of work	Projected date of completion
Goa					
	Dabolim (Navy)	Construction of new Terminal Building	9.22	85%	November, 1996
		Extension of apron and construction of link taxiway and strengthening of helipad	8.57	8%	December, 1998
		Installation of DVOR	1.20	Installation in progress	December, 1996
Gujarat					
	Ahmedabad	Installation of ASR/MSSR	29.42	Installation in progress	December, 1996
	Porbandar	Construction of new Terminal Building, apron and taxi track	3.00	Planning stage	
	Bhuj (IAF)	Construction of new Civil Enclave	5.00	Planning stage	
		Installation of DVOR	1.50	Installation in progress	September, 1996
Himachal Pradesh					
	Shimla	Extension of runway by 300 ft.	—	Planning stage	
Jammu & Kashmir					
	Leh (IAF)	Provision of Central Heating System	1.79	Work in progress	November, 1996
		Installation of DVOR	1.50	Installation in progress	November, 1996
	Jammu (IAF)	Extension of runway	13.00	Planning stage	
	Kargil	Development of airport—runways and associated pavements and Terminal Building	18.19	Work is being executed by DGBRO and State PWD as Deposit work, only 11%	
Karnataka					
	Bangalore (HAL)	Construction of International Terminal Building	13.70	4.25%	December, 1998

State	Name of Airport	Scope of Work	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Status of work	Projected date of completion
Kerala					
	Calicut	Extension of runway	89.88	13.5%	January, 2000
	Trivandrum	Extension of main runway by 350 mtrs.	5.76	22%	February, 1997
		Interim modifications of International Terminal Building	2.02	15%	July, 1997
Madhya Pradesh					
	Bhopal	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building	3.38	51%	May, 1997
		Resurfacing of runway	4.34	Tendering stage	June, 1997
	Indore	Construction of Terminal Building	7.92	84%	December, 1996
		Construction of Technical Block cum Control Tower	3.65	12%	December, 1997
		Extension of runway, apron and taxi track	7.93	14%	May, 1997
	Jabalpur	Extension of runway to 6500 ft.	11.76	Tendering stage	October, 1998
	Raipur	Expansion of Terminal Building	8.55	1.5%	April, 1998
		Resurfacing of runway and expansion of apron	6.91	9%	October, 1997
		Installation of ILS/DME (PL)	1.10	Installation in progress	September, 1996

State	Name of Airport	Scope of Work	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Status of work	Projected date of completion
Maharashtra					
	Aurangabad	Resurfacing of runway	4.51	Work awarded	June, 1997
		Installation of DVOR	1.20	Installation in progress	September, 1996
		Installation of ILS	1.75	Installation in progress	September, 1996
		Installation of DME (LP)	0.60	Installation in progress	November, 1996
	Mumbai	Construction of New International Terminal Building (Phase III)	105.49	42%	December, 1997
		Upgradation of main runway 09/27	19.28	100%	Completed May, 1996
		Construction of additional bays No. 14, 18 and 19	5.57	80%	February, 1997
		Construction of taxi track parallel to main runway between extended centre line of Delta Taxi Track and Bravo Taxi Track Phase II	4.60	55%	March, 1997
Manipur					
	Imphal	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building	10.03	Tender under evaluation	December, 1998
Nagaland					
	Dimapur	Construction of New Terminal Building	9.65	92%	November, 1996
Orissa					
	Bhubaneswar	Construction of New Terminal Building	13.42	74%	May, 1997
		Extension of runway	12.42	Tendering stage	December, 1998

State	Name of Airport	Scope of Work	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Status of work	Projected date of completion
Punjab					
	Amritsar	Installation of DVOR	1.20	Installation in progress	September, 1996
		Installation of DME	0.85	Installation in progress	September, 1996
	Ludhiana	Expansion of Terminal Building	1.07	Tendering stage	
Rajasthan					
	Jaipur	Extension of runway	4.59	35%	October, 1996
	Udaipur	Extension of runway	5.96	25%	January, 1997
		Installation of ILS	1.75	Installation in progress	December, 1996
		Installation of DME (LP)	0.60	Installation in progress	December, 1996
	Jodhpur	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building	7.63	95%	October, 1996
Tamil Nadu					
	Madras	Construction of Technical Block cum Control Tower	23.04	16.5%	March, 1998
		Installation of ADS	3.00	Installation in progress	December, 1996
		Installation of ASR/MSSR	37.61	Installation in progress	June, 1997
		Extension of Import Cargo Complex	0.97	95%	August, 1996
		Strengthening of Cargo bays for B-747	1.03	100%	Completed
Tripura					
	Agartala	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building	18.11	Approval stage	December, 1998
		Strengthening of existing apron and loop taxiway	4.95	Tendering stage	December, 1997

State	Name of Airport	Scope of Work	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Status of work	Projected date of completion
Uttar Pradesh					
	Agra (IAF)	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building and expansion of apron	10.24	28% and 30%	November, 1997
		Installation of DVOR	1.50	Installation in progress	October, 1996
		Installation of DME	0.60	Installation in progress	October, 1996
	Varanasi	Plan to modernise Terminal Building		Planning stage	
		Runway extension from 7236 ft. to 9000 ft. Additional land admeasuring 103 acres		Planning stage	
West Bengal					
	Bagdogra (IAF)	Construction of new Terminal Building	11.43	Work held up due to non availability of land from IAF	June, 1998
		Installation of DVOR	1.20	Work awarded	August, 1997
	Calcutta	Installation of ASR/MSSR	38.52	Installation in progress	December, 1996
		Installation of ADS	3.00	Work awarded	June, 1997
		Construction of aerolinks, security hold 2nd apron for 3rd aerobridge at New Domestic Terminal	6.87	6%	May, 1997
		Shifting of CCR Hall (Civil)	2.50	96%	November, 1996
		Shifting of CCR Hall (electrical)	1.92	50%	March, 1997

State	Name of Airport	Scope of Work	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Status of work	Projected date of completion
Andaman & Nicobar Islands					
	Port Blair (Navy)	Development of Terminal Building Complex	18.87	Approval stage	December, 1999
		Installation of ILS	0.90	Work awarded	April, 1997
		Installation of DME (LP)	0.60	Installation in progress	April, 1997
Delhi		Construction of visitors lounge	18.22	99%	Completed, August, 1996
		Construction of additional 4 Nos. of remote parking bays	6.76	72%	November, 1996
		Construction of additional 3 Nos. remote parking bays	4.04	22%	February, 1997
		Construction of additional cargo bays	4.05	86%	February, 1997
		Construction of additional domestic bays for parking of 6 Nos. A-320 aircrafts	3.18	Work just started	October, 1997
		Commissioning of 4 garbage incinerators to reduce bird hit incidents	0.40	100%	Completed April, 1996

Unemployment

* 394. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the real picture of unemployment in the country is reflected through employment exchanges; and

(b) if not, the mechanism the Government propose to adopt for assessment of the real position of unemployment both in the urban and the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) under

the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation carries out a detailed Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force survey once in every five years throughout the country to assess the real position of employment, unemployment and labour force in the urban and rural areas of the country.

[Translation]

Outstanding Amount of Loan

*395. SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans had been granted during the last few years to major steel producing Industrial Houses from the Steel Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding loan, by the end of March, 1996;

(c) whether the Government has fixed a time-limit for the repayment of loan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of grants released and loans granted by the Government during the last three years from Steel Development Fund, for the purpose of research and development of Steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) During the last few years loans have been granted from Steel Development Fund to the Steel Authority of India Limited, Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited.

(b) The details of loan outstanding, as on 31st March, 1996, are as under:

Steel Producers	Loan Outstanding (Rs. in Crores)
SAIL	4675.51
TISCO	884.29
IISCO	44.68
Total	5604.48

(c) & (d). As per the decision of the Steel Development Fund Managing Committee, repayment of loan has to be completed within 12 years from the date of release/disbursement of loan.

(e) A grant of Rs. 50 lakhs has been released during the last three years for Research and Development in the steel sector.

[English]

Satellite Channels for Primary Standard

* 396. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some satellite channels are being utilized to telecast lessons of primary school standard for villagers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such programmes telecast during each of the last three years; and

(c) the languages in which these programmes are telecast and the States being benefited by these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). Though there is no exclusive telecast of primary school standard lessons for villagers from satellite channels of Doordarshan, Educational programmes produced by Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) and State Institutes of Educational Technology, which are mainly enrichment programmes for children of age groups of 5 to 11 years and 9 to 11 years, are being telecast through different regional language services of Doordarshan terrestrially as given below:

Programme	Language	Region Covered
CIET (Delhi)	Hindi	UP, HP, Bihar, MP, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
SIETs		
(i) Ahmedabad	Gujarati	Gujarat
(ii) Bhubaneshwar	Oriya	Orissa
(iii) Hyderabad	Telegu	Andhra Pradesh
(iv) Pune	Marathi	Maharashtra

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities to Block Development Headquarters

*397. SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government for linking block headquarters with telephone facility;

(b) the time since when the above policy is in force;

(c) the number of block headquarters which have not been provided with telephone facility so far, in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise; and

(d) the time by which the above headquarters are likely to be provided telephone facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). There is no separate policy for linking block headquarters with telephone facility. The National Telecom Policy, 1994 envisages provision of public telephone facility to all the villages. By this, block headquarters would also get covered.

(c) and (d). All the 459 Block Headquarters in Madhya Pradesh have already been covered with such facility.

Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd.

*398. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether bilateral agreement regarding the revision of pay scales has been signed between Employees Union and Management of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd. in January, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above agreement has been implemented;

(d) if so, when;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of the above agreement?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (f). A conditional wage agreement regarding the revision of pay scales w.e.f. 1.1.93 in Hindustan Vegetables Oils Corporation (HVOC) was initiated between the workmen and a negotiating committee of HVOC in January, 1996. The main features are:

- (1) Perquisites already withdrawn of frozen by HVOC would not be restored until such time as HVOC is able to bear extra expenditure.
- (2) Arrears on account of wage revision for the period from 1.1.93 to 31.12.95 would be deferred for the present.
- (3) The staff strength would be reduced at the rate of 2% per annum.
- (4) Minimum basic pay of the lowest paid employee to be fixed at Rs. 2,100 per month as on 1.1.93.

The Board of HVOC, in its meeting on 27.3.96 considered the draft wage agreement and decided to determine financial

implications of wage revision and extent of financial assistance required for payment of revised wages and to send to the Administrative Ministry.

Meanwhile the Board of HVOC in its meeting dated 22.5.96 also resolved by a majority decision that on the basis of financial position of 1995-96 reference is required to be made to BIFR and accordingly a preliminary reference has been made to BIFR. Information is being collected for making a formal reference to BIFR.

The proposal has been examined by the Government in the light of standing orders of Department of Public Enterprises and sent to integrated finance division (IFD) of the Ministry. IFD after examining the proposal had advised to keep the wage revision proposal in abeyance till such time as a final decision is available.

[English]

Delay in finalisation of Catering Contract

*399. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has been incurring extra expenditure due to delay in finalisation of a catering contract as reported in 'Indian Express' dated August 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the amount of loss incurred in this regard; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Due to procedural delays in finalising the catering contract for the period from 1st August, 1990 to 31st March, 1993 with Tokyo Flight Kitchen, Air India incurred a loss of Rs. 127.67 lakhs.

(d) Vigilance enquiry has been instituted by Air India to fix responsibility in the matter. The Catering Committee of Air India has also been advised to take timely action in finalising all catering contracts.

Air Service to State Capitals

*400. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the State capitals which have not yet been connected with National capital by Air; and

(b) the steps taken to connect them by air?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The following State capitals have not yet been airlinked with Delhi.

- (i) Kohima
- (ii) Itanagar
- (iii) Shillong
- (iv) Gangtok

(b) Kohima, Gangtok and Itanagar do not have operational airfields. Shillong airport is not fit for operation by aircraft type available in the fleet of Indian Airlines. However, private operators are being encouraged to add more stations in their network including Shillong.

Forward Market Commission

3245. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forward Markets Commission, Mumbai has prepared a comprehensive package to improve the financial health of commodity exchanges;

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

(c) the manner in which it has improved the working of the Forward Markets Commission, particularly in the infrastructure, the administration and the trading ring?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Forward Markets Commission do not have any direct role in managing/auditing the financial position of these exchanges, which are independent organizations of private traders. However, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Kabra Committee appointed by the Government of India, which, *inter alia* recommended strengthening of financial position of commodity exchanges to make them self-regulating organisations the Forward Markets Commission, Mumbai has been advising, from time to time, these exchanges to improve their finances through various measures like suitable upward revision of transaction fee levied on each transaction, annual subscriptions, amount of security deposit, margin money etc. These measures were also brought to personal notice in a meeting of office bearers of various commodity exchanges convened at Mumbai on 29th and 30th July, 1996.

(c) These measures are designed to improve the infrastructure of the Commodity Exchanges through installation of modern facilities like telephone, FAX, computers as well as increase in trading space, and thereby expected to improve the working of commodity exchanges. Forward

Markets Commission have also started periodic inspections of these exchanges, in order to activate its administrative infrastructure. Wherever necessary, internal committee of these exchanges like Arbitration/Vigilance Committees etc. are being activated. By making the commodity exchanges self-sufficient and self-regulating, the Commission expects to achieve its objective of healthy growth of commodity markets in the country.

Industrial Training Institutes

3246. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up industrial Training Institutes, in view of mass scale unemployment

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

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). ITIs are set up by the respective State (including U.T.) Governments who submit their proposals directly to the Planning Commission for financial assistance under the Plan. ITIs are also allowed to be set up by private agencies provided they fulfil the prescribed norms. As on 31.7.95 there were 2911 ITIs functioning throughout the country, 1064 in the State Sector and 1847 in the Private Sector with total seating capacity of 4.5 lakh.

The Central Government supports the efforts of the State and Private agencies to set up new ITIs and strengthen existing ones.

Outstanding dues to Doordarshan, Orissa

3247. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhubaneshwar Doordarshan Kendra owes any outstanding dues to the outside Producers;

(b) if so, the category-wise details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken to clear the outstanding dues of the Producers?

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

(b) There is an outstanding commitment of Rs. 11.28 crores of DDK, Bhubaneshwar as on 1.4.96. This liability relates to commissioning of programmes under Special

Software Plan Scheme. The details of outstanding commitment during the last three years are as under:

1993-94	:	1.01 crores
1994-95	:	6.33 crores
1995-96	:	11.28 crores

(c) The liabilities are being met from the additional budgetary allocations and the Non-Lapsable Fund (NLF) in a phased manner.

Shifting of Telephones

3248. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for inter-exchange and in-exchange shifting of telephones pending for clearance in Delhi, exchange-wise; and

(b) the steps taken for early clearance of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the details are given in the attached statement.

(b) Prompt issue of OBs/simplification of commercial policies, despatch of OBs by courier and provision of FAX for clearance in case of inter-exchange shifts are the steps taken to reduce the time in shifting the telephone connections. Norms have been fixed for local shifts within 7 days and inter-exchange shifts within 15 days. All out efforts are being made to observe these norms and monitoring is being carried out at top management levels to achieve the targets.

STATEMENT

Exchange	Cases Pending for		Total
	Inter-exchange	Local shift	
Janpath	6	1	7
Kidwai Bhavan	21	19	40
Rajpath	8	-	8
Sena Bhavan	35	-	35
Jor Bagh	70	53	23
Lodhi Road	25	3	28
Delhi Gate	5	2	7

Exchange	Cases Pending for		Total
	Inter-exchange	Local shift	
Idgah	30	32	62
Tis Hazari	21	15	36
Laxmi Nagar	122	93	215
Kadkad Dooma (L. Nagar)	10	27	46
Kadkad Dooma	10	7	17
Mayur Vihar	51	12	63
Shahdara	5	19	24
Yamuna Vihar	12	8	20
Shakti Nagar	76	123	199
Keshav puram	10	1	11
Rohini (Sec. 3)	75	3	78
Rohini (Sec. 6)	74	-	74
Rohini (Sec. 9)	129	7	136
Saraswati Vihar	27	9	36
Badli	60	-	60
Alipur	2	-	2
Narela	4	-	4
Chanakya Puri	35	22	57
Bhikaji Cama Place	78	46	124
Hauz khas	45	47	92
Chattarpur	51	1	52
Vasant Kunj	160	38	198
Nehru Place	255	287	542
Tughlakabad	61	41	102
Okhla	151	72	223
Tehkhand	21	-	21

Exchange	Cases Pending for		Total
	Inter-exchange	Local shift	
Sarita Vihar	22	-	22
Palam	1	6	7
Shamli	5	-	5
Delhi Cantt.	10	49	59
Shadi Pur	11	6	17
Karol Bagh	45	42	87
Janakpuri	96	59	155
Najafgarh	15	6	21
Rajouri Garden	27	35	62
Harj Nagar	7	6	13
Paschim Vihar	11	19	30
Nangaloi	9	10	19
Grand Total :	2013	1226	3239

Sugarcane Growers

3249. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugarcane growers under the banner of Bharat Krishak Samaj met the Prime Minister recently and submitted a memorandum to him;

(b) if so, the contents of the memorandum submitted and the talks held with the Prime Minister; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). A memorandum dated 12.7.1996 was submitted to the Prime Minister under the banner of Bharat Krishak Samaj consisting of 18 demands relating to subsidy on irrigation, subsidy on 18 H.P. Tractor & Implements, credit on lower interest rate, regular supply of electricity on subsidised tariff, mix farming packing, afforestation, foodgrain movement, land

compensation, no tax on farmers, Cooperative Law to be freed from Government control, exemption from Income-Tax for cooperatives, insurance, relief in natural calamities, *Sui generis* Bill, Funding of KVKs, payment to sugarcane farmers along with interest, activating Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) and reduction in administered price of Petroleum Products. The memorandum is being looked into by the Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the relevant departments.

Allotment of space to ITDC

3250. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of pursuing the matter with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to allot some space for India Tourism Development Corporation at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Airport at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). The matter regarding upgradation of ITDC duty free shop at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Airport at Calcutta was referred to Airports Authority of India by Department of Tourism. The Airports Authority of India has informed that no additional space was available, which could be considered for allotment to ITDC for duty free shops.

Meeting of the Hindi Consultative Committee

3251. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether this Ministry has not completed the Hindi Annual Progressive programme so far during the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of sittings of Hindi consultative committee held during the last three years and the reasons for not organising four meetings in a years;

(d) the time by which the Hindi consultative committee is likely to be reconstituted; and

(e) the percentage of the work which the Chairpersons and the members of Official Language Implementation Committees do in Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The Annual Programme for implementation of the Official Language Policy of the

Government of India is prepared and circulated by Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Official Language every year for propagation of progressive use of Hindi in the official work and all Ministries/Departments and offices under their control are required to take action in context of the targets contained therein. It is continuous process.

(c) The meetings of the Hindi Advisory Committee of this Ministry could not be convened during last three years are the Committee was not reconstituted.

(d) The reconstitution of the Committee is under process.

(e) The Chairperson and the members of Minister's Official Language Implementation Committee do their official work in Hindi as per norms laid down by the Department of Official Language.

Officers on Deputation in VSNL

3252. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of persons who even after expiry of the period of their deputation are holding senior positions in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(b) the reasons for granting extensions to such officers, again and again; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken of by the Government to send such officers back to their parent offices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Only one person holding the position of Chief Financial Officer is in V.S.N.L. on deputation from the Department of Telecommunications.

(b) and (c). The Officer has joined V.S.N.L. in November, 1993 on deputation. Orders have already been issued for repatriation to the parent cadre.

Air Stations

3253. SHRIMATI M. PARVTI :
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

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

(a) the number of proposals/representation received for setting up/development of AIR stations from various States during the last two years and the current year, so far;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set-up;

(e) the percentage of population likely to be covered therefrom in various States; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Participation

3254. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign participation in firms operating flights in India has been permitted; and

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

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

(b) As per the existing guidelines, foreign equity participation is permitted in the air transport services, upto a ceiling of 40%, on a case by case basis.

Local Telephone Call Facility at Diamond Harbour Town

3255. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Diamond Harbour town in Calcutta is without local call facilities;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to provide this facility there; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Diamond Harbour Town is not part of Calcutta Metropolitan area. It has local call facility within its local area. Diamond Harbour is connected to Calcutta Telephone Network by STD facility.

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

Pardhi Community

3256. SHRI B. DHARMABIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government recognise the women of Pardhi community as Scheduled Tribes and men as not Scheduled Tribe community in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to remove such discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Pardhi has not been specified as a Scheduled Tribe in relation to the State of Andhra Pradesh under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 as amended to date. As such, no member of that community is recognised as a Scheduled Tribe in that State.

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

Loss to Doordarshan

3257. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has incurred a huge loss during 1990 to 1993;

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

(c) whether charging of lower rate sponsorship fee from the programme "The World this Week" was the main reasons for incurring such loss;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the officials found guilty?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Telephone Connections to OB Holders

3258. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to

Part (a)(iv) of Unstarred Question No. 2521 on August 1, 1996 and state;

(a) the definition of the term "Area technically non-feasible";

(b) the number of such cases out of the quota of Members of Parliament in which O.Bs. have been issued and telephone connections have not yet been installed in Okhla Telephone Exchange, New Delhi since January 1, 1996, and

(c) the reasons for not installation of such telephone connections in that exchange and the time by which these connections are likely to be installed.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, technically non-feasible areas are those where telephone connections can not be provided either due to external plant constraints viz., non availability of cable pair etc. or due to non-availability of exchange capacity.

(b) Sir, no such case is pending.

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

Joint Venture with Foreign Airlines

3259. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to increase Joint Venture and code-sharing with foreign Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). With a view to increase its market presence, Air India is continuously exploring the possibility of expanding its Code-Share operations in co-operation with European, American and South East Asian Carriers. Such Code-Share/Joint Venture Arrangements are already operative with Scandivian Airline System, United Airlines, Kuwait Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, Gulf Air and Air Mauritius.

[Translation]

Exploration of Minerals in Rajasthan

3260. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) name of mines in Rajasthan where the exploration of precious minerals is being undertaken;

(b) the minerals and precious items which have been explored during each of the last three years alongwith the value thereof;

(c) whether any survey has also been conducted by the Mineral Survey Department in the State:

(d) if so, the prospects of exploration of minerals;

(e) whether any deposits of Copper has been identified near Ajmer; and

(f) if so, the time by which the exploration work is likely to be commenced thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India is carrying out/has carried out investigation/exploration for gold in Rajasthan in Pindwara-Watera area, Sirohi district, Anandpuri Bhukia area, Banswara district and Hinglaz-mata area, Ashpuri Tehsil, Dungarpur district.

(b) Geological Survey of India has carried out/is continuing surveys and exploration for base metals in —

(i) Exploration for Pb-Zn in the South Sindesar Ridge, Dariba-Bethumni belt, Rajsamand district. (ii) Investigation for base metals in Latio-ka-Khera, Jitawas block, Dariba-Bethumni belt, Rajsamand district, (iii) base-metal investigation in Kalab-Kalan-Boyo ki Nadi sector, Pali and Ajmer districts. (iv) exploration for basemetals in Rampura-Tonda-Naila-ki-Dhani area, eastern Khetri, Rajasthan and (v) Pb-Zn investigation Ghugra-Kayar area, Ajmer district; for gold the exploration work has been carried out/is continuing in (i) Pindwara-Watera area, Sirohi district. (ii) Anandpuri-Bhukia area, Banswara district and (iii) Hinglaz-mata area, Ashpur Tehsil, Dungarpur district. The potential/value of these mineral deposits can be assessed only after completion of the investigations.

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

(e) No copper deposit has been identified by GSI around Ajmer.

(f) Question does not arise.

Increase in Commercial Postage Charges

3261. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to raise the postage charges for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for increase in these charges;

(d) whether it will not affect the businessmen/entrepreneurs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Revision of postal tariff is a part of annual budgetary exercise which is done keeping in view the cost of operations and other relevant factors. However, at present there is no specific proposal to raise the postage charges except those already contained in the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

(b) to (e). Do not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

[English]

Transportation of Sugar

3262. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there are certain restrictions on the movement of levy sugar by road;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to remove these restrictions in order to make it more convenient to transport the sugar by road?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). There are no restrictions on the movement of levy sugar. There are, however, restrictions on reimbursement of transportation charges to wholesalers of levy sugar, when levy sugar is moved by road. The transportation charges allowed are reimbursed at the rate approved by the State Government limited to the rate of transportation charges approved by the Food Corporation of India, for transporting foodgrains in that State. Where the Food Corporation of India rates are not available, the State Government rates are allowed, limited to the actual railway freight. In order to bring the uniformity, transportation charges are allowed in accordance with the guidelines framed for the purpose.

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Shortage of Telephone Facilities in Madhya Pradesh

3263. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of telephone facilities in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for expansion of communication services in the above district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Department has planned to add 4376 lines of net switching capacity and provide 2625 telephone connections against waiting list of 370 in Morena District during 1996-97.

List of General Category/OBCs And SCs/STs

3264. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a complete list of general category, backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the category-wise population thereof,;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government provides rail fare, special earned leave, union rooms and telephone facility etc. to recognised unions of Government employees of general category;

(d) if so, the reasons for not providing these facilities to the unions of employees of backward classes, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there is ban on recognition of unions and associations of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribe employees; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The category-wise population is given below:

S.No.	Category	Population as per 1991 Census
1.	Scheduled Castes	13,82,23,277
2.	Scheduled Tribes	6,77,58,380
3.	General Category	Not available
4.	Backward Classes	-do-

(c) and (d). Under the CCS (RSA) Rules, 1993 "Service Association shall not be formed to represent the interests, or

on the basis of any caste, tribe or religious denomination or of any group within or section of such caste, tribe, religious denomination". Therefore any union seeking to represent Government employees of only general category or of SC/ST cannot be granted recognition and therefore, the question of giving any facilities to such an association does not arise.

(e) Under the Trade Unions Act, 1926 there is no restriction on registration of unions on the basis of caste/tribe.

(f) Does not arise.

Airport at Kota

3265. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airport at Kota lacks landing facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided?

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

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

[English]

Minority Welfare Programmes in Kerala

3266. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various Minority Welfare Programmes implemented in Kerala and its district-wise break up;

(b) whether the Union Government are monitoring the implementation of various Minority Welfare Schemes in Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total amount spent under these schemes during the current financial year in the State?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is being implemented all over the country including the State of Kerala. This programme has resulted in launching of several educational, employment promotion and economic development schemes for the overall development of minorities. They include pre-examination

coaching scheme, establishment of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation, assistance for the development of urban Wakf properties through Central Wakf Council and modernisation of Madarsa education are implemented all over the country including State of Kerala. However, the scheme of multi-sectoral development plans and Area Intensive Programme are being implemented in Malappuram, Kozhikode, Cannanore, Palghat, and Wyanad districts of Kerala.

(b) and (c). The concerned Central Ministries/Depts. are monitoring these schemes in close coordination with State/UT Governments. Pre-examination coaching scheme is being monitored through periodical reports received from the State/UT Govts. and feed back obtained from the beneficiaries. The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation monitors the schemes financed by them on the basis of utilisation of loans and recovery position furnished by the State Channelising Agencies. Multi-sectoral development plans are monitored at the District level by a Committee headed by the District Collector. Central Wakf Council is monitoring the programmes funded by them through Wakf Boards. Ministry of HRD, Deptt. of Education monitors the schemes of Modernisation of Madarsa education and Area intensive programme on the basis of quarterly reports submitted by State/UT Governments.

(d) NMDFC has so far disbursed Rs. 1.22 crore as loan amount to the SCA to Kerala during the current financial year. UGC has released Rs. 3.55 lakhs and Rs. 1.00 lakhs to the coaching institutions in Malappuram and Trichur District respectively.

Production and Import of Tin Plates

3267. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the latest Government policy in regard to the production and import of tin-plates in India;

(b) how does the imported tin-plate compare in quality with the tin-plate produced by the Indian manufacturers; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the country's requirement of tin plates is fully or mostly met by the Indian companies and that there is no outgo of foreign exchange on that account?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c). Government has adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage creation of additional steel production capacities including production of tin plate. These *inter alia* include:

(i) removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for public sector;

(ii) exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing; and

(iii) inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industries for purposes of foreign investment.

In addition to above, import duty on Tin Mill Black Plate (TMBP), raw material for tin plate production, has also been gradually reduced and kept lower than that on tin plate in order to encourage domestic production.

Against an estimated Apparent consumption of 2.10 lakh tonnes of tin plate during 1995-96, the estimated indigenous production was about 0.53 lakh tonnes, with the gap between demand and supply met through imports. As per available information, in addition to prime quality tin plates, tin plate waste and tin plate waste—waste are also being imported into the country. In order to augment domestic supply, import of tin plates is freely allowed and the import duty on tin plate was reduced from 50% to 40% in the budget of 1995-96.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange at Dibai (Khurja)

3268. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a telephone exchange has been set up at Dibai town in Khurja (U.P.);

(b) if so, the likely installed capacity thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether this telephone exchange has started functioning;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

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

(b) Installed capacity	384 lines
Expenditure	Rs. 53.34 lakh appx.

(c) Yes, Sir, it is functioning.

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

Tourism Development Schemes

3269. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism development schemes of Maru

Trikon, Hadoti and Shekhawati of Rajasthan are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the progress made so far alongwith the financial assistance proposed to be provided for these projects;

(c) whether the International Institutions have come forward for development of tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d). The Department of Tourism has recommended three projects namely, the development of Desert Triangle, infrastructure Development of Mewar Region and Shekhawati Region to the Department of Economic Affairs for external funding. However, the proposal for the development of Hadoti in Rajasthan has not been considered.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Doordarshan/Air Projects

3270. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects pertaining to Doordarshan and AIR stations taken up and completed in different States during the current Plan period;

(b) the amount estimated for those projects originally;

(c) whether estimates are subsequently revised; and

(d) if so, the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred finally on completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

3271. SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is lagging behind in use of official language Hindi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which Hindi Advisory Committee is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b). All steps are being taken to implement the provisions of Official Languages Act, 1963 and the Rules framed thereunder as well as various instructions issued by the Government from time to time.

(c) Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry was last constituted on 9.3.1995 for a period of three years. The vacancies of Members of Parliament will be filled upon receipt of nominations from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Committee of Parliament on Official Language.

Telecom Facilities in Hilly Areas of Bihar

3272. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special schemes to provide telecommunication facilities in the areas surrounded by the hilly chains;

(b) if so, the reasons for depriving the parts of Satganwan of Kodarma district and Ganwan of Giridih district of Bihar of telecommunication facilities;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide STD/ISD, facility by setting up a tower on the hill there;

(d) if so, the time by which these facilities likely to be made available; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Both the places are having Telecom facilities.

(c) (i) At present, at Satganwan STD facility is available on overhead line. There is a plan to provide it on reliable media via Satellite.

(ii) At Ganwan, STD facility has also been planned to be provided on reliable media, by setting up a tower there.

(d) and (e). These facilities are likely to be made available on reliable media during 1996-97 subject to the availability of equipments.

Speed Post Service

3273. SHRI O.P. JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated August 15, 1996 captioned, "Courier sevaon se pichadti ja rahi hai speed post";

(b) if so, whether the Speed Post Service of the Postal Department is deteriorating continuously in comparison to that of private courier services;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps for making this service more comprehensive and effective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) There is no evidence of deterioration in the Speed Post Service in comparison to that of private courier services. In fact, traffic & revenue generated from speed post has increased impressively over the years which reflects satisfaction of the customers in general.

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

(d) and (e). Government has taken a policy of consolidating the existing network of speed post instead of its unbridled expansion. A station is brought under speed post national network only when there is sufficient potential traffic to make it financially viable and when it is operationally feasible to provide a service standard compatible with speed post norms. Also, for better monitoring of the quality of service computerisation of processing has been undertaken in important cities.

[English]

Nepali Telefilm

3274. SHRI R.B. RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number and titles of Nepali tele-film scripts received during the last three years after the inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) the number of scripts approved during above period;

(c) the number and names of films completed as on date; and

(d) the amount allotted and released so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) During the last three years, only one proposal for production of a telefilm in Nepali titled "Astitwa" has been received in the Central Commission Unit of Doordarshan on 12.04.1996.

(b) None so far, Sir.

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

Sugar Mills

3275. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of sugar mills are lying closed for a long time and as a result thereof thousands of workers are facing financial problems; and

(b) if so, the reasons for their closure and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The number of sugar mills and the sugar seasons since when they have not reported the production are given below:-

Year from which production is not reported	No. of sugar mills
1967-68	1
1970-71	2
1975-76	1
1983-84	1
1984-85	2
1985-86	1
1986-87	1
1991-92	3
1993-94	6
1994-95	7
1995-96	10
Total :	35

(b) The closure of a sugar mill may be due to a variety of factors, such as inadequate cane availability, uneconomic size, old and obsolete plant and machinery, technical and managerial problems, financial constraints etc. Sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the concerned institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rate of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation scheme, subject to their fulfilling the conditions laid down.

[Translation]

Foreign visits by Minister and Officers

3276. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign visits made by the Minister as well as the officers of his Ministry to boost tourism in the country during the last two years;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on these foreign visits, year-wise; and

(c) the percentage in terms of the targets likely to be achieved as a result of these visits?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). Necessary information is given as under:-

Year	No. of foreign visits undertaken		Total estimated expenditure Rs. in lakhs
	Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism and Minister of State for Tourism	Officers	
1994-95	7	13	29.51
1995-96	4	13	16.11

Some of the above mentioned visits were to participate in specialised International travel marts/tourism faire such as World Travel Mart in London, ITB in Berlin, etc.

(c) It is not possible to allocate what percentage of the target is expected to be achieved as a result of such visits since promotion of tourism in the overseas tourist generating markets is a continuous process. While tourist promotion campaigns undertaken by the Minister and the officers create lot of positive image of the country in the overseas media and travel trade, the other factors that contribute to boost foreign tourist traffic are advertising and publicity, familiarisation tours to India by foreign travel agents, tour

operators, journalists, TV teams, holding of fairs and festivals, public relations etc.

The increase in the tourist traffic achieved during the last 2 years is as follows:-

1994-95	+1.9%
1995-96	+14.8%

Salary and other facilities to the staff of ITDC

3277. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the salary and other facilities of the staff of India Tourism Development Corporation situated at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi are less than the other staff members of this Department;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the equal pay scales and other facilities are likely to be provided to these employees?

THE MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). The cafeteria at the National Media Centre, Shastri Bhawan New Delhi has been given on contract basis to ITDC by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on a no profit and no loss basis. The contract is valid upto 23.8.1997. To operate this cafeteria, the employees were recruited by ITDC on contract basis on a consolidated salary and are being provided other facilities as per their terms of appointment.

(c) As the operations are not run on a commercial basis, the question of providing equal pay scales and other facilities to these employees does not arise.

[English]

Deletion of Scheduled Broadcasting of Election

3278. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether the election broadcast/telecast by Bhartiya Janta Party were aborted due to refusal of the Doordarshan and All India Radio because of the use of the words Vande Mataram and Jai Shri Ram during the last elections in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the rationale behind this decision; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulting officers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). No election broadcast/telecast by any political party in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh was refused because of the use of the word "Vande Mataram". The election broadcast by Bhartiya Janata Party from AIR, Jaipur did not materialise as the Election Commission of India did not permit the use of words "Jai Shri Ram" in the script submitted by BJP. Similarly, the election telecast/broadcast by BJP from Doordarshan Kendra and All India Radio, Lucknow could not take place as the script contained certain references which in the opinion of the Election Commission were not in the interest of national unity or the conduct of free and fair election. The Election Commission advised for modification/deletion of these portions before telecast/broadcast which were not accepted by the State Unit of Bhartiya Janta Party.

Anti-Social activities in Mahila Ashram, Kanpur

3279. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that Mahila Ashram, Kanpur is indulging in anti-social activities viz. inadequate food to inmates, non-payment of money of the Tailoring and Knitting works by inmates, fake and false marriages of inmates, 90% of the dowry amount is retained by Ashram Authorities, selling of babies of inmates on the pretext of adoption and selling of young girls to either old persons or Rickshaw Pullers on the name of fake marriages;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted;

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (d). The Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in Wakf Board, West Bengal

3280. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the serious irregularities and malpractices in the functioning of the Wakf Board and misappropriation of development funds for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and fraudulent transfers in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the alleged irregularities and malpractices:

(c) whether the Union Government have taken note of the report of P.K. Sengupta placed on the Table of the West Bengal Legislature;

(d) if so, the main findings of the report; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (e). The Government of West Bengal has confirmed receipt of complaints regarding the functioning of Wakf Board in West Bengal and institution of a departmental enquiry to look into them. But the report of the departmental enquiry has not been received from the Government of West Bengal although, there have been references in the Press of such report and discussion of the matter in the State Legislative Assembly. As regards misappropriation of development funds for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and fraudulent transfers in West Bengal, the Union Government has not come across any such case.

Amendment of Control of Future Trading Act

3281. SHRI SARAT PATTANYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to amend the Control Future Trading the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 (74 of 1952) and the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1952 (12 of 1950);

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

(c) the time by which these Acts likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). An Expert Committee appointed by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Kamal Nayan Kabra to review the working of the Forward Markets in India and make recommendations including Amendments to the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 (74 of 1952), in its report submitted in September, 1994 has, *inter-alia*, recommended some amendments to the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act. The Government is yet to take a view on the Committee's recommendations pertaining to the amendments to the Act.

There is no proposal at present before the Government to amend the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950. However, a three-member official committee has been constituted to review the entire Act of 1950.

Construction of Private Godowns

3282. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has got constructed private godowns for the storage of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached with the owners of such godowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Food Corporation of India had recommended disbursement of bank loans for these constructions;

(e) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(f) whether any dispute regarding disbursement of loan is pending with the court; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. In 1976, the Food Corporation of India had encouraged construction of godowns through private parties under the Agricultural Refinance Development Corporation (ARDC) scheme.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The agreement was executed with the private parties for construction of godowns under the ARDC scheme. The initial hiring period was 5 years from the date of take over of godowns by FCI at the fixed rent of 40 paise & 50 paise per sq. ft. per month in rural and urban areas respectively with the option to extend the lease for further period of 1 year at the same terms and conditions.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Under the above scheme the parties, with whom agreements were executed were required to invest at least 25% of the construction cost besides having land in their possession. The balance 75% was given to them as loan by the Commercial Banks at a concessional rate of interest of 11% per annum on the recommendation of FCI. The amount of loan paid under this scheme by the Banks was reimbursed by ARDC.

(f) and (g). The loan was not disbursed by the FCI. However there was no dispute regarding tenancy of occupation or payment of rent with any of the parties during the agreed contractual period of 5 years.

Stoppage of Entry of Foreign Print media

3283. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three national organisations of newspaper employees, the All India Newspaper Employees Federation, Federation of the PTI Employees Unions, and the UNI Employees Federation, have submitted a memorandum to

the Prime Minister on June 27, 1996 demanding the stoppage of entry of foreign media; and

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

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

(b) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

In their memorandum dated 27th June, '96, submitted to the Prime Minister, the All India Newspaper Employees Federation, Federation of the PTI Employees Unions and the UNI Employees Federation, have raised various issues, which are briefly given below:—

Points raised in the memorandum

- (i) Entry of foreign print media and need for legislation to implement recommendation of Second Press Commission.
- (ii) Curbing electronic media's unrestricted flow into India.
- (iii) Probe into clandestine tie-ups, alleged to have taken place between foreign and Indian newspapers and TV outfits.
- (iv) Curbing foreign electronic media's subversive propaganda against India's ethos.

Comments/reactions of the Government

- (i) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet Decision of 1955 which prohibits (a) publication of foreign newspapers/periodicals in the country and (b) publication of Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.
- (ii) At present, no private party is permitted to set-up radio/television transmitter in the country. Similarly, no private party is permitted uplinking facility from the Indian soil. As such, no foreign entry in the broadcasting field is allowed under the existing policy. The foreign satellite channels which are received in India are being beamed from outside the territory of India.
- (iii) In the absence of any specific complaint, no comments can be given.

- (iv) In order to meet the challenges posed by the foreign electronic media, Doordarshan is endeavouring on a continuing basis to bring about a qualitative improvement in its channels through a phased expansion of its terrestrial network, introduction of the latest state of the art equipments and by providing a wholesome fare of predominantly Indian programming at the national and regional levels so as to sustain and increase the interest of the viewers in their programmes. Similarly, all films intended for public exhibitions in India are examined and certified by the Central Board of Film Certification in accordance with the provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder.

[Translation]

Export and Import of Sugar

3284. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAJ: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of sugar exported and imported during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the countries to which the sugar was exported and from where it was imported during the above period; and

(c) the per metric tonne price of the sugar imported and exported?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The quantity of sugar exported and imported during the Financial Years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under:-

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Financial Year	Quantity exported (including Nepal)	Quantity imported
1993-94	3.32 (P)	Nil
1994-95	0.35 (P)	9.76* (P)
1995-96	4.49 (P)	1.99 (P)

* It does not include the sugar imported by Private Parties under Open General Licence (OGL) for sale in the open market.

(b) The names of the countries to which the sugar was exported and from where it was imported during the above period are given in the statement attached.

(c) Average per metric tonne prices of sugar exported and imported are as under:—

Financial Year	Price of sugar exported (in rupees PMT)	Price of sugar imported (in US \$ PMT, C & F)
1993-94	Rs. 8834.34 (P)	Nil
1994-95	Rs. 8702.86 (P)	US \$ 387.13 (P)
1995-96	Rs. 13680.32 (P)	US \$ 422.93 (P)

(P) means provisional

STATEMENT

Statement showing names of the countries to which the sugar was exported and from where it was imported during financial years 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96

Countries to which sugar was exported

Somalia, Angola, Srilanka, Kenya, Yemen, Dubai, Egypt, Bangladesh, Iraq, Slovakia, France, Russia, USA, Nepal, EEC, Indonesia, Maldives, Eritrea, Aden, Myamnar, etc.

Countries from where sugar was imported

Thailand, Netherland, U.K., Poland, France, USA, Brazil, Turkey, Belgium, Columbia, etc.

[English]

Constitution of Tribal Development Council

3285. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute another Tribal Development Council on the lines of Dhebar Commission as per Constitutional Provision in this regard to review the socio-economic condition of the tribals in the scheduled areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said council is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c). It has been decided to set up a Commission on the lines of Dhebar Commission under Article 339(1) of the Constitution. The Commission will have seven Members including the Chairman and Member Secretary. Chairman of the Commission will be from amongst the Scheduled Tribes and atleast half of the Members of the Commission would be eminent persons from amongst the Scheduled Tribes. The Headquarters of the proposed Commission will be in or around tribal area.

[Translation]

Export of Sugar

3286. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not issued adequate export quota to the sugar mills even when the remaining production of sugar in the country is more than its consumption in the country after procuring 40 per cent of the total production of sugar by the Government for Public Distribution System;

(b) whether due to this the sugar mills are facing economic crisis and are unable to make the payment to the sugarcane growers as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome this situation; and

(d) the details of the export quota released to the sugar mills for the year 1995-96; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). Beginning August, 1995, Government has so far notified a quantity of about 10 lakh tonnes of sugar out of surplus freesale sugar for commercial exports, besides a small quantity of sugar for export to EEC & USA as preferential quotas. Further exports as deemed necessary and feasible will also be allowed.

(d) A statement showing State-wise quota of sugar released for export out of 1995-96 season's production is attached.

STATEMENT

Statement showing statewise quota released to the sugar mills for the year 1995-96

(As on 21.8.1996 provisional)

Sl. State No.	Quantity Released (M/T)
(A) White Sugar	
1. Maharashtra	1,58,781.0
2. Uttar Pradesh	1,58,980.0
3. Gujarat	40,898.0
4. Bihar	7,300.0
5. Andhra Pradesh	33,600.0

Sl. State No.	Quantity Released (M/T)
6. Madhya Pradesh	9,400.0
7. Tamil Nadu	2,58,385.2
8. Karnataka	64,040.0
Grand Total : (A)	7,31,384.2
(B) Raw Sugar	
1. Maharashtra	37,400.0
2. Karnataka	14,200.0
Grand Total : (B)	51,600.00
Total: A+B	7,82,984.2

Education for Tribal Women

3287. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to launch a special programme for the education of the tribal women in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Plight of Tribal Women

3288. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has expressed concern over the plight of tribal women in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has also submitted a report to the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The Commission has not submitted any report to the Government specifically expressing concern over the plight of tribal women in the country. However, in its Annual Report 1994-95 the Commission have referred to the indivisibility and inter-related quality of human rights, particularly among the SCs and STs but no separate report has been submitted on the plight of tribal women.

(e) Does not arise.

Scheduled Tribe status to Kukis

3289. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kukis are not recognised as Scheduled Tribe in Manipur;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to confer upon them the Scheduled Tribe status in Manipur;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (e). Kuki community has not been specified as Scheduled Tribe in relation to Manipur. The proposal of the State Government of Manipur for inclusion of Kuki community in the list of Scheduled Tribes is under consideration of the Government of India in the context of comprehensive revision of lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Improvement in telephone services in West Bengal

3290. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the service problems being faced by the telephone subscribers of Dhamiakhali, Haripal and Balagarh in Hooghly district under West Bengal Telecom circle; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to improve the telephone services there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Telephone services at Dhamiakhali, Haripal and Balagarh in Hooghly district are satisfactory. All the three places have electronic exchanges with reliable S.T.D. media.

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

[Translation]

Telephone Connections

3291. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT:
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI L. RAMANA:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA:
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE:
DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI P. SHANMUGAM:
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:
VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 (till date), State-wise, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons in the waiting list upto June, 1996, State-wise, district-wise;

(c) the time by which they are likely to be provided the connections, State-wise, district-wise, year-wise;

(d) whether any special scheme has been formulated for expansion development of telephone services/telephone exchanges;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the amount allocated for the purpose during 1996-97, State-wise;

(g) whether the Government have received any complaints of irregularities while providing telephone connections; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (h). Information for paras (a) to (h) is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Expansion of postal facilities in Delhi**

3292. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices, postal clerks, postman and letter boxes in NCT of Delhi as on April 1, 1991 and April 1, 1996;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been continuous

increase in the population and various new colonies in NCT of Delhi during the recent years;

(c) when the last assessment for group C and D staff made; and

(d) the requirement of group C and D staff projected during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of Post Offices, Postal Clerks, Postmen and letter boxes in NCT of Delhi as on 1.4.1991 and 1.4.1996 is given below:

Date	No. of Post Offices	Postal Asstts.	Postmen	Letter Boxes
As on 1.4.91	542	3122	2880	2935
As on 1.4.96	553	2892	2874	3182

(c) Establishment reviews are carried out periodically as per policy guidelines. Latest such reviews have been carried out during the period from 1.4.95 to 31.7.96.

(d) The requirement of Group 'C' and 'D' staff projected during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under:—

Category	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Group 'C'	Nil	94 Postmen	Nil
Group 'D'	Nil	Nil	Nil

Rented Building

3293. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses taken on rent by the Food Corporation of India, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any letter regarding vacation of such houses after the expiry of the lease deed;

(c) if so, details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the reasons for not vacating these housing after the expiry lease deed by the Food Corporation of India; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the vacation of these houses, particularly in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) State/Union Territory-wise number of buildings/houses taken on rent by Food Corporation of India for office purposes are given below:—

Name of States/UTs	Number of Houses
Maharashtra	1
Madhya Pradesh	21
Gujarat	5
Punjab	17
Haryana	9
Himachal Pradesh	3
Uttar Pradesh	25
Rajasthan	13
J&K	3
West Bengal	26
Bihar	17
Orissa	10
Assam	13

Name of States/UTs	Number of Houses
Meghalaya	6
New Delhi	11 Buildings (82 Flats)
Tamil Nadu	12
Andhra Pradesh	22
Karnataka	7
Kerala	1

(b) and (c). During the period from 1.1.96 to 20.8.96 no request was received by the Deptt. of Food Procurement and Distribution regarding vacation of houses after the expiry of lease deed. However, a number of letters are received by the Food Corporation of India from the landlords from time to time for vacation of houses by F.C.I. FCI takes action on each letter on merit.

(d) and (e). Hiring of buildings is resorted to on need basis and these buildings are vacated after their necessity is not felt/or constructed buildings are available. The FCI has taken a conscious decision to construct its own buildings in a phased manner with a view to vacate the hired accommodations. A beginning has been made in this regard to construct Central Training Institute Complex at Gurgaon. The FCI has also invited proposals from its field formations for construction of their own office buildings.

[Translation]

Extension of TV Serials

3294. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given extensions to any of the serials telecast on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the names of serials give extension during the last three years;

(c) the guidelines fixed for granting extensions;

(d) whether these guidelines are not strictly followed; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The names of the T.V. serials granted extension during the last three years on DD-1 and DD-2 are given in attached statement.

(c) As per the guidelines, the Selection Committee while granting approval to a T.V. serial specifies the number of episodes. The number of episodes normally does not exceed 13 in case of DD-1 and 26 in case on DD-2. Extension beyond the specified number of episodes is granted by Director General, Doordarshan keeping in view the popularity of the serial, its commercial return, quality of production and the subject requirement, etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

List of serials granted extension on DD-I and DD-II

DD-I	
1. Sansar	11. Junoon
2. Ujale Ki Ore	12. Kanoon
3. Touba Meri Touba	13. Reporter
4. Tehkikat	14. Sab Ka Malik Ek Hai
5. Neem Ka Ped	15. Imtihan
6. Akbar the Great	16. Kazri
7. Alif Laila	17. Baap Se Bada Rupaiya
8. Zameen Aasman	18. Daastane Hatim Tai
9. Chandrakanta	19. Ghutan
10. Shanti	20. Women of India
DD-2	
1. Saraab	5. Bible Ki Kahaniyan
2. Jai Hanuman	6. Samrajya
3. Patjhad	7. Sahara
4. Parchhayiyan	8. Saahil

[English]

Development of Tourism

3295. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA:
SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes of the development of various tourist places in Jammu Division;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government under these schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the tourist places developed during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The development of tourism in each State is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, financial assistance is extended by the Central Department of Tourism for the implementation of tourism projects, based on specific proposals, received from them and their merits and inter-se priorities. The details of central financial assistance sanctioned, year-wise to the State of Jammu & Kashmir to develop the tourist places in Jammu Division during the last three years, i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

List of projects/schemes sanctioned in Jammu & Kashmir (Jammu Division) during the last three years i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96

Sl. No.	Name of the project/scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94		
1.	Four huts at Batot	18.00
2.	Tourist Bungalow at Bani	28.08
3.	Tourist Bungalow at Atholi	19.29
4.	Construction of five huts at Patnitop	21.96
5.	Procurement of aquatic sports equipment at Mansar Lake	3.97
6.	Procurement of aquatic equipment at Bagh-i-Bahu	2.45
7.	Four huts at Dera-ki-Gali	14.00
8.	Tourist huts at Soti Gondow Bhaleasa	6.45
9.	Aquatic sports equipment at Ujj, Bairaj	0.90

Sl. No.	Name of the project/scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95		
1.	Tourist complex at Sanasar	28.08
2.	Tourist complex at Patnitop	27.75
3.	Tourist complex at Rajouri	24.02
1995-96		
	Construction of Tourist accommodation at Katra, Mata Vaishno Devi	28.00

Sale of Wheat

3296. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India released wheat stocks in Punjab and Haryana to the foodgrain licence holders for sale in the open market/export;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that lot of corruptions have taken place in the release of these stocks;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct an enquiry into all the permits issued for release of wheat stocks;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government are considering to issue guidelines or laying down a set procedure to check corruption in his behalf in future;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether any case has been registered in Haryana and Punjab in this regard;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Foodgrains Licensing is in operation in Punjab and not in Haryana. The FCI has been selling wheat in the open market to all including foodgrain licensees.

(b) some reports have been received regarding malpractices in release of wheat from certain areas.

(c) Preliminary investigation made by the FCI Vigilance Squad had revealed that during June, 1996, 22,500 MTs. of wheat were allotted to Karnal District (Haryana) for open sale. Out of this, release orders for 14,775 MTs were issued till 6.6.1996. On 7.9.1996, 102 parties had deposited the Demand Drafts together. Investigations have revealed that the Principle of "First-come-First Served" was not followed by the officials of FCI District Office, Karnal. It was also made out that the officials had issued the release orders even in the back date to 18 parties without any specific approval of District Manager, who was, the competent authority. The Police Authorities registered a case against the erring officials. During the course of the raids at houses of some of the FCI officials, authorities seized some cash and bearer cheques. Two FCI officials were taken into custody. Five officers/officials have been placed under suspension including one category I officer. The State Govt. has handed over the case to CBI. The report from the CBI is still awaited.

In an earlier case, the State Vigilance Department raided the District Office, Rohtak (Haryana) on the basis of a complaint. During the course of this raid, currency notes were reported to have been recovered from the residence of some FCI officials. In this case four officials were placed under suspension. FIR has been registered by the Police on 31st January, 1996.

(d) and (e). The question of conducting enquiry into all the permits for release of wheat stocks in Punjab and Haryana, in general, is not considered necessary.

(f) and (g). Revised guidelines with a view to further check malpractices in open sale of wheat have been issued on 26.8.1996. They include allotment by a three member committee at the FCI Region level on proper identification of the intending purchasers. The quantity to be sold to one purchaser in a month has also been reduced.

(h) to (j). Details are given in reply to part (c) above.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills

3297. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand of sugar in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether licenses have been given to sugar mills accordingly;

(c) if so, the total number of sugar mills granted licenses during the above plan period, State/Union territory-wise;

(d) whether above sugar mills have been started production as per schedule;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The total internal consumption of sugar during the 7th Plan period from 1985-86 to 1989-90 (October-September) was 466.63 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c). 103 letters of intent were issued for the establishment of new sugar factories during the 7th Plan period (1985-90). The State-wise breakup is as under:-

S.No.	State	No. of letters of intent
1.	Tamil Nadu	12
2.	Maharashtra	36
3.	Uttar Pradesh	20
4.	Punjab	5
5.	Karnataka	5
6.	Gujarat	8
7.	Andhra Pradesh	6
8.	Orissa	5
9.	Haryana	3
10.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	1
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2
Total :		103

(d) to (f). Out of the 103 letters of intent issued for establishment of new sugar mills during the 7th Five Year Plan, 48 have been implemented upto 31.7.96. 11 letters of intent have been treated as lapsed as the entrepreneurs did not make any satisfactory progress. The remaining letters of intent are under various stages of implementation. Government is monitoring the progress of their implementation.

S.T.D. facility in Madhya Pradesh

3298. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to provide STD facility in some of the places in Madhya Pradesh during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress of the work undertaken in this regard so far; and

(d) the district headquarters in the State which have been provided/likely to be provided with STD facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. 57 places were proposed for provision of S.T.D. facility in Madhya Pradesh during 1995-96.

(c) Out of 57 places, 43 places have already been provided with S.T.D. facility. Remaining 14 places, as enclosed in *Statement* shall be provided with S.T.D. facility during 1996-97.

(d) All the 45 district headquarters in the State have already been provided with S.T.D. facility.

STATEMENT

List of pending places to be provided with S.T.D. facility during 1996-97

Sub-Divisional Headquarters

1. Mauganj
2. Sirmore

Tehsil Headquarters

1. Mihona
2. Dabhaura
3. Lormi
4. Palmgarh
5. Pandariya
6. Shahnagar
7. Bhilagarh
8. Gurh
9. Hanumanganj
10. Bharatpur
11. Lundra
12. Wadrafngar

[English]

Carrying Capacity

3299. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Civil Aviation has made it mandatory for all passenger aircraft registered in India with a carrying capacity of 30 and above to install Ground Proximity Warning System (GPWS);

(b) if so, whether 'safety audit' of the Government as well as private aircraft has been ensured; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation has issued a Civil Aviation Requirement for installation of Ground Proximity Warning System (GPWS) by 31st December, 1998 on all turbine engine aircraft with the maximum certificated take-off mass in excess of 5700 Kgs. or aircraft which are authorised to carry more than nine passengers. Further, all aircraft to be imported in India after 1st April, 1997 in the above category shall have to be fitted with GPWS.

(b) and (c). Since GPWS is required to be installed by 31st December, 1998, safety audit for the purpose of fitment of GPWS is not considered necessary at this stage. However, Safety Audits of operators and maintenance organisations are carried out in their operational, engineering and other aviation-oriented management activities. The deficiencies brought out in the safety audit reports are immediately brought to the notice of the operators for taking necessary remedial in-house measures.

Films/Serials under Commissioned Programmes

3300. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

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

(a) the names of telefilms/serials/documentaries received by the Government during 1996 under the commissioned programmes;

(b) the number of programmes approved so far, category-wise;

(c) whether letters have since been issued to the concerned producers in this regard; and

(d) if not, the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) A *Statement* indicating the names of telefilms/serials/documentaries recieved during 1996 under the Commissioned Scheme is enclosed.

(b) The following programmes have been approved:

Telefilm	:	1
Serials	:	15
Documentaries	:	7

(c) Yes, Sir.

STATEMENT

Telefilms

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Anaro Ka Dukh | 22. Aasra |
| 2. Ek Jung Ki Kahani | 23. Patwar |
| 3. Moonh Boley Rishte | 24. Nai Zindagi |
| 4. Revaa | 25. Adhurra Milan |
| 5. Devdasi | 26. Abhilasha |
| 6. Pariniati | 27. Adhikar |
| 7. Adhikar | 28. Sharat |
| 8. Parivartan | 29. Anan |
| 9. Mazboori | 30. Bharti |
| 10. Deepika | 31. Asha@@@ |
| 11. Savera | 32. Adhore Sapne |
| 12. Main Bhi Aurat Hoon | 33. Paro Ka Insaf |
| 13. Nai Disha | 34. Bhanzh Gayi |
| 14. Asha | 35. Ek Sawal |
| 15. Savera | 36. Ghar |
| 16. Andaaz | 37. Ahinsha Ke Angan Main |
| 17. Helan Keller | 38. Rishte Naate |
| 18. Sone Ki Chamak | 39. Biswas |
| 19. O Bala Katha | 40. Programme on Holi |
| 20. Ehsaas | 41. Apna Lahoo |
| 21. Prayaschit | 42. Saa-Verahey |
| | 43. Apna Apna Such |
| | 44. The Eternal Light |
| | 45. Qurbani |
| | 46. Heavenly Hope |
| | 47. Peeda Ka Anurodh |
| | 48. Biradary |
| | 49. Programme on Vishnu |
| | 50. Mamta |
| | 51. Akhri Parda |
| | 52. Samaj Manthan |
| | 53. Chakravayuh |
| | 54. Sweet Home |

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| 55. Padav Se Padav Tek | 88. Samaadhan |
| 56. Kanwar Pathopal | 89. Khauff |
| 57. Wapsi Insaniat Ke | 90. Schoukh |
| 58. Aisa Kyon | 91. Ane Te Aks |
| 59. Rama | 92. Dehshat |
| 60. Rupantar | 93. Hamara Kashmir |
| 61. Kausalya | 94. Adhure Sapane |
| 62. Do Chand | 95. Manusiya Deep Nahin |
| 63. Raat Guzar Gaye | 96. Sohagini |
| 64. Astitwa | 97. Roti |
| 65. Faisla | 98. Sunhare Log |
| 66. Gharghusra | 99. Puniavathy Venkamamba |
| 67. Manavta | 100. Nasoor |
| 68. Bula | 101. Trishkar |
| 69. Masi Buggala Pasi Moggalu | 102. Basantia |
| 70. Auorat Ho To Aysi | 103. Adhuri Tasweer |
| 71. Jyoti | 104. Pran Pratistha |
| 72. Mera Bharat Mahan | 105. Phir Nai Subah |
| 73. Bagh | 106. Majhdar |
| 74. Kastoori | 107. Prem Ke Pukar |
| 75. Souda | 108. The Two Rings of Eight |
| 76. Bandhan | 109. Alagyo Jhaa |
| 77. Sangeeta | 110. Programme on Onam |
| 78. Kathfula | 111. Ehsaas |
| 79. Challenge | 112. Benisha |
| 80. Katran | 113. Ukhde Khambe |
| 81. Pyar Ke Rishte | 114. Bharat Guest House |
| 82. Satya Ka Marg | 115. Paschatap |
| 83. Tute Rishte | 116. Vakil Saheb |
| 84. Chhitiz Ke Us Paar | 117. Patwari |
| 85. Insaniyat | 118. Man Ki Ankhey |
| 86. Saja Dard | 119. Bavajood |
| 87. Ek Naya Inclab | 120. Tesu Ke Phool |

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| 121. Chhanda Kabari | 6. Children Unshackled |
| 122. Prem | 7. The Eagles |
| 123. Onam | 8. Chetna |
| 124. Bhikhari Seth | 9. Salakhon Ke Peeche |
| 125. Mati Putra | 10. Letters from father to his daughter |
| 126. Maksad | 11. Khoya Bachpan |
| 127. Faith | 12. Doobi Doobi Dab Dab |
| 128. Toota Patta | 13. Wonder Boy |
| 129. Bandhey Hath | 14. Feast of Stories |
| 130. Arti | 15. Ghar Grishthi |
| 131. Na Jalao Ashiyana | 16. Kanya Katha |
| 132. Snak | 17. Sangini Saheli |
| 133. Mujhe Jawab Chahiya | 18. Safar Apna Apna |
| 134. Vapsi | 19. Daughters of this Country |
| 135. Khamosh Rishtey | 20. Women of North East |
| 136. Shaque | 21. Better Halves |
| 137. Ankaha Dard | 22. Prayaschit |
| 138. Woh Koun Thi | 23. Challenge |
| 139. Salam-e-Kashmir | 24. Saheli |
| 140. Punarjanam | 25. Women of India |
| 141. Hamne Khud Hi Kya | 26. Prerna |
| 142. Bitam | 27. Glorious Sunsets |
| 143. Wah Ek Pyala | 28. Rajhans |
| 144. Ahsas | 29. Taranglu |
| 145. Azadi and Pratik | 30. Jeene Bhi Do Yaron |
| 146. Sahil | 31. Aaiye Pradushan Se Bachen |
| 147. Khuda Ki Kudrat | 32. Manzil Door Nahin |

TV Serials

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|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Kavach | 33. Buniyad Ke Akshar |
| 2. Tamasha | 34. Muthi Bhar Chaon |
| 3. Tot-talk | 35. Abhimaan |
| 4. Kisse Ek Hazar | 36. Yeh Sach Hai |
| 5. Panchtantra | 37. Missing Yaame |
| | 38. Azadi Ki Aur |

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| 39. Bhikmanga | 72. Zafaran Ki Khushboo |
| 40. Kallajochi | 73. Ganga Laheri |
| 41. Naya Daur | 74. Saza |
| 42. Tabeer | 75. Kudarat Ka Tohta |
| 43. Kabhi Judha Na Hongey | 76. Dus Darwale |
| 44. Poshuni Ki Wapsi | 77. Reshei Shrines in Kashmir |
| 45. Barf Ke Aag | 78. Baharen Phir Se Ayengi |
| 46. Woh Subah Phir Aaygi | 79. Legends of Jammu and Kashmir |
| 47. Gulabo | 80. Prerna |
| 48. Daaman | 81. Chhoto |
| 49. Anjaam | 82. Koshish |
| 50. Varis | 83. Shanti Ki Ore |
| 51. Dhalte Saye | 84. Adhi Haqiqat Aadhsa Afasana |
| 52. Amar Chinar | 85. Ye Kuith Sazah |
| 53. Sangeet | 86. Raam Rahim Ke Bandey |
| 54. Amita | 87. Vardan |
| 55. Nai Subah | 88. Jannat |
| 56. Quiz on Kashmir | 89. Ye Gulistan Hamara |
| 57. Shabnam | 90. Asi Bor Vizi Vizi Lal Hayate |
| 58. Rishton Ki Pahchan | 91. Apano Se Door Apano Ke Paas |
| 59. King Badshah and Chinaroo Ke Ansoo | 92. Suno Saudameni |
| 60. The Snow Shall Melt | 93. Saza |
| 61. Chedia Ghar | 94. Lala Rukh |
| 62. Lal Ded of Kashmir | 95. Gulmohar |
| 63. Marghat Ki Atma | 96. Anhonee |
| 64. Birbal Dhar Aur Duddos Gojari | 97. Jaddo Jahad |
| 65. Shanti Ke Doot | 98. Vaikhithikullo |
| 66. Kashmir on the March | 99. Role of Armed Forces |
| 67. Aashiyana | 100. Apne Ajnabi |
| 68. Karwat | 101. Sahame Sahame Log |
| 69. Bipiner Sansaar | 102. Jaahil |
| 70. Manav Dharam | 103. Yeli Pholan Sosan |
| 71. Shri Krishnadave Rayulo | 104. Parsu Ram |

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| 105. Kharabi Mere Kashaney Ki | 138. Sarhad Paar |
| 106. Benaam Rishtey | 139. Wadi A Khushboo |
| 107. Parivaar | 140. Harmony in the Northern Region |
| 108. Janat | 141. Aatish |
| 109. Hamara Watan | 142. Wadiyan Pyar Ki |
| 110. Kachhi Sadak | 143. Aman |
| 111. Nausheen | 144. Jazbat |
| 112. Basti Yeh Chinaroon Ki | 145. Gulrez |
| 113. Muthi Main Asman | 146. Saaa Bhu Ki Khainyan |
| 114. Ab Na Banegi Dehri | 147. Sweekar |
| 115. Hifazat | 148. Sarhad Ke Us Paar |
| 116. Kashmir Hamari Jannat Hai | 149. Shabnam |
| 117. Kesar | 150. Shirphirey |
| 118. Badmas | 151. Haqeeqat |
| 119. Shervani | 152. Poshma |
| 120. Pinjar | 153. Sauhita |
| 121. Swar Ek Rang Anek | 154. Apna Apna Sukh |
| 122. Door Bohat Door | 155. Mukam |
| 123. Shar Subha | 156. Tale Khuley |
| 124. Shahar Main Karfue | 157. Angika Kabita Tujhe Pukare |
| 125. Bin Pankh Ke Panchhi | 158. Guest House |
| 126. Wapsi | 159. Kashmir A Love Story |
| 127. Kashmir Nama | 160. Jim Carbet |
| 128. Yeh Isaq Nahin Asaan | 161. Trivini |
| 129. Kashmir the Tragic Dimessions | 162. Roshni |
| 130. Talash | 163. Merey Baad |
| 131. Gulanb | 164. Sheshrang |
| 132. Kashmeeree Hasina | 165. Khudsar |
| 133. Aakrosh | 166. Fair Election - March to Democracy |
| 134. Parvarish | 167. Qurbani |
| 135. O Bala Katha | 168. Kabela |
| 136. Sisakti Wadiyan | 169. Elections - Propoganda and Reality |
| 137. Sada E Nagoja | 170. Maswal Bary Qabu |

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| 171. Mukadar | 204. Dharam Ka |
| 172. Asrafi | 205. Dard Aashna |
| 173. Khanzade | 206. Such Much |
| 174. Chokan Bullgar | 207. Dagar |
| 175. Hindustan K Chaand | 208. Ass |
| 176. Gulistan | 209. Talchhat |
| 177. Jawabi Card | 210. Behoshi Lal |
| 178. Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and Reality | 211. Pratap Rudra |
| 179. Murder Most Foul | 212. Rang Birange |
| 180. Mahanubhav | 213. Bangle Wali |
| 181. Hote Agar Syane Ye Dono Diwani | 214. Nalo Nenu |
| 182. Satya Maeva Jayete | 215. Atthagari Kathalu |
| 183. Dil Kee Ansu | 216. Yeh Sansar Hain |
| 184. Prateek | 217. Bhagwatgita |
| 185. Angar | 218. Chamchagaru |
| 186. Bikhare Moti | 219. Swikar |
| 187. Mere Apne | 220. Puthya Sarithram |
| 188. Coil of Cobra | 221. Apana Haath Jagannath |
| 189. Kapal Kundala | 222. Laqir Ke Fakir |
| 190. Mukti | 223. Nannhe Farishtey |
| 191. Mahamantrana | 224. Aandhiyan |
| 192. Janani Sharda | 225. Sukhta Hooaa Taalab |
| 193. Raj Tarang | 226. Man Changa To Kathoti Mein Ganga |
| 194. Chandarsekhar | 227. Badhte Kadam |
| 195. Agnipath | 228. Sangharsh/Ghyal |
| 196. Main Akli | 229. Chori Chori Chupke Chupke |
| 197. Sanghrash | 230. Betala Prashna |
| 198. Vaikuntha Yatra | 231. Khora Chhtr Gaya |
| 199. Health Line | 232. Patjhad Ke Phool |
| 200. Muthi Bhar Akash | 233. Tapan |
| 201. Asaas | 234. Padmavat |
| 202. Aa Lout Chalen | 235. Chilman |
| 203. Badlaav | |

236. Karamphan
 237. Shiksha
 238. Maksad
 239. Balidaan
 240. Lal Rukh
 241. Shamay E Mohabbat
 242. Chakkar Srimati Ka
 243. Folk Performing Arts
 244. Gopi Chand Ke Amar Kahaniya
 245. Ye Kaisa Sambandh
 246. Banjara
 247. Indar Jal
 248. Asa Trishni
 249. Sevara
 250. Aasa Bhi Hota Hai
 251. Lalan Mallan
 252. Duradamy
 253. Lallan Mallan
 254. Chakkar Srimati Ka
 255. Andaz Mera Mastana Sa
 256. Jagarti
 257. Aakash Darpan
 258. Shikher
 259. Jahan Koi Na Ho
 260. Sadhana
 261. Gopichand Ki Amar Kahaniya
 262. Yeh Kaisa Sambandh
 263. Asha Trishna
 264. Sanghrash
 265. Folk Performing Arts
 266. Indarjal
 267. Banjara
 268. Bavara

269. Midnight
 270. Aap Kya Karte
 271. Bahu Begum
 272. Apan Maal Paraya
 273. Rajhans
 274. Abhinetri
 275. Gardish
 276. Sorthi Brijbhar (Fantasy)
 277. Mere Kaha Man Lijye
 278. Ferrari
 279. Annt
 280. Rangbhumi
 281. Devi Choudhrani
 282. Kahan Kahan Se Gujar Gaye
 283. Jaahil
 284. Nishchay
 285. Network News
 286. Dhani Aakhar Prem Ke
 287. Sandhan
 288. Abinashi
 289. Jataka Kathas
 290. Washhat
 291. Indrajall
 292. Bala Goriya
 293. Haqeequat
 294. Bagh Ko Bahar
 295. Lal Saleeb
 296. Ek Kahawat Ek Kahani
 297. Shikayat

Documentaries

1. Mahila Samakhia
2. Silent Poison
3. Vatsalya Ki Chaon Main

4. Parenting
5. Documentary on Population
6. Eco India
7. Samritika Prathprudre
8. The Space Within
9. Doc. on Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao
10. Gandhi and Labour Movement
11. Kala Darpan
12. Tribal Women
13. Quickies Movements
14. Jungle Main More Nacha
15. Literacy Treasure of India
16. Laut Ke Aana
17. Merabai
18. The Alphbeat and Success
19. Western Orissa
20. Doc. on PM
21. Rajiv Gandhi
22. Series of Social Evils
23. Chandrasekhar Azad
24. Maharaja Ranjit Singh
25. Tribal of North East
26. Citizen
27. Purvanchal
28. Raja Sahib
29. Festival of Nagas
30. Ramanujacharya
31. Beyond Monkies
32. Film Assamese
33. Jawalamukhi
34. Devaraya
35. Indian Handicrafts
36. Drum Beatees of Kamrup
37. Hote Agar Sayane Yeh Dono Devane
38. Shribhavan Se Astiva Bodh
39. Arjun
40. Muslim Mappri Art in Kerala
41. Kartavya
42. Mahim Jungle Biradai
43. Nirakhonar
44. Raga Bharatha
45. Scholar PM
46. Freedom Struggle
47. Palki
48. Mitrushya Enakshyush
49. North East India
50. North East
51. Jadugaar
52. Sangeet Ke Jadugaar
53. Colour of Rainbow
54. Culture of Lakeshadweep
55. Rang Bharti
56. Badalta Bharat
57. Culture Heritage of India
58. Kartoos
59. Consumer Awareness
60. Glory of Indian Sary
61. Punjabi Rangmandal Main Delhi Ka Yogdaan
62. White Bird
63. Socio-political turmoil of Tribals
64. Alber Tree Farming in Nagaland
65. Traditional Classic & Folk Music
66. Select Tourist Resorts
67. Gandhian Institutions
68. Surbhi Seven Sisters
69. Docu. Series in Malayalam

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|--|---|
| 70. Where to go | 103. Heritage that lives on |
| 71. Horidoi | 104. Solace of Eves |
| 72. Bhim Boi | 105. Indian Agro Exports |
| 73. Documentary on North East | 106. Yugpravartak |
| 74. Ratthathil Potthamalar | 107. Missing Yaameng |
| 75. Waiting for a Bite | 108. Anant Yatra |
| 76. Abode of the Clouds | 109. Puran Bhagat |
| 77. Creation of Indian Constitution | 110. Shamaye Mobhat |
| 78. Documentary on Anand | 111. Prime Minister (H.E. Deve Gowda) |
| 79. Aarthandaly | 112. Vishu Katha |
| 80. Disaster to Hope | 113. Woh Kaon Hai |
| 81. Tribal Art Feature and Culture | 114. Ne (Mizrom and Manipur) |
| 82. National Film Archive of India | 115. Documentary on Assam |
| 83. A Day of Life of Austakhi Mad | 116. Programme on North East |
| 84. International Monuments | 117. Asia Defence |
| 85. Tourism in Sikkim | 118. Series on Different Subjects |
| 86. The Written World | 119. Seven North Eastern States |
| 87. Pada Pradeep | 120. Mahatama |
| 88. Indies on the March | 121. Cyclone and Floods |
| 89. Namaskar Kalakar | 122. Series on Socially Relevant Subjects |
| 90. Cov. of 1000 Years Celebration Art Tobo Monastay | 123. Power Senario in India |
| 91. Panch Kedar | 124. Cultural Heritage and Environment |
| 92. Dressing to Kill | 125. Ramanujam |
| 93. Tibet Today | 126. Tribals Fairs and Festivals |
| 94. The Disappearing Culture Social | 127. Thiru-Nel-Velu |
| 95. Khawaja Hazarat Banda Nawaz | 128. Life Begins After 80 |
| 96. Topic of Advance need of Technology | 129. India |
| 97. Odissi Chandrika | 130. Kundalpur |
| 98. The Tea Industry of Assam | 131. Onam Festival |
| 99. Mahayogi Pranvananda | 132. The Indians |
| 100. Mountain Resort | 133. Padmanabhav |
| 101. Film on Amarnath Yatra | 134. Series on Different Issues |
| 102. Maha Manaeeesh | 135. The Nagas |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 136. Consumer Awareness | 168. Srinagar and Tourist Place of J&K |
| 137. North Eastern States | 169. Change of Balance in Kashmir |
| 138. Martyrs of Assam | 170. Kashmir Muslim Migrant and their Welfare |
| 139. Guru Harikishan Sahibji | 171. Kashmir at the United Nations |
| 140. Meenar Rosi Ke | 172. Aman |
| 141. Panch Kedar | 173. Mitti Ke Khushboo |
| 142. Eco India | 174. On Yateen Trust |
| 143. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar | 175. Kashmir Gulaha |
| 144. Onam | 176. On J&K State |
| 145. Telugu Ganga | 177. Kashmir A Yellow Lens |
| 146. Chircesmarane | 178. Kal Aaj Aur Kal |
| 147. Films Making is an art | 179. Kashmir Fight for the Ballet |
| 148. Transport Insoglio in Delhi | 180. Peace Returning in the Paradise |

[Translation]

Consumer goods on subsidised rates

150. Aruna Asaf Ali
151. The River of the Gods
152. Institute of High Tibet Studies
153. Konda Sooridu
154. Chitrakala Darpan
155. Environment and Aquaculture Heritage
156. Earthquake
157. Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
158. Lesser Known Places of Tourist Interest
159. Inderpuri Se Nai Delhi Tak
160. Mera Jibana Mir Moshareeq Hussain
161. Chitai Almira
162. The Wonder World of Mushrooms
163. Kanwaria Sravan Mela of Baidyanath Dham
164. Bundelkhand Tarik Ke Aaine Main
165. Leh and Ladakh
166. Centrally Sponsored Scheme in Jammu & Kashmir
167. Kashmir

3301. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have identified tribal areas in some States for providing consumer goods on subsidised rates under the Public Distribution System;

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

(c) the details of the proposed subsidy likely to be granted to those States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Union Government have identified Tribal Areas in different States as per the Information given in attached *Statement* for providing foodgrains at concessional rates under Revamped Public Distribution System announced by Prime Minister on 1.1.1992.

(c) Under the Revamped Public Distribution Scheme Central Government supplies foodgrains to States/UTs at subsidised rates of Rs. 50/- per quintal less than central issue prices and the States are directed to issue the same to the family card holders at 0.25 Kg less than the C.I. prices.

STATEMENT

Statewise No. of blocks indentified under Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) for Revamped Public Distribution System

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Blocks
1.	A.P.	51
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	48
3.	Assam	69
4.	Bihar	112
5.	Goa	-
6.	Gujarat	50
7.	Haryana	-
8.	H.P.	7
9.	J & K	-
10.	Karnataka	23
11.	Kerala	21
12.	M.P.	220
13.	Maharashtra	68
14.	Manipur	22
15.	Meghalaya	30
16.	Mizoram	20
17.	Nagaland	28
18.	Orissa	118
19.	Punjab	-
20.	Rajasthan	23
21.	Sikkim	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	9
23.	Tripura	18
24.	U.P.	4
25.	W.B.	9
26.	A&N Islands	2

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Blocks
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	D & N Haveli	1
29.	D & Diu	1
30.	Delhi	-
31.	Lakshadweep	5
32.	Pondicherry	-
Total :		1073

In Sikkim, districts have been taken as block equivalent, partially covered under ITDP.

[English]

Consortium on Cellular Telephone Service

3302. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consortium has been set up on Cellular Phone consisting of 9 Cellular Telephone Service providers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the investment likely to be made by them;

(c) if so, whether they will provide the facilities all over India or restrict themselves to the four metro cities only;

(d) whether the R.B.I. has accorded the approval; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). The Cellular licensees have not taken the permission of Govt. to set up any consortium. However, some newspaper reports have appeared regarding which the details have been asked from the Cellular operators providing the service in four metro cities.

Development of wakf properties

3303. SHRI K.S. RAYADU : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grants-in-aid are being given from the Central Wakf Board of develop Wakf properties in the States;

(b) the maximum limit of such grants-in-aid;

(c) whether it is necessary for the State Governments to send proposals for getting such grants-in-aid; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Central Wakf Council (not the Central Wakf Board) gives loan assistance (not grants-in-aid) to Wakf Boards/Wakf Institutions to enable them to develop urban Wakf properties in the States. The loan assistance is given by the Central Wakf Council from out of an annual grant-in-aid given by the Central Government to the Central Wakf Council under the non-plan Scheme of Development of Urban Wakf Properties.

(b) There is no maximum limit of loan assistance prescribed as such. However, the amount of loan by the Council is restricted to 75% of the estimated cost of the project, excluding the value of the land, and subject to maximum of Rs. 10 lakhs in each case in any one year. In special circumstances, loan in excess of 75% of the estimated cost of the project may also be granted.

(c) The proposals for getting loan assistance from the Central Wakf Council under the said scheme are not received from the State Governments but from the concerned State Wakf Boards. Who receive them from Wakf Institutions. However, the State Wakf Boards obtain permission from the State Government concerned in respect of each such proposal to borrow from Central Wakf Council before forwarding the proposal to the Council.

(d) Does not arise.

Telecom Centres in the Country

3304 SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telecom centres working in the country, State/Union Territory-wise, district-wise and particularly in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more telecom centres in the country during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

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

(d) whether the Government have issued any instructions for round the clock functioning of these centres;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is given in the attached *Statement*.

(b) No, Sir, there is no proposal at present to set up more Telecom Centres in the country during 1996-97 & 1997-98.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir. No such instructions have been issued.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Telecom Centres are located in small towns and they work for limited hours.

STATEMENT

Information concerning number of Telecom Centres in the Country—State/Union Territory wise, District-wise:

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Adilabad	5
		2. Anantapur	10
		3. Chittoor	9
		4. Cuddapah	9

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres
		5. East Godavari	23
		6. Guntur	10
		7. Hyderabad	6
		8. Ranga Reddy	3
		9. Karimnagar	9
		10. Khammam	6
		11. Kurnool	16
		12. Krishna	10
		13. Mahaboobnagar	8
		14. Medak	7
		15. Nalgonda	5
		16. Nellore	8
		17. Nizamabad	3
		18. Prakasam	3
		19. Srikakulam	11
		20. Visakhapatnam	12
		21. Vizianagaram	5
		22. Warangal	7
		23. West Godavari	6
		Total :	191
2.	Assam	1. Dibrugarh	1
		2. Kamrup	7
		3. Karimganj	1
		4. Dhubri	1
		5. Hailakandi	Nil
		6. Karbi Anglong	Nil
		7. Sibsagar	Nil
		8. North Lakhimpur	Nil
		9. Sonitpur	Nil
		10. Barpeta	Nil
		11. Kokrajhar	Nil
		12. Morigaon	Nil
		13. Tinsukia	1

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres
		14. Cachar	1
		15. Nalbari	1
		16. Bongaigaon	1
		17. N.C. Hills	Nil
		18. Golaghat	Nil
		19. Jorhat	Nil
		20. Dhemaji	Nil
		21. Darrang	Nil
		22. Goalpara	Nil
		23. Nagaon	Nil
		Total :	<u>14</u>
3.	Bihar	1. Jamshedpur	3
		2. Ranchi	4
		3. Dhanbad	3
		4. Bokaro	2
		5. Gaya	1
		6. Bhojpur	1
		7. Kaimpur	1
		8. Nalanda	3
		9. Bhagalpur	1
		10. Lakhisarai	1
		11. Sheikh-Pura	1
		12. Begusarai	3
		13. Dumka	1
		14. Purnia	3
		15. Saharsa	2
		16. Samastipur	1
		17. Katihar	2
		18. Darbhanga	1
		19. Muzaffarpur	3
		20. Vaishali	1
		21. Saran	4
		22. Patna	6
		23. Siwan	2
		Total :	<u>50</u>

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres
4.	Punjab	1. Bhatinda	1
		2. Ferozpur	2
		3. Hoshiarpur	2
		4. Ludhiana	3
		5. Nawanshahar	1
		6. Patiala	1
		7. Ropar	1
		8. Sangrur	3
		Total :	14
	Chandigarh (U.T.)	-	+4
	Grand Total	18	
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1. Kangra	3
		2. Hmirpur	1
		3. Kullu	1
		4. Solan	2
		5. Sirmour	1
	Total :	8	
6.	Gujarat	1. Ahmedabad	3
		2. Kheda	3
		3. Panchmahal	1
		4. Valsad	1
		5. Bahruch	3
	Total :	11	
7.	Karnataka	1. Bangalore	2
		2. Belgaum	8
		3. Dharwad	7
		4. Mysore	1
		5. Dakshina Kannada	1
		6. Raichur	1
		7. Gulbarga	1
		8. Bellary	1
	Total :	22	

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres
8.	Kerala	1. Alappuzha	5
		2. Ernakulam	16
		3. Idukki	1
		4. Kannur	3
		5. kassragod	1
		6. Kollam	11
		7. Kottayam	8
		8. Kozhikode	5
		9. Malappuram	3
		10. Palakkad	5
		11. Pathanamthitta	9
		12. Thituvananthapuram	15
		13. Thrissur	5
		14. Wynad	1
		15. Lakshadweep (U.T.)	5
Total :			93
9.	Haryana	There is no Telecom Centre working in Haryana	
10.	Maharashtra	1. Akola	1
		2. Ahmednagar	3
		3. Amravati	1
		4. Mumbai	8
		5. Nagpur	10
		6. Osmanabad	1
		7. Pune	3
		8. Raigad	2
		9. Solapur	2
		10. Thane	2
Total :			33
11.	Orissa	1. Balasore	1
		2. Bhadrak	1
		3. Bolangir	2
		4. Berhampur (GM)	2

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres
		5. Cuttack	2
		6. Dhenkanal	1
		7. Kalahandi	1
		8. Keonjhar	1
		9. Koraput	4
		10. Mayurbhanj	2
		11. Puri	3
		12. Rayagada	2
		13. Jharsuguda	1
		14. Sambalpur	1
		15. Sundargarh	3
		Total :	27
12.	Delhi	1. Delhi	23
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	1. Srinagar	4
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Itanagar	2
15.	Meghalaya	1. Shillong	2
16.	Mizoram	1. Aizwal	1
17.	Tripura	1. Agartala	3
18.	Manipur	1. Imphal	2
19.	Nagaland	1. Kohima	4
20.	Goa	There is no Telcom Centre in Goa	
21.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Balaghat	-
		2. Bastar	-
		3. Betul	2
		4. Bhind	2
		5. Bhopal	14
		6. Bilaspur	2
		7. Chattarpur	1
		8. Chhindwara	1
		9. Dhar	4
		10. Dewas	4
		11. Damoh	1

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres
12.		Durg	5
13.		Datia	-
14.		Guna	-
15.		Gwalior	4
16.		Hoshangabad	6
17.		Indore	5
18.		Jabalpur	11
19.		Jhabua	2
20.		Khandwa	3
21.		Khargone	7
22.		Mandla	-
23.		Mandsaur	5
24.		Morena	1
25.		Narsinghpur	-
26.		Panna	-
27.		Raigarh	-
28.		Raipur	4
29.		Raisen	1
30.		Rajgarh	2
31.		Rajnandgaon	1
32.		Ratlam	2
33.		Rewa	1
34.		Sagar	3
35.		Sarguja	-
36.		Satna	1
37.		Sehore	-
38.		Seoni	-
39.		Shadol	-
40.		Shajapur	1
41.		Shivpuri	-
42.		Sidhi	-
43.		Tikamgarh	-
44.		Ujjain	8
45.		Vidisha	2
Total :			107

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres
22.	Rajasthan	1. Ajmer	6
		2. Alwar	2
		3. Banswara	-
		4. Barmer	-
		5. Bharatpur	1
		6. Bhilwara	2
		7. Bikaner	2
		8. Bundi	-
		9. Chittorgarh	-
		10. Churu	-
		11. Dholpur	1
		12. Dungarpur	-
		13. Sriganganagar	1
		14. Hanumangarh	1
		15. Jaipur	1
		16. Dausa	8
		17. Jaisalmer	-
		18. Jalore	-
		19. Jhalawar	1
		20. Jhunjhunu	1
		21. Jodhpur	3
		22. Kota	3
		23. Baran	3
		24. Nagaur	-
		25. Pali	-
		26. Sawaimadhopur	2
		27. Sikar	3
		28. Sirohi	1
		29. Tonk	1
		30. Udaipur	1
		31. Rajsamand	2
Total :			46

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres	
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Allahabad	15	
		2. Azamgarh	4	
		3. Ballia	3	
		4. Basti	2	
		5. Manda	2	
		6. Bahraich	-	
		7. Barabanki	4	
		8. Deoria	2	
		9. Etawah	5	
		10. Faizabad	8	
		11. Farrukhabad	3	
		12. Fatehpur	2	
		13. Gorakhpur	8	
		14. Gonda	4	
		15. Ghazipur	2	
		16. Hardoi	-	
		17. Hamirpur	-	
		18. Jaunpur	2	
		19. Jhansi	6	
		20. & 21.	Kanpur & Kanpur Dehat	5
		22.	Lucknow	11
		23.	Lakhimpur Kheri	-
		24.	Lalitpur	-
		25.	Mainpuri	1
		26.	Mau	2
		27.	Mirzapur	2
		28.	Maharajganj	-
		29.	Pratapgarh	5
		30.	Raibareli	2
		31.	Sultanpur	7
		32.	Sitapur	2
		33.	Siddharthanagar	-
		34.	Shahjahanpur	1

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres
		35. Sonbhadra	2
		36. Unnao	2
		37. Padrauna	-
		38. Varanasi	5
		39. Bhadohi	-
		40. Jalaun	1
		41. Mahoba	1
		42. Ambedkarnagar	1
		43. Agra	16
		44. Ferozabad	2
		45. Ghaziabad	10
		46. Bulandshaher	-
		47. Dehradun	7
		48. Bareilly	11
		49. Saharanpur	5
		50. Haridwar	1
		51. Muzaffarnagar	4
		52. Meerut	5
		53. Nainital	5
		54. Udham S. Nagar	2
		55. Aligarh	4
		56. Moradabad	5
		57. Almora	2
		58. Pithoragarh	-
		59. Uttarkashi	1
		60. Pauri S. Gwl.	1
		61. Tehri	1
		62. Gopeshwar	1
		63. Chamoli	3
		64. Mathura	9
		65. Etah	1
		66. Bijnore	1
		67. Rampur	-
		68. Pilibhit	1
		69. Budaun	1
		Total :	<u>221</u>
24.	Tamil Nadu	1. Madras	22
		2. Madurai	9
		3. Coimbatore	6

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Name of District	No. of Telecom Centres
		4. Tiruchirapalli	17
		5. Salem	2
		6. Erode	2
		7. V.O. Chidambaraner	4
		8. Dharmapuri	1
		9. South Arcot Vallalar	2
		10. Ramanathapuram	4
		11. Thanjavur	6
		12. Tirunelveli Kattambomman	7
		13. Kanyakumari	2
		14. Changaleput MGR	2
		15. North Arcot Ambedkar	2
		16. Villupuram Ramasamy Padayachi	4
		17. Kamarajar	1
		18. Pariyar	3
		19. Pudukkottai	2
		20. Perambalur Thiruvalluvar	1
			99
	U.T. of Pondicheri		1
		Total :	100
25.	Sikkim	There is no Telecom Centre in Sikkim	
26.	West Bengal	1. Calcutta	4
		2. Howrah	3
		3. Hooghly	3
		4. 24 Parganas (South)	1
		5. Burdwan	2
		6. Midnapore	1
		7. Murshidabad	1
		8. Darjeeling	2
		9. Bankura	1
		10. Coochbehar	1
		Total :	19

Private Airlines

3305. SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of goods and the passengers transported by private Airlines during the last two years; and

(b) the effect of these airlines on the business of Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Details of passengers and cargo carried by private airlines during the last two years are as follows :-

Year	Passenger carried (in lakh)	Goods carried (in tons)
1994	36.10	11,424
1995	48.93	89,359

Market share of Indian Airlines has gone down accordingly.

[Translation]

Destruction of wheat

3306. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of tonnes of wheat gets destroyed at the stations for want of maintenance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the length of shed at Kodarma station is less and thousands of tonnes of wheat is kept in the open due to which the wheat gets destroyed; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken to save the wheat?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, adequate precautions are taken at the time of loading and unloading of rakes to avoid loss of foodgrains.

(c) and (d). The Kodarma goodshed can accommodate only 40 four-wheel wagons including 10 wagons under covered shed and 30 under open platform. For this reason rakes are sent to Kodarma combined with Hazaribagh Road

railway station. Some wagons have to be unloaded on open platform. However, after unloading bags are transported to FCI godowns to minimise pilferage and loss.

[English]

Transportation of Flowers

3307. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lack of facilities has been a hurdle in transporting flowers to the export markets especially European countries;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to introduce additional air services for the benefit of floriculture export business which is flourishing in and around Bangalore; and

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. Cold storage facilities and plug in facility for refrigerated vans are available at International airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta & Madras airports and these facilities are being further augmented.

(b) and (c). For carriage of cargo including perishable goods like flowers, 'open sky policy' is in operation, under which airlines are free to operate flights from any airport.

Telephone facility in Barabanki

3308. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Uttar Pradesh and Barabanki district in particular which are yet to be provided telephone facilities;

(b) by when these villages are likely to be provided telephone facilities;

(c) the target to provide telephones to Panchayats and Panchayats in Barabanki in particular during Eighth Plan;

(d) the number of Panchayats in each district and Barabanki in particular provided telephones;

(e) by when the remaining Panchayats are likely to be provided;

(f) whether the telephones in each district and Barabanki in particular are not working properly;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the number of telephone exchanges in each district

and Barabanki in particular have been connected with STD with rest of the districts in the State; and

(j) if not, by when these districts and Barabanki in particular are likely to be linked with the remaining districts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As on 31-3-96 the numbers of villages in Uttar Pradesh and Barabanki district which are yet to be provided with public telephone facility are 84919 and 1573 respectively.

(b) These villages are likely to be provided with public telephone facility by the year 2000.

(c) No separate targets have been fixed for providing telephone facility to Panchayats but during Eighth Five Year Plan about 25000 Panchayats of Uttar Pradesh 200 Panchayats of Barabanki district in particular are likely to be provided with such facility.

(d) The district-wise details of number of Panchayats including Barabanki district in particular which have been provided public telephone facility are given in the attached *Statement*.

(e) The remaining Panchayats are likely to be provided with telephone facility by the year 1999.

(f) and (g). The public telephones are working satisfactorily. Faults are attended on receipt of reports of malfunctioning.

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

(i) Yes, Sir.

(j) Not applicable in view of reply to part (i) above.

STATEMENT

District-wise details of Panchayats of Uttar Pradesh including Barabanki District which have been provided with Public Telephone Facility upto 31-7-1996

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Panchayats having public telephone facility
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	853
2.	Azamgarh	581
3.	Ballia	571

1	2	3
4.	Basti	376
5.	Banda	385
6.	Bahraich	426
7.	Barabanki	477
8.	Deoria	} 449
9.	Padrauna	
10.	Etawah	480
11.	Faizabad	} 567
12.	Ambedkarnagar	
13.	Farrukhabad	504
14.	Fatehpur	239
15.	Gorakhpur	311
16.	Gonda	557
17.	Ghazipur	336
18.	Hardoi	291
19.	Hamirpur	} 272
20.	Mahoba	
21.	Jaunpur	592
22.	Jhansi	326
23.	Jalaun	268
24.	Kanpur	157
25.	Kanpur Dehat	532
26.	Lucknow	592
27.	Lakhimpur	439
28.	Lalitpur	139
29.	Mainpuri	278
30.	Mirzapur	298
31.	Mau	482
32.	Maharajganj	217
33.	Pratapgarh	243
34.	Raebareili	399
35.	Sultanpur	639
36.	Sitapur	449
37.	Shahjahanpur	335

1	2	3
38.	Sidharth Nagar	209
39.	Sonebhadra	183
40.	Unnao	610
41.	Varanasi	834
42.	Bhadohi	
43.	Ferozabad	24
44.	Agra	404
45.	Firozabad	98
46.	Saharanpur	363
47.	Hardwar	175
48.	Mathura	301
49.	Etah	381
50.	Almora	318
51.	Pithoragarh	331
52.	Rampur	80
53.	Pilibhit	27
54.	Badaun	350
55.	Ghaziabad	540
56.	Bulandshahar	
57.	Pauri	196
58.	Uttarkashi	45
59.	Tehri	100
60.	Chamoli	152
61.	Bijnaur	368
62.	Moradabad	468
63.	Bareilly	204
64.	Dehradun	187
65.	Muzaffarnagar	538
66.	Nainital	407
67.	Meerut	798
68.	Aligarh	448
Total :		23199

[Translation]

Sugar Mills

3309. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills working in the country, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the quantity of sugar produced by each of them and the percentage of recovery made from these mills during the last three years upto June, 1996, year-wise;

(c) the details of the sugarcane dues of farmers to be paid by each of these mills during above period; and

(d) the total liability of each sugar mill in this regard up till now?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) A statement giving Statewise number of sugar factories which have gone into production upto 31-7-1996 during the current season, 1995-96 is given in attached *Statement*.

(b) to (d). After due scrutiny of the voluminous information the same will be furnished.

STATEMENT

Statement showing Statewise number of sugar mills which have gone into production during 1995-96 (As on 31.7.1996) as per reports available

Sl. No.	States	Number of Sugar Mills
1.	Punjab	21
2.	Haryana	12
3.	Rajasthan	3
4.	Uttar Pradesh	116
5.	Madhya Pradesh	8
6.	Gujarat	16
7.	Maharashtra	108
8.	Bihar	19
9.	Assam	2
10.	Orissa	7
11.	West Bengal	2
12.	Nagaland	1
13.	Andhra Pradesh	33
14.	Karnataka	29

Sl. No.	States	Number of Sugar Mills
15.	Tamil Nadu	34
16.	Pondicherry	2
17.	Kerala	1
18.	Goa	1
All India :		415

[English]

Time limit for transfer of Telephones

3310. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have instructed to transfer the phone connection within seven days in the same exchange and within fifteen days in case of interexchange transfers;

(b) whether the instruction also applies in case of transfer to telephones to the exchange in the adjoining cities of Delhi such as Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh and Faridabad, etc;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal under consideration of such transfer in short time in near future; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

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

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. However, in case of Inter-city shifts, the target is 30 days which will be applicable to adjoining cities of Delhi like Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh and Faridabad etc.

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

Pensionary benefits to AIR staff

3311. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Artists of the All India Radio who retired before March 6, 1982 have denied the pensionary benefits; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The Scheme for treating Artists/Staff Artists of All India Radio and Doordarshan as Government servants came into effect on 6th March, 1982. The issue of extending pensionary benefits prior to this cut off date was considered, but was not found feasible by the High Power Committee set up for this purpose.

Regular programme on low power TV Centres

3312. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide full time regular programmes on the Low Power TV Transmission Centres in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Consumption of Foodgrains

3313. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of foodgrains in the country at present, grain-wise;

(b) the total consumption of foodgrains during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; grain-wise;

(c) the total requirement of foodgrains during 1996 and 1997, State/U.T.-wise; grain-wise; and

(d) the time for which the above stock is sufficient to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) It is difficult to precisely estimate the stock of foodgrains in the country including that with the farmers/traders. However, the total stock of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, as on 1st August, 1996, was of the order of 25.3 million tonnes.

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

[English]

IIS in Doordarshan/AIR

3314. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the cadre strength of Indian Information Service Group 'A';

(b) the role of Indian Information Service Officers in Doordarshan and AIR;

(c) the manner in which they are appointed;

(d) whether the Government propose to improve their service conditions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The total sanctioned strength in various grades of Indian Information Service, Group, 'A' is 493.

(b) and (c). The recruitment to various posts is made in accordance with the provisions of notified IIS, Group 'A' Recruitment Rules. The Indian Information Service Officers in All India Radio and Doordarshan function in identified cadre posts which include Director General (News)/Addl. Director General (News)/Joint Director/Sr. Correspondent/News Editor/Talk Officer/Copy Tester and Asstt. News Editors in the News Services Division of the All Radio and Head News/Joint Director/News Editor and Asstt. News Editors in the News Service of Doordarshan. They are responsible for collection, processing and dissemination of national and international news.

(d) and (e). The service conditions of IIS, Group 'A' are at par with other Central Government employees and are reviewed from time to time by expert bodies like Central Pay Commission Cadre Review Committee etc.

Exploration of Tungston

3315. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the sites where the exploration of Tungston is being done in Nagpur district of Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the exploration of Tungston made during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to assign the task of exploration of Tungston to multinationals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also propose to set up mills for purification of Tungston; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) carried out exploration for tungston in the following areas in Nagpur district:

(i) Kuhi-Khobna with 2.3 m. tonnes equivalent to 7373 tonnes of 65% WO₃;

(ii) Kolari-Bhaori areas with 8.68 million tonnes equivalent to 25220 tonnes of 65% WO₃;

(iii) In Khobna area 2.46 million tonnes equivalent to 12,600 tonnes of 65% WO₃;

(b) Investigation for tungston were undertaken in the following areas during the last 3 years:

1993-94

(i) In Dumaria-Junwan-Sajbahar-Somdema area in Raigarh district of Madhya Pradesh;

(ii) In Pardi-Dahegaon-Pipdagaon area in Bhandara district, Maharashtra;

(iii) In Mandi, Chamba and Kinnam districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(iv) In Jamotra and Bikinda areas, Kathua district, Jammu and Kashmir;

(v) In Tosham Hills, Bhiwani District, Haryana.

1994-95

(i) In Nigma, Khanak, Kharkhari and Devrola areas in Bhiwani district, Haryana;

(ii) Mandi, Chamba and Kinnam districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(iii) In Ramgiri in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh.

1995-96

(i) In Skarns of Chor granite in Sirmur and Simla districts and in eastern part of Jeori-Wangtn granitoids in Kinnam district;

(ii) In Kharpatiya Khal Granite, Chamoli district.

(c) and (d). Under the liberalised mineral policy, tungston has been removed from the list of minerals reserved for exploitation in the public sector.

(e) and (f). Chemical investigations for tungston are being undertaken in various laboratories for determining future exploitation.

Non-functioning of Gram Panchayat Telephones in Gujarat

3316. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints of non-functioning of telephones provided to Gram Panchayats in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the district-wise number of Gram Panchayats provided with telephones and the number out of these are in order/out of order;

(d) the time by which these telephones are likely to be made functional and whether any specific instructions have

been issued or proposed to be issued to the Department for improvement in telephone services to the Gram Panchayats in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). As per Statement attached.

(d) and (e). Efforts are being made to make faulty telephones functional at the earliest. Instructions have been issued to the field Units for taking the following remedial measures:

- (i) to enter into Annual maintenance contract with the manufacturers of the equipments.
- (ii) to train their staff.
- (iii) to periodically check system parameters and to follow prescribed fault reporting procedures.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of G.Ps. with PTs as on 30.6.96	No. of working VPTs in order as on 30.6.96	Total No. of faulty PTs as on 30.6.96
1.	Ahmedabad	614	652	32
2.	Gandhi Nagar	70		
3.	Amreli	519	374	145
4.	Banaskantha	741	731	10
5.	Bharuch	668	601	67
6.	Bhavnagar	717	596	121
7.	Jamnagar	588	504	84
8.	Junagadh	781	637	144
9.	Kheda	899	839	60
10.	Kutch (Bhuj)	519	498	21
11.	Mehsana	994	994	00
12.	Panchmahal	773	663	110
13.	Rajkot	771	643	128
14.	Sabarkantha	670	650	20

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of G.Ps. with PTs as on 30.6.96	No. of working VPTs in order as on 30.6.96	Total No. of faulty PTs as on 30.6.96
15.	Surendranagar	619	606	13
16.	Surat	684	578	106
17.	Vadodara	719	552	167
18.	Valsad	569	541	80
19.	Dang	52		
20.	Union Territories	19	19	-
		11986	10678	1308

Drug abuse

3317. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Statesman" dated June 27, 1996 captioned "Drug abuse cases on the rise in India";

(b) if so, whether the cases of drug abuse are increasing in the country and various authorities have failed to check the drug abuse; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In the absence of any nation wide survey with regard to the extent of the drug abuse problem in the country, it is not possible to say that drug abuse is increasing. However, different studies undertaken indicate an increasing trend in drug abuse.

In order to counteract the increasing demand for dependence producing drugs, the Ministry of Welfare is implementing since 1985-86, a comprehensive Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention. Under this Scheme the Ministry is giving financial assistance to voluntary organisations for setting up of Drug Awareness Counselling Assistance Centres and Drug De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, Organising De-addiction Camps and for Awareness Generation Programmes.

As a result of this Ministry's efforts, the number of Centres have increased from 7 in 1985-86 to 363 at present, of which

130 Centres and De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres and 233 are Counselling Centres.

The Ministry will continue to work for drug demand reduction programmes with greater emphasis on awareness generation, preventive education as well as rehabilitation and social re-integration of the drug addicts.

Use of Coconut Oil

3318. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any steps to popularise the use of coconut oil in other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Central Government has requested all State Governments/UT Administrations to consider the possibility of procurement and supply of adequate quantity of coconut oil to consumers through fair price shops/cooperative outlets so as to popularise the use of coconut oil as a cooking medium.

(c) The response received from States/UTs so far indicates that the matter is receiving attention. Some States have expressed the view that distribution of coconut oil would not be feasible because of consumer preference to local edible oils as also higher cost taking into account transportation over long distances.

[Translation]

Pay scales of Doordarshan/AIR's Programme Assistants

3319. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE:
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA:

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

(a) whether the pay-scale of the Engineering Assistants has been revised to Rs. 2000—3200, whereas the pay scale of the Programme Assistants has remained un-revised;

(b) whether the pay-scale of these two categories of Information and Broadcasting personnel have remained identical for decades and right upto the acceptance of the Fourth Pay Commission recommendations; and

(c) the time by which the pay-scale of the Programme Assistants is likely to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The pay-scale of Engineering Assistants had to be revised in compliance with Court judgement. However, keeping in view the previous parity between the pay scales of Engineering Assistants and Transmission Executives, the matter has already been taken up with the 5th Central Pay Commission and Ministry of Finance. But it is difficult to give any time frame for this.

Supply of Edible Oil

3320. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA:
SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of edible oil made by the State/Union Territory Government during 1995-96 and 1996-97, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the quantity of edible oil supplied to each State and Union Territory during the above period;

(c) whether some of the State Governments have requested the Union Government to increase the quota of edible oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the quota of edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The demand of edible oil received from States/UTs during the years 1995 and 1996 and the allocation and lifting of imported edible oil by States/UTs during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 is indicated in the *Statement* attached.

(c) and (d). The States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal have sought an increase in their monthly allocation of edible oil for PDS during 1996.

(e) Supply of imported edible oil through PDS is supplemental in view of foreign exchange constraints. The entire quantity of edible oil to be imported during 1996 has since been allocated in advance to States/UTs. Any revision in the quota of States/UTs is not possible at this stage.

STATEMENT

Demand, Allocation, Lifting of Imported Edible Oil for PDS

(Figures in Tonnes)

State Name	*1995	1995-96		**1996	1996-97@	
	Demand	Allocation	Lifting	Demand	Allocation	Lifting
Andhra Pradesh	80000	66600	39801	155000	49000	17220
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	0	0	Nil	0	0
Assam	1200	1200	670	1300	1000	179
Bihar	Nil	200	0	31500	700	0
Goa	2900	4000	3125	5600	3200	1327
Gujarat	46000	49000	46091	63000	26000	13231

State Name	*1995	1995-96		**1996	1996-97@	
	Demand	Allocation	Lifting	Demand	Allocation	Lifting
Haryana	500	200	264	Nil	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	650	1503	1188	1800	1400	204
Jammu & Kashmir	500	700	390	900	700	205
Karnataka	9000	11000	6622	12000	6000	4310
Kerala	Nil	0	203	4000	2000	89
Madhya Pradesh	2500	2500	0	Nil	0	0
Maharashtra	38000	30000	15130	49000	25000	12105
Manipur	800	900	307	7200	2100	633
Meghalaya	Nil	200	10	1800	700	100
Mizoram	1000	1300	398	3600	1400	153
Nagaland	2000	4100	3000	4500	2800	502
Orissa	14000	12000	3504	27000	7000	1040
Punjab	Nil	0	0	Nil	0	0
Rajasthan	300	400	0	2700	350	0
Sikkim	720	840	629	990	770	270
Tamil Nadu	10000	8000	5089	18000	7000	3483
Tripura	600	700	40	900	700	20
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	0	0	Nil	0	0
West Bengal	18500	17000	14903	40000	16000	7851
Andman & Nicobar	75	150	50	225	175	25
Chandigarh	Nil	100	0	Nil	0	0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	560	640	423	720	560	210
Daman & Diu	625	875	460	1075	875	125
Delhi	2100	3300	2651	4500	2100	1089
Lakshdweep	180	290	250	360	290	31
Pondicherry	6664	4308	3057	8000	3300	1020
All India :	239374	222006	148255	425670	161310	65422

* April-October, 1995.

** February-October, 1996.

@ Upto July, 1996

Khajuraho Airport

3321. KUMARI UMA BHARTI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift Khajuraho Airport to somewhere else in view of the security of Khajuraho Temple;

(b) if so, the place where it is proposed to be shifted;

(c) whether the above shifting of the airport is likely to decrease the earnings from domestic and foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to review its decision?

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Diversion of Funds

3322. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the funds allocated for the development of tribal areas of Bihar are diverted for flood and drought relief every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

[English]

Hostel facility to SC/ST students

3323. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe students provided the hostel facility during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage of the dropouts in schools in Scheduled areas particularly of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students;

(c) whether the steps taken in this regard are sufficient to prevent dropouts;

(d) if so, the extent of success achieved; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such high dropouts?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A total number of 31,568, 35,361 and 22,994 SC/ST students were provided with hostel facilities during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Constructions of Boys and Girls Hostels for SCs/STs.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) to (e). Several steps have been taken by the Central and State Governments to reduce dropout among SC/ST students. Some of the steps taken by the Central Government are:

- Provision of incentives such as scholarships, text-books, hostel facilities etc.,
- Provision of primary schools within one Km. distance for habitation with a population of 200;
- Improvement of facilities in primary schools under the scheme as Operation Black Boards;
- Adoption of target group oriented strategies and fixing of separate targets for access, anticipation and achievement for ST children;
- Diversification and improvement of programme of non-formal education for children who remain outside the formal school system;
- Opening of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas.

As a result of these measures, dropout rate among SC/ST students is generally declining.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Labourers

3324. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers of Bihar particularly those of tribal areas are migrating to other States;

(b) whether the above mentioned labourers are exploited in other States; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken up by the Government to protect these labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Government are aware that workers from economically backward areas migrate to other States for seeking temporary employment in seasonal activities, for better prospects and higher wages.

(b) Although such workers are prone to exploitation, however, as per NCRL report (1987—91), the incomes of migrant labour are higher than what they might have been able to earn without migration.

(c) The Government have enacted the Inter-State Migrant (Recs) Act, 1979 to regulate their employment and provide for their conditions of service etc. The Government are also implementing several poverty alleviation programmes like, IRDP, EAS, JRY, IJRY, DWA CRA, TRYSEM etc. designed for acquiring income generating assets and for generating additional gainful employment for those below the poverty line. The outlay on these programmes has been substantially stepped up during the VIIIth Plan.

[English]

Quality Programmes

3325. SHRI DARBARA SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether people in Punjab mostly watch the programmes telecast by Pakistan Television as they consider such programmes more interesting;

(b) if so, whether during the telecast anti-India propaganda is also made by Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to telecast the programmes of much standard and interest so as to ensure that the Indians are not in anyway misled by Pakistan's anti-India propaganda?

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

(b) Pakistan Television does indulge in anti-India propaganda.

(c) It is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to telecast suitable programmes to counter the Pak propaganda by presenting a factual picture of happenings and developments in the country and abroad.

[Translation]

Air India Irregular Service

3326. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flights of Air India which were irregular and could not take off on Schedule during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to consider to provide alternative arrangements to the passengers in case of delay of one hour or more in the flights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 1746 single flights were cancelled during the period April, 1994 to March, 1996 due to adverse weather, airport restrictions, technical snags etc.

(b) to (d). In case of delay of one to two hours, passengers are provided with refreshments at the airport. In the event of extended delay, alternative arrangements on first available flights are made subject to availability of capacity.

[English]

Vizag Steel Plant

3327. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquired by the Vizag Steel Plant has been fully utilised;

(b) if not, whether the vacant land is proposed to be returned to the owners; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). The requirement of land for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant was initially estimated to be 27,455 acres in 1980. Subsequently, the requirement was brought down to 22,978 acres by excluding thickly populated villages and hill areas situated around the periphery of land boundary. Land acquired as on date is 21,655 acres, including 9,625 acres of Government land. Out of the acquired land, 3626 acres have been earmarked for expansion of the Plant and the Township and also for the Green Belt, as per the stipulation of Department of Environment while the remaining land has been utilised.

[Transiation]

Delay in Postal Mail Delivery

3328. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inordinate delay being caused in distribution of mail delivery;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure the speedy disposal of letters and other postal materials?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). Generally, there is no inordinate delay in delivery of mails. However, some instances of delays do occur due to various reasons such as cancellation/late running of buses, trains and planes, natural calamities like floods landslides and due to exceptionally heavy volume of mails like Corporate mail and Greeting Mail. Difficulties are encountered in the conveyance of mails by State Road Transport buses or private buses in some States. Delivery of mails in large cities and towns, especially in the newly developed colonies and suburbs, is also under stress due to inadequate delivery manpower. The additional work is, however, being managed through re-deployment of the staff to the extent possible.

The Department has taken various steps to improve the despatch and delivery of mails. These are :—

- Sorting of machineable mail in Bombay and Madras is being done on Letter Sorting Machines to expedite sorting.
- In the case of mails posted in bulk, the mailers are encouraged to do pre-sorting to ensure expeditious transmission of such mails to the destination.
- Special arrangements are made to sort and despatch Corporate Mails and Festival Greeting Mails posted in the peak season of June to December.
- Rationalisation of mail processing by prioritised and segmented handling of mails of different categories according to their time-sensitivity.
- Monitoring of mail movement and main processing at various levels by intensive visits to Post Offices and RMS offices by inspecting officers, testing the Mail efficiency by posting Test Letters and periodical check of transit time of live mails
- Daily delivery of mails is made in villages for which mails arrive subject to weather conditions and

operational compulsions. Regular monitoring of rural mail collection and delivery network is done.

- The transmission and delivery of mails and money order is continuously monitored at various levels and routing of mails is revised periodically after review.

Losses in Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants

3329. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount invested so far on the modernisation of Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants, so far;

(b) whether the above Steel Plants have been incurring losses continuously for the last many years;

(c) if so, the details thereof as on March 31, 1996;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to make the above Steel Plants profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The expenditure incurred on the modernisation of Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants of SAIL upto July, 1996 is given below :

	(Rs.in Crores)
Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	3039.75
Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)	4307.15

(b) and (c). RSP which has been making profits since 1984-85 suffered losses during 1995-96 due to factors such as higher input costs, outdated equipments, obsolete technology etc. DSP has been suffering losses continuously since 1982-83, on account of factors such as lower capacity utilisation, logistic imbalances, ageing of the plant, obsolete technology etc. The position as on 31st March, 1996 is as follows:

	(Rs. in Crores)	
	Profit/Loss (-) For the year 1995-96	Cumulative as on 31.3.1996
RSP	(-) 56.64	283.42
DSP	(-) 173.98	(-) 1491.82

Modernisation of both the plants is in progress and their performance would improve after the new units are stabilised.

SAIL is taking steps on continuous basis to improve the performance by measures such as increasing capacity utilisation, improving productivity, introducing energy conservation measures, improving product-mix, improving availability of equipments etc.

(d) RSP has been making profits since 1984-85. It has suffered loss during 1995-96 due to higher input cost escalations which could not be compensated by price increase for its products and lower production mainly owing to outdated equipment and obsolete technology.

DSP has been suffering losses mainly due to :—

- (i) lower capacity utilisation.
- (ii) logistic imbalances.
- (iii) unremunerative prices for its products under administered price regime.
- (iv) obsolete technology and outdated equipment.

(e) SAIL has already taken up modernisation of its integrated Steel Plants with a view to:—

- (i) Upgrading the technology;
- (ii) Increasing the production capacity;
- (iii) Improving quality of products;
- (iv) Improving the techno-economics; and
- (v) Reducing cost of production.

It is expected that the financial performance of RSP and DSP in particular would improve after the completion and stabilisation of the modernisation schemes.

[English]

Advertisement amount given by DAVP

3330. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

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

(a) the total number of advertisements given by the Directorate of Audio-Visual Publicity during the last three years to big, medium and small newspapers published from various states particularly from Gujarat and the amount paid therefor;

(b) whether there is disparity in distribution of advertisements in regional language of Gujarat as compared to other languages; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken or proposed to be taken to remove this disparity?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The total number of insertions given by DAVP during the last three years to the big, medium and small newspaper published from various states including Gujarat State and amount committed is as under:—

Year	Total number insertions	Total committed amount (Rs.)
1993-94	2,04,508	31,49,60,257
1994-95	1,64,669	27,43,36,135
1995-96	1,62,529	45,59,27,591

The number of insertions and total committed amount of advertisements given to big, medium and small newspapers published from Gujarat during the last three years is as under:—

Year	No. of insertions	Amount committed (Rs.)
1993-94	7097	1,23,02,592
1994-95	5466	95,85,927
1995-96	5401	1,75,32,076

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Cargo facility at Cochin Airport

3331. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop the cargo facility at Cochin Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost involved therein and funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Facility for receipt and despatch of air cargo is available at Cochin Airport. However, Airports Authority of India has no proposal, at present, to upgrade the facilities by the construction of a cargo complex.

*[Translation]***STD Facility in Uttar Pradesh**

3332. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Tower at Mohamadi in Khiri District of Uttar Pradesh to provide STD facility; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not commencing STD facility so far and the time by which it is likely to be commenced and

provided such facility in various towns of Hardoi District of the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The tower is already existing there and the STD is also available with Code No. 05876.

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

(ii) Regarding provision of STD facility in various Towns of Hardoi District, the details are given in attached *Statement*.

STATEMENT

Plans for providing S.T.D. facility in various towns of Hardoi District (U.P.)

Sl. No.	Towns/Stations	STD status as on 31.3.96	Plan for STD
1.	Beniganj	Not available	1998-99
2.	Bilgram	Not available	1996-97
3.	Gopamau	Not available	1997-98
4.	Kachhauna	Not available	1998-99
5.	Madhoganj	Not available	1996-97
6.	Mallawan	Not available	1998-99
7.	Pali	Not available	1998-99
8.	Pihani	Not available	1998-99
9.	Sandi	Not available	1996-97
10.	Hardoi	Available Code 05852	-
11.	Sandila	Available Code 05854	-
12.	Sahabad	Available Code 05853	-

Post and Telegraph Office in District Headquarters

3333. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have contemplated any Plan for setting up of a District Telegraph Office in every District Headquarter of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the District Headquarters where telegraph offices have already been set up. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Department has formulated a policy to set up an independent Telegraph Office at each Revenue District Headquarter of the country.

(c) The information is given in attached *Statement*.

STATEMENT

State-wise details of the District Headquarters where Telegraph Offices (DTOs) have been set up

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of District Headquarters	Name of District Headquarters
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	Adilabad, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Guntur, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Kurnool, Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Ongole, Nalgonda, Srikakulam, Nellore, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Hanamkonda, Nizamabad, Sangareddy, Hyderabad (RR), Eluru, Kakinada and Machilipatnam.
2.	Assam	23	Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Guwahati, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Narbari, Barpeta, Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Mangaldai, North Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Diphu, Halflong, Marigaon, Silchar, Tezpur, Nagoan.
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	Bomdilla, Pasighat, Itanagar.
4.	Bihar	49	Patna, Bhojpur, Nalanda, Muzaffarpur, Chapra, Darbhanga, Siwan, Gumla, Vaishali, Samastipur, East Champaran, West Champaran, Kishanganj, Sitamarhi, Gopalganj, Madhubani, Garhwa, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Palamau, East Singhbhum, Lohardaga, Dhanbad, Gaya, Giridih, Rohtas, Katihar, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Deoghar, Monghyr, Saharsa, Purnea, Madhepura, Godda, Jamui, Nawada, Khagaria, Dumka, Aurangabad, Jehanabad, Araria, Bokaro, Buxar, West Singhbhum, Kamur, Banka, Sahebganj, Supaul.
5.	Gujarat	18	Amreli, Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar, Banaskantha, Baroda, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Mehsana, Kheda, Surendranagar, Surat, Rajkot, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha, Valsad, Bhuj.
6.	Goa	2	Panaji, Margao.
7.	Haryana	18	Ambala, Ambala City, Yamuna Nagar, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Panipat, Hissar, Sirsa, Rohtak, Bhiwani, Jind, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Rewari, Mohindergarh, Sonapat, Panchkula.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	Shimla, Solan, Nahan, Una, Bilaspur, Mandi, Kullu, Hamirpur, Dharamsala (Kga.), Chamba, Keylong, Rekong Peo.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	Leh, Baramulla, Anantnag, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri and Srinagar.
10.	Kerala	13	Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Quilon, Trivandrum, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Trichur, Palghat, Malappuram, Calicut, Kalpetta, Cannanore, Kasaragod.

1	2	3	4
11.	Katnataka	20	Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chickmagalur, Chitradurga, Dakshina Kanada (Mangalore), Dharwad, Madikeri, Gulbarga, Hassan, Kolar, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur and Uttara Kannada (Karwar).
12.	Madhya Pradesh	45	Bhopal, Bilaspur, Dewas, Durg, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Khandwa, Mandsaur, Raipur, Rewa, Ratlam, Sagar, Ujjain, Satna, Seoni, Chhindwara, Vidisha, Guna, Bastar, Raigarh, Raisen, Bhind, Morena, Sehore, Dhar, Khargone, Damoh, Jhabua, Mandia, Shivpuri, Shadol, Sarguja, Datia, Sidhi, Chhattarpur, Panna, Tikamgarh, Rajgarh, Shajapur, Betul, Narsinghpur.
13.	Maharashtra	30	Ahmednagar, Akola, Aurangabad, Beed, Amravati, Bhandara, Buldhana, Mumbai, Dhule, Chandrapur, Jalna, Jalgaon, Kolhapur, Latur, Nagpur, Nanded, Nasik, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Pune, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Sangli, Satara, Solapur, Thane, Wardhaganj, Yavatmal, Gadchiroli, HQ-Alibag.
14.	Manipur	2	Chwandry, Imphal.
15.	Mizoram	1	Aizawl.
16.	Meghalaya	2	Shillong, Tura.
17.	Nagaland	1	Kohima.
18.	Orissa	21	Balasore, Cuttack, Puri, Angul, Bolangir, Chhatrapur, Sambalpur, Baripada, Bhadrak, Deogarh, Bhawanipatna, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Phulbani, Sundergarh, Bargarh, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapara, Koraput, Rayagoda.
19.	Punjab	12	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Patiala, Fandkot, Sangrur, Moga.
20.	Rajasthan	31	Jaipur, Swaimadhampur, Kota, Alwar, Bharatpur, Barmer, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Churu, Nagaur, Bundi, Bikaner, Sriganganagar, Jodhpur, Pali, Dholpur, Jalore, Sirohi, Ajmer, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Dausa, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Tonk, Rajsamand, Baran.
21.	Sikkim	1	Gangtok.
22.	Tamil Nadu	25	Kancheepuram, Coimbatore, Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Virudhunagar, Nagercoil, Tirunelveli, Madras, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Udthagamandalam, Sivaganga, Erode, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Salem, Karur, Thanjevur, Thiruchirapalli, Perambalur, Tiruvennamalai, Vellore, Tuticorin.

1	2	3	4
23.	Tripura	3	Radhakishompur, Kailashahar, Agartala.
24.	Uttar Pradesh	64	Agra, Ferozabad, Ghaziabad, Bareilly, Bulandshahar, Moradabad, Nainital, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Haridwar, Aligarh, Dehradun, Almora, Pithoragarh, Rampur, Pilibhit, Budaun, Uttara Kashi, Tehri, Chamoli, Pauri, Mathura, Etah, Bijnore, Allahabad, Azamgarh, Ballia, Basti, Banda, Bahraich, Barabanki, Deoria, Etawah, Faizabad, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur, Gorakhpur, Ghazipur, Gonda, Hardoi, Hamirpur, Jhansi, Jaunpur, Jalaun, Kanpur, Lucknow, Lakhimpurkheri, Lalitpur, Mirzapur, Mainpuri, Maunathbhanjan, Mahraniganj, Pratapgarh, Raebareli, Sultanpur, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Sonbhadra, Siddharthanagar, Unnao, Varanasi, Kanpur Dehat, Pdrauna.
25.	West Bengal	18	Barasat, Chinsurah, Krishnagar, Berhampore, Burdwan, Bankura, Howrah, Alipore, Darjeeling, Malda, Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Calcutta, Midnapore, Purulia, Raiganj, Balurghat, Suri.

[English]

Sugar Factories

3334. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Maharashtra new sugar factories sanctioned during the Seventh Five Year Plan are facing financial problems on account of increase in cost of the Projects;

(b) if so, the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to revise of normative costs of the projects to Rs 40 crores; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the normative costs?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). The Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to revise the normative cost of the projects to Rs. 40 crores in respect of the Sugar Factories sanctioned in the Seventh Plan. The Government has not prescribed any normative cost through the financial institutions while assessing the projects have been going by a certain standard taking into account the financing pattern and the prospect of return on capital. The Financial institutions are generally concerned with the debt-equity ratio and the financial viability

of the project. Since the State Governments contribute a large part of equity of the Cooperatives and also have to guarantee the loans, the question of availability of total finance for a particular unit has to be resolved between them, the cooperative and the financial institutions.

Geological Survey of India

3335. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has been engaged in systematic geological mapping and minerals exploration throughout the country;

(b) if so, the survey conducted in various parts of the country particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(c) whether the Geological Survey of India is not giving exploration data and report to States on regular basis;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted surveys during the last 3 years in States like Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu,

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and others besides Rajasthan, In Rajasthan the survey and mineral investigations conducted during the last three years include:—

- (i) Basemetal investigations in north and south Sindesar Ridges, Sunariya Khera, Latio-ka-Khera-Jitawas, Rajsamand district; Sawar, Sathana-Mayamagri, Ganeshpura and Fatehgarh areas, Ajmer district, Kalab-Kalan-Boyo-ki-Nadi, Pali and Ajmer districts; Rampura-Tonda-Naila-ki-Dhani, Khetri belt, Jhunjhunu district;
- (ii) Gold investigation in Anandpuri-Bhukia area, Banswara district and Hinglasmata, Dungarpur district;
- (iii) Lignite investigation has been carried out in Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Sanchor basins; and
- (iv) Granite assessment in various parts of Rajasthan states.

(c) to (e). Results of all the GSI investigations in the State are regularly published in the form of Records Extended Abstracts and are available to all organisations including State Govt. on nominal charge GSI's unpublished progress reports are supplied to State Govt. on demand free, but if commercial utilisation takes place on the basis of such reports, then lessee is required to pay certain fee which becomes payable to GSI, and to private agencies on payment as per the policy of the Government.

Establishment of Steel Plant

3336. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the area in Ganjam district of Orissa for the establishment of the Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the total areas acquired for the purpose;

(c) the number of villages likely to be affected as a result thereof;

(d) the arrangements made for the rehabilitation of those displaced persons; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Orissa have identified the area in Ganjam District of Orissa for establishing of steel plant by M/s. Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd. (TISCO).

(b) and (c). As per information available from the State Government, 7598 acres of land located in 16 villages has been notified under Section 4(1) of L.A. Act, 1894 for acquisition for steel plant to be set up by TISCO.

(d) and (e). As per information made available by the State Government a rehabilitation package has been drawn up for the displaced families. This package *inter-alia* provides for compensation; other rehabilitation benefits such as maintenance allowance for one year, a grant for those opting for self-rehabilitation, grant for setting up temporary accommodation; resettlement at a place with better living standards; assistance in securing employment under the aegis of the steel plant consistent with skills and job requirements; facility of training in a Technical Training School to be established with the objective of imparting necessary skills to the youth to make them employable etc.

Common list of Backward Classes

3337. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIP SINH
GAEKWAD:
SHRI N.J. RATHWA:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat to enlarge the common list of Other Backward Classes for the State during last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b). Addition/modification/inclusion in the Central list of OBCs (including that of Gujarat State) is made in the basis of the recommendations received from NCBC (National Commission for Backward Classes) which has been constituted under the NCBC Act, 1993 for the purpose of entertaining, examining and recommending upon requests for inclusion and complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the list of other backward classes of citizens.

The Commission has recently recommended addition of the Castes Khalipha (Muslim) and Babar (Muslim) and inclusion of Pakhali in the Central list of OBCs in respect of the State of Gujarat.

(c) No time limit can be given as it required concultation with other concerned Ministries and approval of Cabinet. The matter is under active consideration.

[Translation]

Complaints regarding non-availability of Wheat

3338. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received some complaints regarding non-availability of wheat through public distribution system during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Union Government to overcome the shortage of wheat in the public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Encroachment of Posts & Telegraph land in Assam

3339. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land belonging to the Department of Posts and Telegraph has been encroached upon by outsiders in Kamrup, Nagaon and Lakhimpur districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of places; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to get the land vacated?

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

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

Recommendations of Committee on E.D. Employees

3340. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Extra-Departmental employees in the Postal Department in the country;

(b) whether a Committee was constituted for better service conditions of ED employees;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the Government propose to announce interim benefits for them immediately;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the recommendations will be included in the Vth Pay Commission Report; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) As on 31.3.1995, the number of ED employees was 3,08,623.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Though the final report of the Committee is awaited, three interim recommendations have been received as follows:

(i) payment of interim relief to ED employees—since implemented,

(ii) compensating ED employees for detention beyond normal duty hours, and

(iii) Merger of 97% DA with basic allowances for the purpose of enhancing the amount of Ex-gratia Gratuity paid to ED Employees.

(d) Recommendations (c)(i) already implemented. C (ii) and (iii) involve financial implications and a decision has to be taken in consultation with the other concerned Ministries which will take approximately six months.

(e) and (f). Interim relief has already been given. There is no proposal at present to announce further interim benefits.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) The question does not arise.

Communication facilities in Rural Areas

3341. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any uniform policy for providing Communication facilities like Post Offices, installation

of letter boxes, Telephone exchanges and installation of telephone in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Post Offices/Telephone Exchanges set up during the last 3 years, in rural areas, state-wise;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for maintenance of these telephones/telephone exchanges in rural areas; and

(e) the number of telephone connections got disconnected by the subscribers of rural areas due to remain out of order for a very long time and found useless, State-wise and particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The policy/norms for providing communication facilities are given in Statement I enclosed.

(c) Department of Post:

Number of Post Offices set up during the last three years is given in Statement-II enclosed.

Department of Telecommunications:

The information regarding the number of Telephone Exchanges set up during the last three years is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Steps being taken for maintenance of Telephones/Telephone Exchanges are given in Statement III enclosed.

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

STATEMENT-I

*Policy for opening Post Offices/Installing Letter Boxes/
Opening of Telephone Exchanges*

Department of Post:

1. *Opening of Post Offices:*

Post Offices are progressively opened as a Plan activity under successive Annual Plans subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

2. *Norms for opening of new Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:*

2.1 **Population:**

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages)

(b) *In the Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*
500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

2.2 **Distance:**

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation if warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

2.3 **Anticipated Income:**

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33% of cost.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The minimum anticipated income will be 50% of the cost.

3. *Norms for opening new Departmental Sub Post Offices:*

3.1 The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day.

3.2 The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly Areas. However, in Urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

3.3 The minimum distance between two Post Offices should be 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

3.4 A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

4. *Installing Letter Boxes:*

The Department of Post has the objective of providing letter boxes in all villages with a population of over 500.

Department of Telecommunications:

As per the policy of the Department, a new Telephone Exchange is planned at a place where the registered paid demand reaches 10 or more.

STATEMENT-II

Number of Post Offices set up during last three years in Rural Areas—Postal Circle Wise

S. No.	Name of State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	-	2
2.	Assam	26	-	-
3.	Bihar	90	-	-
4.	Delhi	-	-	-
5.	Gujarat	15	-	-
	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
	Daman & Diu	-	-	-
6.	Haryana	16	1	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh	90	-	-
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	23	-	-
9.	Karnataka	11	2	-
10.	Kerala	29	1	-
	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
11.	Maharashtra	105	2	-
	Goa	-	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35	-	-
13.	North East			
	Arunachal Pradesh	6	-	-
	Manipur	11	-	-
	Meghalaya	6	-	-
	Mizoram	6	-	-
	Nagaland	5	-	-
	Tripura	6	-	-
14.	Orissa	42	-	-
15.	Punjab	6	1	1
	Chandigarh	1	-	-
16.	Rajasthan	30	2	-
17.	Tamil Nadu	8	-	-
	Pondicherry	-	-	-
18.	Uttar Pradesh	95	-	-
19.	West Bengal	33	-	-
	Sikkim	4	-	-
	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-
All India Total :		711	9	4

STATEMENT-III*Steps being taken for maintenance of Telephone/Telephone Exchanges in Rural Areas*

1. Replacement of old and life-expired exchanges.
2. Upgradation of out-door plant.
3. Refresher training for the staff for improving the skill.
4. Replacement of long over-head lines by reliable transmission system.
5. Provision of rural public telephone on radio relay system.
6. Daily testing and close monitoring of rural telephones/Telephone exchanges.

[Translation]

Working Hour for Women

3342. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the women/girls working in the factories are required to sit late after the stipulated time of working hours, due to which they feel insecurity while coming back to their homes; and

(b) if so the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the provision for not allowing the women to sit late?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Under section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948, no woman can be required or allowed to work in any factory except between the hours of 6.00 A.M.

and 7.00 P.M. However, the State Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, in respect of any factory or group or class or description of factories, vary the limits stated above but no such variation can authorise the employment of any woman between the hours of 10.00 P.M. and 5.00 A.M. The State Governments may make rules providing for exemption from the restriction of hours of work between 10.00 P.M. to 5.00 A.M. for women working in fishcuring or fish-canning factories to prevent damage to or deterioration of any raw material. The responsibility of enforcing the above provisions rests with State Governments/ Union Territories.

[English]

Irregularities in Providing New Connections

3343. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government during 1994, 1995 & 1996 (till date) in respect of malpractices/irregularities/corruption committed while providing new telephone connections in West Bengal, District-wise and particularly in Coochbehar;

(b) the action taken thereon; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b). Twenty-five complaints were received by the Govt. during 1994, 1995 & 1996 (till date). District-wise break-up and action taken against the involved officials is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) All Heads of SSAs/Field Officers have been asked to be more vigilant while providing new telephone connections.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of District	1994		1995		1996 (till date)	
		No. of complaints	Action taken	No. of complaints	Action taken	No. of complaints	Action taken
1.	Burdwan	1	Disc. action taken against the official involved	1	Case investigated. No irregularity detected	1	Official involved transferred & disc. action is being taken.
2.	Birbhum	1	-do-	Nil	-	1	Warning issued to the concerned official.

Sl. No.	Name of District	1994		1995		1996 (till date)	
		No. of complaints	Action taken	No. of complaints	Action taken	No. of complaints	Action taken
3.	Darjeeling	1	Disc. action under process against the involved officer	Nil	—	Nil	—
4.	Malda	1	Warning issued	1	Disc. action taken against the involved Officer	Nil	—
5.	Nadia	1	Case investigated. No irregularity detected	Nil	—	Nil	—
6.	Coochbehar	Nil	—	1	Official involved transferred & disc. action taken	Nil	—
7.	North 24 Prgs.	Nil	—	1	Disc. action being taken against the involved Officer	1	—
8.	South 24 Prgs.	Nil	—	Nil	—	1	Case investigated. No irregularity detected.
9.	Calcutta Telephones	10	In 7 cases investigation has not revealed any irregularity. In 2 cases, minor technical irregularities were found which were subsequently rectified. In one case, suspected official has been cautioned	1	The case is under investigation by CBI	1	Disc. action has been initiated against the delinquent official.

*[Translation]***Schools for disabled in Uttar Pradesh**

3344. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schools functioning for disabled (deaf and dumb) persons in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether these schools are adequate as per the requirement;

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether proposals have been received for upgrading such schools, located at Bareilly, upto intermediate level; and

(e) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e). Information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Import of edible oil**

3345. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of oil seeds and edible oil imported during each of the last three years; and

(b) the quantity of oil seeds and edible oil are likely to be imported during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Import of edible oilseeds is not resorted to by the Government generally keeping in view practical difficulties like quarantine requirements, possibility of inflow of damaged seeds etc. The import of edible oils is at present under Open General Licence. The Government has been importing edible oils for the Public Distribution System (PDS) only.

The import of edible oil for the PDS during the last 3 years has been as follows:—

Years	Quantity (In lakh MTs)
1993-94	0.42
1994-95	1.07
1995-96	1.49

(b) The STC has been authorised to import 2.00 lakh MT of edible oil for the PDS during Feb-Oct., 1996.

*[Translation]***Leasing of Mines in Bihar**

3346. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals of Government of Bihar relating to leasing of mines in the State are pending clearance by the Union Government since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the above proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). The proposals received from the State Governments are processed as per provisions of mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. Twelve cases pertaining to Bihar have been disposed off during 1995-96. Three cases recommended by Government of Bihar for grant of fresh mining lease are under process.

*[English]***Time of Telecasting the DD-4**

3347. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to popularise DD-4 channel in Gulf countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to increase it telecasting time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The channel is already quite popular among Malayalee population in the Gulf countries.

(b) to (d). DD-4 is telecasting 14 hours of programmes per day at present. However, due to constraints of resources, manpower and other infrastructural facilities, it is not possible to increase its telecasting time for the present.

[Translation]

Telephone network in rural areas with foreign capital

3348. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to use foreign capital resources for telephone network in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps for the foreign capital investment so far in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the foreign capital investment made till July, 1996; and

(e) the target fixed for total foreign capital investment in rural areas during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). Seven Indian registered companies having foreign equity (as detailed in attached statement) have been given LOIs (Letters of Intent) for providing Basic Telephone Service including Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in ten Telecom Circles. As per their roll out plan submitted alongwith the bids they propose to provide 1,55,590 Village Public Telephones in first three years. No licence has been issued till date to any of the LOI holders, and hence the question of foreign capital investment and its target does not arise.

STATEMENT

Name of the Bidder	Name of the Circles for which LOI issue	Foreign Equity percentage	Village Public Telephone to be provided by private operator in first 3 years
M/s. Basic Tele-services Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	25% to 49%	3904
M/s. HFCL BEZEO Telecom Ltd.	Delhi U.P. (West) Haryana Orissa	41%	NIL 38783 1931 39500
M/s. Tata Tele-services Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	10%	9635
M/s. Techno Telecom Ltd.	Bihar	15%	22000
M/s. Essar Commission	Punjab	10%	5442
M/s. Reliance Telecom.	Gujarat	10%	8635
M/s. Hughes Ispat Ltd.	Maharashtra	40%	25760

Lack of Telephone facilities in Madhya Pradesh

3349. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Telephone facilities are lacking in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, particularly in Mandla and Bilaspur districts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken for its improvement;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect all tehsil Headquarters with Mandla District Headquarters by Telephone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The telephone facilities in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh including tribal areas of Mandla and Bilaspur districts are adequate. The existing status and plan for expansion of telephone exchange systems in these areas is given in *Statement*.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Mandla, Niwas and Dindori are the three Tehsils in Mandla district Dindori THQ is already connected to Mandla DHQ through Satellite System. Niwas THQ has been planned to be connected to Mandla DHQ through Satellite.

STATEMENT

The existing status and plan for expansion of telephone exchange systems in the Tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Mandla District and Bilaspur District

S. No.	District	Existing Status			Plan 1996-97	
		Existing cap.	DELS	Waiting List	Net Cap. addition	DELS addition
1.	Mandla (tribal area)	368	308	0	480	288
2.	Bilaspur (tribal area)	3464	2002	2006	1456	874
3.	Madhya Pradesh (Tribal area)	150638	108811	5213	7800	5600

Telephone connection on Medical ground

3350. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided telephone on Medical Ground;

(b) if so, the criteria rules for the allotment;

(c) whether the temporary telephone connections have been provided to the applicants on the Medical Ground after their registration under general specific category;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government propose to abolish this system.

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

(b) Temporary connection on medical grounds can be given for six months on double the rental charges. If extension of temporary connection on medical grounds is required beyond six months, applicant has to register for a telephone connection.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is felt that six months period is sufficient for a temporary requirement of a telephone connection. If a

subscriber wants a telephone connection beyond six months, he should therefore register for a telephone connection.

(e) No, Sir.

Reduction in Excise Duty

3351. JUSTICE GUMAN LAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced reduction in the excise duty for the steel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite this announcement the steel producing units will have to pay more amount as excise duty in comparison to last year;

(d) if so, the major reason therefor; and

(e) whether the price of Indian Steel is likely to go up in the World Market because of increase in the excise duty?

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) There has been no increase in excise duty on steel. Further, exports are exempt from excise duty.

[English]

Allocation of Funds to NMFDC

3352. SHRI E. AHMED : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the distribution of these funds during the last financial year, State-wise;

(c) the details of the States in which the State Minorities Finance and Development Corporations have been formed alongwith the composition;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to form such Corporations in other States;

(e) whether the last year's allocated fund has been fully utilised; and

(f) if so, the number of beneficiaries, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Central Government has allocated Rs. 125 crores under the 8th Five Year Plan towards the equity Capital contribution of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation. Out of this an amount of Rs. 89 crores was released by 1995-96 and Rs. 36 crores is budgeted under the current financial year. The State Govts. of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala have contributed Rs. 1 crore each where as the Government of Uttar Pradesh has contributed Rs. 7 crores towards equity of the NMFDC.

(b) The state-wise disbursement of funds during 1995-96 is as follows:

States	Amount (in lakhs Rs.)
Andhra Pradesh	98.00
Haryana	93.45
Jammu & Kashmir	112.83
Karnataka	23.65
Madhya Pradesh	136.30
Punjab	91.70
Uttar Pradesh	93.18

(c) States of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal have set up the State Minorities Finance and Development Corporations.

(d) The State Minorities Finance and Development Corporations in these States are wholly owned companies of their respective State Governments. Union Government has requested States/UTs to nominate the channelising agencies for implementation of the schemes of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) States	Beneficiaries
Andhra Pradesh	1650
Haryana	263
Jammu & Kashmir	230
Karnataka	210
Madhya Pradesh	763
Punjab	181
Uttar Pradesh	1500

[Translation]

Opening of base depot under PDS

3353. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government to open base depot under the Public Distribution Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bermo Exchange in Bokaro

3354. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of Bermo Exchange in Bokaro District;

(b) whether only 500 lines of this exchange are functioning at present and as a result of which the number of applications registered for telephone connection from 1994 have increased considerably;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for their functioning at full capacity?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The capacity of Bermo Exchange in Bokaro District is 1000 lines.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The exchange is fully functional. The waiting list of 120 subscribers as on 31.7.1996 is likely to be cleared by October, 1996.

Telephone facilities to Panchayats in Rajasthan

3355. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of panchayats to which the telephones have not been provided in Rajasthan, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which, likely to be provided to the remaining Panchayats in the State, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of Panchayats to which Public Telephones have not been provided in Rajasthan is 1065. District-wise details are given in attached *Statement*.

(b) The remaining Panchayats are likely to be provided with public telephone facility by the year 1999. District-wise details are given in attached *Statement*.

STATEMENT

District-wise Gram Panchayats in Rajasthan provided with and without public telephone facility

Sl. No.	District	Gram Panchayats provided with public telephone facility	Gram Panchayats without public telephone facility
1.	Ajmer	272	4
2.	Alwar	415	62
3.	Banswara	269	56
4.	Barmer	375	5
5.	Bharatpur	299	73
6.	Bhilwara	332	46
7.	Bikaner	173	18
8.	Bundi	137	44

Sl. No.	District	Gram Panchayats provided with public telephone facility	Gram Panchayats without public telephone facility
9.	Chittorgarh	309	82
10.	Churu	275	4
11.	Dholpur	136	17
12.	Dungarpur	181	55
13.	Jaipur & Dausa	582	129
14.	Jaisalmer	120	6
15.	Jalore	263	1
16.	Jhalawar	226	25
17.	Jhunjhunu	264	24
18.	Jodhpur	332	6
19.	Kota & Baran	277	99
20.	Nagaur	456	4
21.	Pali	317	4
22.	Sawai Madhopur	305	118
23.	Sikar	309	19
24.	Sirohi	146	2
25.	Sriganganagar	492	80
26.	Tonk	225	5
27.	Udaipur & Rajsamand	626	77
Total :		8113	1065

[English]

Kandla Port Trust

3356. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether verification of membership of various trade unions operating in major ports at Kandla was conducted by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of membership of each union as per the verification report;

(c) whether the Government propose to appoint Labour Trustees on the Board of Trustees of Kandla Port Trust and

Members of Kandla Dock Labour Board as per latest verification so conducted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A *Statement* is enclosed.

(c) to (e). The Kandla Port Trust was reconstituted with effect from 1.4.96 and Labour Trustees have been appointed on the Board of Trustees on the basis of the report of verification of membership of unions as on 31.12.92.

The Kandla Dock Labour Board was reconstituted with effect from 1.12.95 on the basis of verification of membership of unions as on 31.12.1990. After receipt of the report of verification of membership as on 31.12.92, allocation of seats to different unions have been reviewed and steps have been taken to allocate seats to the unions as per their entitlement by the administrative Ministry.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Union	Affiliation to Central Org./Fdn.	Verified membership of workers in Port Trust	Verified membership of workers in Dock Labour Board
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Transport & Dock Workers' Union (Kutch)	Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)	3095	746
2.	Kandla Port Worker's Union (Kutch)	All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)	983	
3.	Kandla Port Karmchari Sangh, Gandhidham	Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC)	1568	233
4.	Kandla Port & Dock Employees Union, Gandhidham	Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)	5	53
5.	Kandla Port & Dock Mazdoor Sangh, Gandhidham	National Labour Organisation (NLO)	13	-
6.	Kandla Mahabandar Mazdoor Sangh, Gandhidham	Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS)	Records not produced	-
7.	Kandla Stevedors & Dock Workers Union Gandhidham	Central Indian Trade Union (CITU)	-do-	-

Centres for Handicapped Persons

3357. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and locations of the centres functioning for the welfare of handicapped persons in Maharashtra which are getting grants from the Union Government; and

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided to these centres by the Union Government during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). A *Statement* is enclosed.

STATEMENT*Scheme of assistance to Voluntary Organisations for disabled persons*

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisations	Amount released (in lakh)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Hellen Keller Instt. for Deaf & Deaf Blind, Bombay	-	8.70	4.83
2.	Education Audiology & Research Society, Bombay	-	4.09	0.74
3.	Maji Vidyarthi Sangh, Jalgaon	-	1.55	-
4.	New Education Society, Kolhapur	-	2.00	-
5.	Saraswati Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Parbhanj	-	2.43	-
6.	Shree Ram Education Society, Khamgaon	-	8.40	-
7.	Shri Siddeswar Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Basmath	2.00	-	-
8.	Suhrad Mandal, Pune	2.48	1.90	1.26
9.	Janakibai Shikshan Sanstha's Vikas Vidyalaya for Hearing Handicapped, Bombay	1.49	0.40	0.38
10.	Thane Zila Stree Shakti Jagriti Samiti, Thane	1.50	1.50	1.31
11.	Aavishkar Society for Development of M.H. Persons, Balangiri	-	2.00	-
12.	AWMH, Bombay	-	0.77	-
13.	K.E.M. Hospital, Pune	5.76	3.02	-
14.	MR Residential Special School for Boys and Girls, Nagpur	-	1.22	-
15.	Punarvas Education Society, Bombay	-	0.52	-
16.	Jai Vakeel Research Society for the Care, Treatment & Trg. of Children, Bombay	3.73	13.25	9.62

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisations	Amount released (in lakh)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
17.	Society for the Vocational Rehabilitation of Retarded, Bombay	0.27	1.31	1.40
18.	VD Indian Society for MR, Bombay	-	0.44	1.64
19.	Shree Trust, Virar	10.75	6.67	9.52
20.	Sant Gadge Maharaj Bhatkya Vimukti Jani Samiti Shishu Prasarak Mandal, Parbhani	-	1.09	2.00
21.	Apang, Maitree, Thane	-	0.50	-
22.	Apang Niradhar Kalyan Kari Sanstha, Nagpur	-	1.78	-
23.	Apang Jeevan Vikas Sanstha, Amravati	-	0.18	2.49
24.	Gram Vikas Yuvak Mandal, Nanded	-	0.79	-
25.	Indian Cancer Society, Bombay	0.74	0.40	0.87
26.	Marathwada Apang Sansthan, Latur	-	2.22	-
27.	Matri Seva Sangh, Nagpur	2.86	2.56	-
28.	Samta Yuvak Mandal, Nanded	-	0.84	-
29.	Society for the Education of Crippled, Bombay	1.07	0.79	2.07
30.	Vijay Merchant Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled, Bombay	1.49	3.59	1.14
31.	Shri Ganesh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Latur	-	0.65	-
32.	Apang Punarvas, Buldana	2.00	-	-
33.	Fellowship of the Physically Handicapped, Bombay	2.47	-	-
34.	NASEOH, Bombay	0.95	2.18	1.61
35.	Gandhi Seva Trust, Hingoli	-	2.00	0.50
36.	NSD Industrial Home for the Blind, Bombay	2.20	0.40	-
37.	NAB, Bombay	23.15	17.43	17.16
38.	National Federation of the Blind, Bombay	-	0.91	0.94
39.	Society for the Spl. Education for the Deaf	2.25	-	-
40.	Society for the Welfare of Physically Handicapped, Pune	3.50	-	-
41.	Restra sant Tusadoji Maharaj Technical Education Society	4.75	-	-
42.	Vidya Bhawan Education Society, Parbhani	2.00	-	-
43.	Society for Education	.66	-	-
44.	PRIDE India, Bombay	2.47	-	-
45.	Lion Deaf & Dumb Physically Handicapped School, Kopangaon	0.50	-	-

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisations	Amount released (in lakh)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Scheme of assistances to Voluntary Organisations for Leprosy Cured Persons				
1.	Bombay Leprosy Project	0.75	1.19	1.22
2.	Poona District Leprosy Committee, Pune	3.54	11.61	11.92
3.	Wai Akshar Satara	-	3.16	-
Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase/filling of aids & appliances				
1.	NASEOH, Bombay	4.50	2.00	2.00
2.	Ayodhya Charitable Trust, Pune	2.50	5.00	2.50
3.	Fellowship of the Physically Handicapped, Bombay	0.60	0.30	0.15
4.	Indian Cancer Society, Bombay	0.82	1.50	0.80
5.	AYJNIHH, Bombay	19.33	43.49	7.00
6.	Society for the Welfare of Physically Handicapped, Wanawadi, Pune	-	0.50	-
7.	National Association for Blind, Nasik	-	0.03	0.02
8.	Artificial Limbs, Centre, Pune	0.21	-	1.00
9.	Sushrut Medical Care & Research Society, Pune	1.50	2.87	0.41
10.	Helper of the Handicapped	-	0.91	0.90

Poisonous Gas in Bhilai Steel Plant

3358. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that on May 25, 1996; four labourers who were assigned the job of painting in Bhilai Steel Plant died due to release of poisonous gas;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was constituted in the matter;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and action taken on the defaulters;

(d) whether any precautionary measures have been taken to avoid such recurrence in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. An accident took place on 25th May, 1996 at the settling Tank No. 3 of slag granulation plant of Blast Furnace No. 7 in Bhilai

Steel Plant where four contractor workers who were engaged in the job of painting, lost their lives.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. SAIL constituted two Enquiry Committees to enquire into the accident. In addition, District Magistrate, Durg has also constituted an enquiry into the matter, the report of which is awaited. Further, action will be taken in due course.

(d) and (e). In order to avoid recurrence of such accidents in future, precautionary measures like imparting training on properties of epoxy paint and its effects on the environment and individual's health, preparation of safety protocol for such jobs and adherence to safe operating practices by the contractors etc. have been taken.

Mine accidents

3359. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mine accidents during the year 1993, 1994 and 1995;

(b) the causes identified for the rise in the mine accidents; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to prevent the mine accidents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The number of mine accidents during the year 1993, 1994 and 1995 are 1383, 1180 and 1230 respectively. The trend of incidence of accidents in mines is fluctuating. The slight rise in accidents in mines during 1995 has been mainly due to fatal accidents in limestone mines in opencast and above ground due to fall of persons.

(c) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default. Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as:

- (i) Conference on safety in mines,
- (ii) Self-regulation by managements,
- (iii) Workers' participation in safety management,
- (iv) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels,
- (v) Training of workpersons,
- (vi) Observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns,
- (vii) National Safety Awards.

Allocation of funds for Tribal Development Projects

3360. SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative allocation made during the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans period for the Tribal Development projects in the country;

(b) the actual expenditure incurred as against the allocation;

(c) the target achieved under these projects;

(d) the details of the States which have shown unsatisfactory performance;

(e) whether the Union Government are contemplating to review the Tribal Sub-Plans considering the achievements made so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The comparative allocation made during the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh Five Year Plans period for the Tribal Development projects in the country under the State Plan as well as allocation made through Special Central Assistance and Grants under First proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution were of the order of Rs. 1102.84 crores, Rs. 4061.35 crores and Rs. 7163.71 crores respectively.

(b) The actual expenditure incurred for development of Scheduled Tribes as against the allocation during Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Plan period was around Rs. 977.26 crores, Rs. 4286.47 crores and Rs. 8023.76 crores respectively.

(c) During Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans period 102.55 lakh Scheduled Tribes families were actually given assistance through various programmes against the target of 69.78 lakh Scheduled Tribe families.

(d) It has been reported that all the Tribal Sub Plan States have shown satisfactory achievement against the target fixed during the aforesaid period.

(e) and (f). The Government has decided to set up a Commission under Article 339(1) of the Constitution on the Administration of Scheduled Areas and the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes, one of the terms of reference of the Commission is to review the development strategies for tribals including TSP approach and examination and recommendations of appropriate alternative.

Selling of Veal in Private Sector Hotels

3361. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government aware that veal is freely available in private sector hotels in the capital particularly in Oberoi Group of Hotels;

(b) if so, the source from where Oberoi Group Hotels are getting veal;

(c) whether the Union Government had imposed ban on Veal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Oberoi Group of Hotels in the Capital do not serve any prohibited Veal as specified in the Schedule to the Delhi Agricultural Cattle Preservation Act, 1994. However, they procure buffalo Veal from local suppliers of meat in Delhi and adjoining areas.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. It is a State subject.

[Translation]

Allocation of funds to Producers

3362. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for allocation of funds to the private producers for the production of serials and documentary films;

(b) the quality of these programmes alongwith the details of profit and loss to the Government during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to privatise the Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Producers of the commissioned programmes are given lumpsum amount keeping in view the budget details submitted by them alongwith their proposal and as approved by the Costing Committee.

(b) The quality of the programmes produced by outside commissioned producers has been found to be of high professional standards by and large. Since Doordarshan is paying the cost of production to the producers, the question of profits & losses does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Commission on problems of sugarcane growers

3363. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to appoint a commission to go into the various aspects of the problems faced by the cane growers and sugar industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. There is no proposal to appoint a Commission to go into the various aspects of the problems faced by the cane growers and sugar industries in the country. These aspects are being monitored by the Central Government in collaboration with the State Governments.

Creamy Layer

3364. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation to do away with the the Creamy Layer in the Reservation for Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to overcome the ceiling of 50% in the Reservation for Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes imposed by the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose for the proportional Reservation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The issue is under examination.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Special Ration Card

3365. DR. C. SILVERA :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether States and Union Territories have been asked to identify the population below the poverty line and issue special ration cards to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria laid down for such identification;

(c) whether information furnished by the card holders at the time of recent renewal process will also be taken into consideration to identify the Population below Poverty line;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons therefor;

(f) whether any time bound programme is proposed to be undertaken in this regard;

(g) if so, details thereof; and

(h) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (h). The Government proposes to restructure Public Distribution System with focus on the poor. This proposal has been welcomed by the States. The proposal calls for identification of persons below the poverty line and the State Governments have been impressed upon the need to do it as and when the scheme is finalised and formal orders issued for implementation.

Air Service to District Headquarters

3366. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments of West Bengal and Bihar have approached the Union Government for starting flights for connecting the State capitals with the District Headquarters by airways;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether other State Governments have also approached the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e). No specific proposal has been received by the Government of India to airlink all the district headquarters. However, to ensure that air transport services grow in a balanced manner throughout the country, route dispersal guidelines have been issued requiring operators of

trunk routes to provide defined minimum capacity in the North East, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshwadeep Islands. Regional airlines are being encouraged to airlink far flung and hitherto unconnected districts and towns.

Promotion of Cultural Tourism

3367. SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote the cultural tourism by getting the services of some institutions in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Promotion of cultural tourism is one of the major objectives of the Department of Tourism. The various State/ Union Territory Governments are extended financial assistance to organise fairs and festivals directly and also be obtaining the services of various cultural organisations/ Institutions.

Cellular Phone Service

3368. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DOT has fixed any maximum and minimum charges for cellular phone services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rates currently charged by each of the cellular phone service companies;

(d) whether the cellular phone service companies have announced a drastic reduction in the rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Govt. has fixed a ceiling tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. The Cellular operators can not charge above the ceiling tariff. No minimum charge have been fixed for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services.

(b) The Ceiling tariffs are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) The information regarding current rates being charged by each of the 8 cellular operators in 4 Metro cities, is being collected.

(d) to (f). Reports have appeared in the newspapers regarding an announcement in reduction of the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service rates by one company which has been licensed to operate the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in three Territorial Telecom Circles. The details of the reported announcement are being sought from the company.

STATEMENT

Ceiling Tariffs for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service:

1. Monthly Rental for the Service Rs. 156/-per month
2. Security Deposit Rs. 3000/-
3. Installation Charges Rs. 1200/-
4. *Call Charges :*
 - 4.1 *For calls originated by the Mobile Subscriber :* Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed network for Local, STD and ISD calls. For mobile to mobile calls within the same Cellular Service area, only air time charges will be levied.
 - 4.2 *For calls terminating on the Mobile Subscriber :* Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call will be levied. No charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.
5. *Notes on tariff :*
 - 5.1 Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.
 - 5.2 The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.
 - 5.3 Call charges for the air time during peak hours shall be fixed at rates not exceeding double the rates prescribed in para 4 above. Peak hours shall be restricted upto a maximum of 4 hours per day. Peak hours and air time call charges during peak hours may be fixed by the Licensee in consultation with Telecom Authority.
 - 5.4 Call charges for the air time during Sundays and 3 National holidays (15th August, 26 January & 2nd October) shall be half the rates prescribed in para 4 above.
 - 5.5 For calls from mobile subscriber to the fixed net work, the Licensee shall charge the mobile subscriber at the

rates prescribed by the Telecom Authority according to time and day of the call. Unit rate for such calls shall be the highest slab rate of the DOT's fixed network (Rs. 1.40 at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no Telescopic rates.

- 5.6 There are no free calls to be given in the air time.
- 5.7 For calls originating from the fixed network to mobile, the mobile subscriber will be charged for the air time and DOT will not have to pay any access fee to the Cellular Operator. The air time charges will be collected by the Cellular Operator.
- 5.8 For mobile to mobile both caller and called party will be charged.
6. All tariff increase shall be subject to prior approval of the Telecom Authority and/or its successor.
7. The rental does not include the cost of the Subscriber's terminal equipment (mobile handset). The subscriber is free to buy the terminal equipment from any source.

Cases against Chairman, VSNL

3369. SHRI BACHI SIGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases filed in the Court of Law by the SC/ST Employees Association and SC/ST employees of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and their wards against the Chairman, VSNL under SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 during the last three years;

(b) the circumstances which compelled them to file such cases to seek justice through court of law; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the Chairman, VSNL in view of the ongoing court cases and large scale harassment to SC/ST employees by the Chairman after filing such cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are no cases filed by SC/ST Employees Association and SC/ST employees of VSNL and their wards against the Chairman, VSNL under SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 during the last three years.

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

Vacant Posts

3370. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some reserved categories posts of foremen etc. in Air-conditioning and Refrigeration section under Airports Authority of India (IAD) at Indira Gandhi International Airport are lying vacant for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of departmental eligible candidates are available for filling up these vacancies;

(d) if so, the reasons for not filling up these vacancies; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the above vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Only one post of foreman reserved for Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidate interchangeable with Scheduled Castes (SC) is lying vacant in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration section at Indira Gandhi International Airport.

(c) No, Sir. Only one departmental SC candidate applied in response to the advertisement.

(d) and (e). Efforts made in the past have not been successful in locating a suitable ST candidate for filling the post. There is a proposal to conduct the selection in September/October, 1996 where departmental as well as outside candidates belonging to scheduled castes community will be considered to fill up the post of Foreman (ACR).

[Translation]

Development of tourist spots

3371. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of tourist places have been developed with the financial assistance of Union Government in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated/proposed by the Union Government for the development of hot-water springs, forests, mountains and Vaidyanath Dham as tourist places in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) Development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Governments. However, the Department of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to State/Union Territory Governments for construction of infrastructural facilities such as Tourist Complexes, Tourist Bungalows, Wayside Amenities, Yatri Niwases/Yatrikas, Tourist Reception Centres, Tented Accommodation, Adventure Sports and for publicity and promotion and Fairs and Festivals. The details of financial assistance provided to the State/Union Territory Governments during the last three years is given in Statement.

(c) and (d). The details of financial assistance extended for projects at hot water springs, forests, mountains & Vaidya Nath Dham are given below:

S. No.	Name of Project	Amt. Sanctioned
1.	Cafateria at Netra Hat	6.64 lakhs
2.	Public Conveniences Rajgir	2.87 lakhs
3.	Tourist Complex at Mungher	16.88 lakhs
4.	Public Conveniences at Deogarh	2.57 lakhs
5.	Public Conveniences at Baisukhinath	2.57 lakhs
6.	Chota Nagpur Mela	2.60 lakhs
7.	Purchase of Trekking Equipments	2.48 lakhs
8.	Yatrika at Deogarh	21.93 lakhs
9.	Cafateria Jhumari Talaiya	9.75 lakhs
10.	Tourist Complex at Deogarh	27.00 lakhs
11.	Tourist Complex at Hazaribagh	16.86 lakhs
12.	Tented Accommodation	10.86 lakhs
13.	Tourist Complex Maiton	16.88 lakhs
14.	Wayside facilities at Masanjore	8.48 lakhs
15.	Toilet & drinking water at Rajgir	1.50 lakhs

STATEMENT

Central Financial Assistance sanctioned Governments/Union Territories during the last three years viz. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. States No.	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Amt. sanc- tioned	Amt. released	Amt. sanc- tioned	Amt. released	Amt. sanc- tioned	Amt. released
1. Andhra Pradesh	114.28	57.97	174.64	73.23	13.46	9.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	45.40	23.50	-	-	52.26	25.50
3. Assam	78.11	28.83	52.99	27.00	70.24	23.33
4. Bihar	53.61	19.95	112.12	28.00	116.52	14.04
5. Goa	78.82	41.83	162.07	75.52	221.55	96.15
6. Gujarat	65.76	35.48	21.19	11.00	7.98	4.73
7. Haryana	223.21	81.62	188.96	65.98	119.45	61.57
8. Himachal Pradesh	349.28	177.22	368.85	131.91	373.39	35.97
9. Jammu & Kashmir	225.60	100.88	215.98	108.55	150.30	43.43
10. Karnataka	177.44	114.53	229.96	104.50	229.36	82.55
11. Kerala	97.40	26.50	307.05	146.00	209.94	83.95
12. Madhya Pradesh	31.57	9.00	9.32	5.00	-	-
13. Maharashtra	309.31	156.49	273.46	103.92	83.64	23.90
14. Manipur	45.50	27.35	4.00	2.00	75.81	24.20
15. Meghalaya	1.85	1.85	-	-	4.08	2.04
16. Mizoram	88.18	62.83	111.80	41.29	100.86	36.27
17. Nagaland	16.66	10.97	36.43	16.85	51.60	18.94
18. Orissa	101.52	61.79	166.31	35.62	108.86	27.50
19. Punjab	186.67	50.38	136.71	56.14	139.49	21.50
20. Rajasthan	260.43	132.93	662.78	567.37	164.65	33.56
21. Sikkim	130.89	111.49	49.07	12.63	24.61	13.68
22. Tamil Nadu	402.45	186.89	145.72	67.35	250.11	72.72
23. Tripura	15.07	9.69	46.61	22.40	35.43	10.00
24. Uttar Pradesh	151.04	60.65	223.80	144.30	26.21	26.21
25. West Bengal	167.30	57.50	144.01	37.26	191.10	22.70

S. States No.	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Amt. sanc- tioned	Amt. released	Amt. sanc- tioned	Amt. released	Amt. sanc- tioned	Amt. released
Union Territory						
1. Andaman & Nicobar	53.47	26.00	-	-	45.00	20.00
2. Chandigarh	18.66	14.80	64.66	19.50	17.20	10.86
3. Dadra & Nagar Havelli	-	-	23.62	12.00	-	-
4. Daman & Diu	12.03	7.50	42.31	21.45	44.21	9.30
5. Delhi	117.23	74.64	116.50	56.67	28.23	17.77
6. Lakshadweep	-	-	19.95	10.00	24.65	-
7. Pondicherry	29.75	15.00	-	-	28.12	13.10
Total	3648.49	1786.06	4110.87	2003.44	3009.31	884.37

[English]

STATEMENT**Mobile hospital for Beedi Workers**

List of various Welfare Schemes for Beedi Workers including those residing in Kerala

3372. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mobile hospital proposed to be set up at Peralasseri in Cannanore, Kerala, for Beedi workers has since been set up;

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) the details of any other welfare measures proposed to be introduced for the large number of Beedi workers in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) A proposal to set up 54 new dispensaries for Beedi Workers including one Static-cum-Mobile dispensary at Peralasseri in Cannanore, Kerala is under examination in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

(b) The proposal is likely to be finalised soon.

(c) A list of various welfare schemes formulated for Beedi workers including those residing in Kerala is enclosed as *Statement*.

Health

1. Reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals.
2. Re-imbursment of actual cost of treatment to beedi workers suffering from Cancer.
3. Treatment of workers suffering from Mental Diseases and also grant of subsistence allowance and other benefits to such workers.
4. Grant of financial assistance to Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata workers) for purchase of Spectacles.
5. Scheme for grant-in-aid to bodies/organisation providing indoor treatment to Beedi Workers suffering from Leprosy and also grant of subsistence allowance to the eligible workers.
6. Financial assistance for Domiciliary Treatment for T.B. patients.
7. Financial assistance under Maternity Benefits Scheme for Female Beedi Workers.

8. Scheme for payment of extra monetary compensation for Sterilisation to Beedi Workers.
9. Scheme for re-imbursement of expenditure as a financial assistance to Beedi Workers suffering from Heart diseases.
10. Scheme for re-imbursement of expenditure as a financial assistance to Beedi Workers for Kidney Transplantation etc.
11. Group Insurance Scheme for Beedi Workers under Social Security.

Housing

1. Build Your Own House Scheme.
2. Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Section of Beedi Workers.
3. Grant of Subsidy to Co-operative Societies of Beedi Industry for construction of worksheds and godowns.
4. Group Housing Scheme.

Education

1. Award of Scholarship to the Children of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Beedi Workers).
2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of Beedi Workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.
3. Payment of incentives on passing final University/ Board examinations from High School onwards.
4. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Rs. 1/- to female children of Beedi Workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

Recreation

1. Establishment of Audio-Visual sets/Cinema Vans/ Exhibition of films.
2. Organising sports, games, social and cultural activities for Beedi Workers.
3. Holiday Home Scheme for Beedi Workers.
4. Supply of T.V. sets to the Beedi Workers Industrial Co-operative Societies.
5. Establishment of Community Hall in Beedi Workers Housing Colony with colour T.V. set.

Funds to Andhra Pradesh

3373. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds have been sought by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh from the Union Government to develop 'Budha Poornima' at Hyderabad, Nagarjuna Sagar and Jain Mandir at Kolanpaka, Nalgonda district; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted four schemes to Central Department of Tourism to develop Nagarjuna Sagar of Nalgonda district which are as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Cafeteria with accommodation	23.70
2.	Provision of water sports	4.74
3.	Tourist bungalow	8.50
4.	Public conveniences	4.94

The Central Department of Tourism has not received any other schemes from State Government for Budha Poornima at Hyderabad and Jain Mandir at Kolanpaka, Nalgonda district so far.

[Translation]

Linking Palamu with Chandwa by STD

3374. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to link Palamu with Chandwa of Bihar and Canning Town in 24 Parganas with Calcutta through STD;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be linked with STD; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, separately?

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

(b) 128 Port C-DOT exchange is working at Chandwa and is presently connected to Daltonganj on overhead wire. Chandwa will be linked to Daltonganj, Palamu District on reliable media by March, 1997 and STD will be possible soon thereafter.

Canning Town is already linked to Calcutta and is having STD facility with Code No. 03218.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

[English]

Disposal of scrap in SAIL

3375. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Steel Authority of India Limited to dispose the scrap in different plants;

(b) the total income of SAIL out of the disposal of the scrap during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any efforts were made to export the scrap by SAIL itself at any time; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) SAIL disposes off its heterogeneous scrap (consisting of discarded machinery, equipments etc.) through tenders/auction, as these items being of mixed nature cannot be sold at fixed prices. Homogeneous scrap (generated at different stages of the production processes), constituting bulk of scrap in SAIL, is normally sold at fixed prices which are reviewed at periodic intervals. Sometimes small quantities of such materials are sold through tenders/auction to test the current market prices. Preference is given to actual consumers.

(b) The total value of sales out of the disposal of the scrap during the last three years by SAIL is as follows :

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1993-94	667
1994-95	809
1995-96	903

(c) No, Sir.

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

Bauxite Mines

3376. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the bauxite mines operated by the different Alumina and Aluminium plants;

(b) the variety of bauxite deposit available in Kalahandi district of Orissa;

(c) whether any survey is going on to utilise the bauxite deposit of Langigarh in Kalahandi district of Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The details of Bauxite Mines being operated by the primary Aluminium producers is given below :

S. No.	Name of the Company	Mines operated
1.	National Aluminium Company Limited	Panchpatmali in Orissa
2.	Bharat Aluminium Company Limited	Amarkantak and Phutkapahar in Madhya Pradesh
3.	HINDALCO Industries Limited	Shrengda, Bihar; Gurdari, Bihar; Pakhar, Bihar; Manduapat, Bihar; Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh
4.	Indian Aluminium Company Limited	Bagru, Bhusar in Bihar; Chandgad Nagartaswadi in Maharashtra
5.	Madras Aluminium Company Limited	Yercaud in Koli Hills, Tamil Nadu

(b) Out of the three major Bauxite deposits in Kalahandi District, Langigarh and Karlapat are of metallurgical grade, where as bauxite of Sijimali contain high Fe_2O_3 .

(c) to (e). Langigarh deposit is the proposed bauxite linkage for 100% Export Oriented Alumina producing Unit which was to be set up by M/s. Karnatak Telecables. However, the project has been at present kept in abeyance by the Company because the Company felt that the bauxite deposits at Langigarh are inadequate to meet the requirement for the entire life span of the Alumina Project.

Co-operation with Spain

3377. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish co-operation with Spain in the field of aviation;

(b) if so, whether any pact has been signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to punish the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). India has already signed an Air Services Agreement with Spain 10.4.1987. Under this agreement the designated airline of each side is entitled to operate 4 (four) frequencies per week on agreed routes

[*Translation*]

P.M.G. Office in Ajmer

3378. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for construction of PMG office building of Eastern Circle in Ajmer;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the purpose;

(c) by when this work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the staff in the present Ajmer PMG offices is less as compared to the other PMG offices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) A proposal received from Chief Postmaster General, Jaipur could not be considered for want of funds.

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

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (d) above.

[*English*]

Import of Coke

3379. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Past sins fail to catch up with ex-HZL Chief" appearing in *The Financial Express*, New Delhi, dated July 29, 1996;

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Attention of the Government has been drawn to the News item referred to in the Question.

(b) The appointment of Shri A.C. Wadhawan, ex-Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), as a member of the Public Enterprises Selection Board has been made in accordance with the prescribed procedure laid down by the Government in this regard.

(c) and (d). The News item also refers to an Inquiry by a Committee into the import of Metallurgical Coke by HZL. The Report of the Committee is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Promotion of Tourism in Noida/Greater Noida

3380. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated funds for the promotion of tourism in Noida/Greater Noida during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for promotion of tourism in Noida/Greater Noida?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d). The Department of Tourism does not earmark funds on place-wise or region-wise basis. The development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. Central financial assistance is extended on receipt of specific proposals which are prioritised in consultation with the State Govt.

No proposal has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for promotion of tourism in Noida or Greater Noida. However, the Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 37.45 lakhs and released Rs. 10.00 lakhs during 1993-94 for the upgradation of tourist facilities at the Golf Course at Noida.

Airports in Rajasthan

3381. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some International financial institutions propose to provide financial assistance for constructing airports in Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner with a view to promote desert tourism in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of such institutions; and

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

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

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

[English]

Film/TV Institutes

3382. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Film and Television Institutes set up by the Government, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to promote the artists, regional films and serials; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) At present, there are two Film & Television Institutes, namely, Film & Television Institutes of India (FTII) at Pune and Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI) at Calcutta.

(b) and (c). The Government has taken several supportive measures for the growth of Hindi as well as regional language films in the country. The Government has instituted Annual National Film Awards in different disciplines of cinema to encourage production of films of aesthetic excellence and social relevance, contributing to the understanding and appreciation of the film culture of different regions of the country. The Indian Panorama section of the International Film Festival of India also includes regional films. Besides, the Government has set up organisations like National Film Development Corporation which promotes production of regional language films.

The different Kendras of Doordarshan telecast regularly regional films and serials. Regional films are also telecast on

the National Network every Sunday. These Kendras together with the Programme Generation Facility Centres situated all over India give opportunity to local talents/artists to participate in and produce programmes for Doordarshan under various programme schemes.

[Translation]

N.B.C.F.D.C.

3383. SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of members of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the programmes of the Corporation especially regarding the development of the backward classes of Bihar;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Corporation till date on the development works in Bihar; and

(d) the details of the programmes proposed to be implemented by the above Corporation in Bihar during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) As the National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation has been constituted as a company not for profit under section 25 of the Indian Companies Act, the question of members does not arise. It has a Board of Directors which may have maximum thirteen members.

(b) and (c). NBCFDC has so far sanctioned 100 schemes to Bihar for Rs. 3137.81 lakh as loan from the Corporation out of the above Rs. 680.28 lakh have been drawn by the State Corporation for 3083 beneficiaries. The SCA has utilised Rs. 291.75 lakh i.e. 42.89% only, out of the released funds as on 31.5.95. Proper utilisation of released funds entirely depends upon the Bihar State BC Dev. Corporation.

(d) NBCFDC is fully committed to meet the needs of genuine beneficiaries for whom projects are to be formulated and sponsored by the SCAs as per guidelines of the Corporation. The Corporation has not laid down any restrictions on any scheme which is viable. All the SCAs including Bihar have been informed to identify eligible beneficiaries and to formulate need based schemes for upliftment of the Backward Classes, the response is awaited.

[English]

Concession in Telecom facilities in rural areas

3384. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be spent for providing telecom facilities in rural areas during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide any concession to the telephone subscribers in the rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The demands for Grants of the Department of Telecom for the year 1996-97 is yet to be approved by the Parliament. Hence the allocation of funds state-wise (circle-wise) will be made after the approval of the Demands for Grants for 1996-97 by the Parliament. As per the total demand placed in the Parliament, Rs. 983.13 crores is for Rural Areas for the year 1996-97.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Air Strips

3385. SHRI R.B. RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of air-strips in the country as on date, State-wise, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct more air-strips particularly in interior places;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount earmarked during 1996-97 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) A list of airports controlled by Airports Authority of India in the country, State-wise and location-wise is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) New airports are being constructed at Tura (Meghalaya) and Lengpui (Mizoram) under the State Plans, Kargil (J&K), Androth (Lakshadweep, Islands) and Kishtwar (J&K) are funded by the Central Government.

(d) Amount earmarked during 1996-97:

Tura	—	Rs. 7 crores
Lengpui	—	Rs. 10 crores
Kargil	—	Rs. 6 crores
Androth	—	Rs. 1 crores
Kishtwar	—	Rs. 0.50 crores

STATEMENT

Airports Authority of India

List of Civil Enclaves and Airports

Andhra Pradesh

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Vishakhapatnam | 1. Rajamundry |
| | 2. Tirupati |
| | 3. Vijaywada |
| | 4. Cuddapah |
| | 5. Donakonda |
| | 6. Warrangal |
| | 7. Hyderabad |

Arunachal Pradesh

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 2. Along | 8. Passighat |
| 3. Daparijo | |
| 4. Tezu | |
| 5. Zero | |

Assam

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 6. Jorhat | 9. Dibrugarh |
| 7. Silchar | 10. Guwahati |
| 8. Tezpur | 11. Lilabari |
| | 12. Rupsi |
| | 13. Shella |

Bihar

- | |
|-----------------|
| 14. Patna |
| 15. Ranchi |
| 16. Chakulia |
| 17. Gava |
| 18. Jogbani |
| 19. Muzzafarpur |
| 20. Raxaul |

Delhi

- | |
|---|
| 21. Indira Gandhi International Airport |
| 22. Safdarjung |

Goa

- | |
|------------|
| 9. Dabolim |
|------------|

Gujarat

10. Bhuj
11. Jamnagar

Himachal Pradesh**Jammu & Kashmir**

12. Jammu
13. Srinagar
14. Leh

Karnataka

15. Bangalore

Kerala

16. Cochin

Maharashtra

17. Pune

23. Ahmedabad
24. Rajkot
25. Vadodara
26. Kandla
27. Keshod
28. Porbandar
29. Bhavnagar
30. Deesa

31. Kulu
32. Shimla
33. Gaggal

34. Mangalore
35. Hassan
36. Hubli
37. Mysore
38. Belgaum

39. Thiruvananthapuram International Airport
40. Calicut

41. Bombay International Airport
42. Nagpur
43. Aurangabad
44. Kolhapur
45. Akola
46. Juhu Bombay
47. Sholapur

Madhya Pradesh

18. Gwalior

Manipur**Meghalaya****Mizoram****Nagaland****Orissa****Punjab****Rajasthan**

19. Bikaner
20. Jodhpur
21. Jaisalmer

Tamil Nadu

48. Bhopal
49. Indore
50. Khajuraho
51. Raipur
52. Jabalpur
53. Khandwa
54. Panna
55. Satna
56. Bilaspur
57. Imphal
58. Shillong
59. Aizwal
60. Dimapur
61. Bhubaneshwar
62. Jharsuguda
63. Amritsar
64. Ludhiana
65. Jaipur
66. Udaipur
67. Kota
68. Madras International Airport
69. Coimbatore
70. Madurai
71. Tiruchirapalli
72. Tuticorin
73. Vellore
74. Salem

Tripura

75. Kamalpur
76. Kailashahar
77. Khowai
78. Agartala

(c) whether any appeal has been made against the awards where guidelines have been violated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Uttar Pradesh

22. Kanpur (Chakori)
23. Agra
24. Allahabad
25. Gorakhpur
79. Varanasi
80. Lucknow
81. Dehra Dun
82. Pant Nagar
83. Jhansi
84. Kanpur Civil
85. Lalitpur

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) In twenty cases during the last three years the Food Corporation of India has appealed against the awards given by Industrial Tribunals.

(b) to (d). Required details are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT**West Bengal**

26. Bagdogra
86. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport
87. Cooch Behar
88. Balurghat
89. Behala
90. Malda

Sl. No. Details of cases in which the Food Corporation of India has appealed against the awards of the Industrial Tribunals during the last three years

Pondicherry (U.T.)

91. Pondicherry

1. ID No. 72/94 was raised by Sh. B. Namidakumar ex-casual labour, Madras. The Award was examined by SRM, Madras in consultation with JM (Legal) of Zonal Office (South) with the concurrence of our Counsel who opined that the Industrial Tribunal has acted without evidence regarding the total number of days worked by the Petitioner. The competent authority decided to file appeal against the award to obtain stay from High Court on operation of Award. WP filed in High Court vide No. 2189/96.

Andaman & Nicobar (U.T.)

27. Port Blair

2. ID No. 51/86 was raised by Sh. K. Gowriah and others of Nalgonda District. The Hamali workers were working under the contractor for handling foodgrains in depot and not under direct employment of FCI. Hence the Award suggesting to reinstate them in FCI has been challenged in consultation with the Advocate as contract labour are not eligible to seek employment in FCI. The matter is pending in the Court. (WP No. 2228/93 in A.P. High Court).

Chandigarh (U.T.)

28. Chandigarh

Lakshdweep (U.T.)

92. Agatti

3. ID No. 58/92 was raised by Sh. S.A. Ismail, Kurnool. The Industrial Tribunal has errad in passing the award without considering the fact that the worker has not put in 240 days continuous service in a calander year. The SRM, Hyderabad has decided to file appeal against the Tribunal Award. The appeal filed vide WP No. 18879/95 is pending in AP High Court.

Appeal against Industrial Tribunal Award

3386. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which the Food Corporation of India has appealed against the award given by the Industrial Tribunal during the last three years;

(b) the details of such cases where the guidelines given by the Government have been violated;

4. ID No. 59/92 was raised by Sh. G. Purushotham, Kurnool. The case is of similar nature as above at 3 therefore appeal filed vide WP No. 18883/95 in AP High Court.

Sl. No. Details of cases in which the Food Corporation of India has appealed against the awards of the Industrial Tribunals during the last three years

5. ID No. 71/92 was raised by Sh. V. Satyanarayana, Kurnool. The case is similar nature as above at 3 therefore appeal filed vide WP No. 18919/95 in AP High Court.
 6. ID No. 18/89 was raised by S/Sh. Surinder Kumar, Lekh Raj, Chaman Lal, Baldev Vikram Bhatt, Dev Raj and Sewa Ram of J&K Region. The award of CGIT Chandigarh was given in favour workmen. Review Petition No. 1191/95 modified and orders in SLP No. 7489/94 passed on 9th May, 95 regarding regularisation of casual workers. The award have been implemented after the dismissal of Review Petition filed by the FCI in Supreme Court on 9.8.95.
 7. ID No. 79/88 was raised by Sh. Patwari, Somi, Baldev Raj, Bhoj Raj, Pawan Singh, Ashok Kumar, Netra Prakash and Subhash Kumar at J&K Region. The award of CGIT Chandigarh was given in favour of the workmen. The Award has been implemented after the dismissal of Review Petition filed by the FCI in Supreme Court on 9.8.95.
 8. ID No. 34/91 was raised by Sh. H.N. Sahi, T.A. II, FSD, Gorakhpur on reversion to the post of TA. II. The Writ Petition was filed by the FCI against the Award. The Award implemented by Regional Office, Lucknow subject to the final clearance of the Writ Petition by the Court.
 9. I.D. No. 68/91 was raised by Sh. Mohd. Miyan, TA. II, Bisauli in supersession of his juniors and consequential benefits in violation of principles of natural justice. The Award has been implemented by the Regional Office, subject to final decision of the Writ Petition, filed by FCI.
 10. ID. No. 67/91 was raised by Sh. K.K. Awasthi, AG.I(D), FSD, Barabanki for promotion and for payment of balance wages for the suspension period in violation of principle of natural justice. Award implemented by RO, Lucknow, subject to final decision of the Court in Writ Petition filed by the Management.
 11. I.D. No. 129/90 was raised by Sh. Chhotey Lal, AG. III for imposing penalty on him and in violation of natural justice and denying him promotion and additional increment on acquiring qualification while in service. Hon'ble Court passed interim order in Writ Petition No. 7023/93 to stay operation of the Award.
 12. ID. No. 116/90 was raised on imposing penalty of stoppage of one increment for the year of 1987 with cumulative effect and also not giving due promotion from TA. III to TA. II and TA.II to TA.I from the year
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Sl. No. Details of cases in which the Food Corporation of India has appealed against the awards of the Industrial Tribunals during the last three years

- 1980 & 1984 respectively in respect of Chhotey Lal. The matter relating to the filling of Writ Petition against the Award is under examination. SRM, U.P. has ordered to implement the Award subject to final decision of the High Court.
 13. I.D. No. 137/92 was raised by Sh. Laxman Dass Narula for not promoting him as AM (Depot) w.e.f. 14.11.86. The Writ Petition filed by the Management is pending in High Court.
 14. I.D. No. 22/90 was raised by Sh. Mohd. Kasim over termination of his service w.e.f. 19.7.82. The Award passed by the Industrial Tribunal has been challenged in High Court, Orissa in consultation with Panel Advocate.
 15. I.D. No. 10/90 was raised by Sh. R.K. Mohanty on refusing employment to him. The Award dated 29.4.95 passed by Industrial Tribunal, Bhubaneswar has been challenged as per opinion of Panel Advocate and Legal Cell of ZO(D), Calcutta.
 16. I.D. No. 39/91 was raised by Sh. Golak Bihari Barik over his demand of Regularisation of his service. Award given by the Industrial Tribunal, Bhubaneswar has been challenged in consultation with RO/ZO(E), Calcutta.
 17. I.D. No. 32/92 was raised by Sh. Ram Ishwar Mochi, Ex-Casual Labour of FSD, Chandouti over alleged illegal retrenchment and non-regularisation of his service. Award has been given in favour of the Workman. The FCI Management has challenged the award after obtaining Legal opinion to avoid huge payment of back wages to workman.
 18. I.D. No. 80/91 was raised by Smt. Ranjna Chakraborty casual typist Distt. Office, Ranchi over her termination from service. The award was given in the favour of the worker. The award has been challenged by the FCI to avoid huge payment of back wages to the concerned worker.
 19. An I.D. was raised by Smt. L.R. Poojari a casual worker, Distt. Officer, Pune in 1975 for regularisation of her services. She was disallowed to attend duty w.e.f. December, 84. The Management is also to pay the wages from the period 6.12.84 till 21.3.85. The CGIT considered the demand of the said casual labour just and proper and directed the Corporation to regularise her services w.e.f. 20.9.75 and pay her wages on the basis of regular employee. The above award was challenged on the ground that the dispute related only on termination of her wages but not for taking her on regular basis from her initial engagement
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SI. Details of cases in which the Food Corporation of India
No. has appealed against the awards of the Industrial
Tribunals during the last three years

and the award is therefore patently wrong. The FCI Management took this stand because she was not regularly appointed initially and the recruitment on regular basis is also banned by the Govt. of India and as such decision was to be taken only with due permission of the Govt. of India for regularising the service. The High Court of Bombay also turned down the plea of the Corporation and thereafter Smt. L.R. Poojari has been appointed on regular basis with payment of back wages and there is no grievance left in this case.

20. There were about 1590 workers who were rendered surplus at Kandla Port consequent upon cessation of import of foodgrains. Out of 1590 workers, 1541 workers had sought Voluntary Retirement under Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme and thereby there leaving 49 Workers at Kandla Port who did not opt for the retirement under the Scheme. These workers were transferred to Bombay and Manmad. These workers were not allowed to work at Bombay and Manmad by the Transport and Dock Workers Union and they struck the work without any notice to the Corporation. The Corporation filed a case before CGIT under Unfair Labour Practice. The CGIT did not accept the contention of the Corporation relating to Unfair Labour Practice adopted by Transport & Dock Workers Union in its award. The Award was, however, challenged by the Corporation in the High Court of Bombay and the High Court of Bombay after hearing had remitted the case to CGIT directing them to review its decision. The CGIT heard the case and also given its Award which has been sent to the Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India for acceptance and pronouncement which is awaited.

Deal Airbus-320

3387. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigations started by the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) on March 29, 1990 into the Airbus 320 deal has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which the report is likely to be submitted; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred, so far by CBI and other Departments in the investigation of the case in India and abroad?

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

(b) the delay in completion of the investigation is due to the fact that investigations have to be carried out in various foreign countries such as USA, UK, France, Switzerland, Channel Islands Nigeria, etc. through Letters Rogatory. The investigation abroad is time consuming due to the complexity of legal procedures involved. In view of this, it is not possible at this stage to fix a firm date for completion of the investigation.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 7,09,085/- has been incurred on this investigation by the C.B.I. so far.

Telephone to GM/DGM

3388. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of unlisted Telephone connections with STD and ISD facilities have been provided to General Managers, D.G.Ms and other Officers of MTNL, Delhi Telephone Circle both at their offices and residences;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether they really need such facility at their residences also for the discharge of duties;

(d) if so, whether any record is maintained of STD/ISD calls made by them alongwith purpose thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps being taken to ensure that these telephones are not misused?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. D.G.Ms and G.Ms are provided with unlisted Telephone connections in office as well as residence.

D.G.Ms are provided with STD facility in office as well as residence. G.Ms. are provided with STD & ISD facility, both in office and residence.

(b) The field officers receive large number of calls from public about complaints like prolonged faults on their telephones, delay in shifting of telephones, provision of new connection and other grievances. In order to keep the number free for incoming calls, an unlisted telephone connection is provided to field officers for making outgoing calls in the interest of service as detailed at (c) below.

(c) Yes, Sir. Many of our electronic telephone exchanges are imported from foreign countries. Senior officers are required to contact their counterparts in India and at times abroad to discuss technical problems relating to software and fault repair etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Since the telephone are provided only to senior and responsible officers, misuse of telephones by them is not expected and no such report has been received so far.

Crushing of Sugarcane

3389. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the crushing of sugarcane during the next three years, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the existing daily sugarcane crushing capacity of sugar mills;

(c) the number of places where crushing work has since been started; and

(d) the number of the mills where sugarcane crushing capacity is being increased. State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) No target has been fixed for crushing of sugarcane during the next three years.

(b) The existing daily sugarcane crushing capacity of sugar mills in the country is 903370 TCD (Tonnes of cane crushed Per Day).

(c) 11 new sugar mills have started crushing operations for the first time during the current crushing season 1995-96 (October-September) upto 31.7.96.

(d) Statement showing State-wise number of sugar mills where sugarcane crushing capacity is being increased is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Statement showing the State-wise number of sugar mills where sugarcane crushing capacity is being increased

(As on 31.7.96)

S. State No.	No. of sugar mills under expansion
1. Punjab	6
2. Haryana	4
3. Uttar Pradesh	70
4. Rajasthan	1
5. Madhya Pradesh	3
6. Gujarat	7
7. Maharashtra	39

S. State No.	No. of sugar mills under expansion
8. Bihar	7
9. Orissa	2
10. West Bengal	2
11. Nagaland	1
12. Andhra Pradesh	14
13. Karnataka	22
14. Tamil Nadu	10
15. Pondicherry	1
Total :	189

Debts on Doordarshan/AIR

3390. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether debts are piling up and creditors are knocking at the doors of Ministry and Doordarshan is going in the red;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Doordarshan and All India Radio have earned profits much more than the previous years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the functioning of Doordarshan and AIR and to make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d). Information is being compiled and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Doordarshan Kendra, Bihar

3391. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Barauni and Begusarai Industrial Towns in Bihar are still having no Doordarshan Kendras;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up Doordarshan Kendras in these Industrial towns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). While a Low Power TV Transmitter is already operational at Begusarai since 17-02-1989, Barauni lies in the fringe coverage zone of the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Patna where TV signal can be received by using elevated antennae. There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up any TV transmitter at Barauni.

[English]

Irregularities in providing telephone connections

3392. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated July 6, 1996 captioned "Telephone lines have miles to go".

(b) if so, whether the gap between demand and supply of telephone connections and corruption at grassroot level have increased;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have chalked out any strategy to meet the challenges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d). The Gap between the demand and supply of Telephones over the years has reduced. In the first four years of 8th Plan, additional capacity of 61.68 lakh lines has been created for achieving significant reduction in the Waiting List. The following table indicates the improvement, in reducing the waiting period as reflected by reduction in the Waiting List as a percentage of working lines:-

Year	All India	Delhi
1993-94	31.11%	30.82%
1995-96	19.00%	0.79%

For keeping check on corruption, Vigilance Cells are working at different levels.

[Translation]

Postponement in expansion of P & T projects

3393. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes pertaining to expansion of Posts and Telegraph Department are not being implemented for the last four months as reported in "Nav Bharat Times" dated July 14, 1996;

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

(c) the details of schemes for expansion of P&T Department Schemes postponed or closed down; and

(d) the time by which the above schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The report in the Nav Bharat Times dated July 14, 1996 about the work of the Department of Post is not based on facts. The department's programmes of development in accordance with the respective Annual Plans formulated under the VIIIth Five Year Plan are being duly implemented. During the current year, 1996-97, implementation of the Plan programmes have been in accordance with the resources initially provided through the Vote on Account for the first four months of the financial year. The programme of computerisation of Postal counters have been proceeding well during the last 3 years after the initial slowness during the first two years of the plan period due to teething troubles. The department has not suspended or deferred any developmental programme due to paucity of fund. Revenue generated by most of the postal services is not adequate to meet the operational costs. Hence, the department has been provided with necessary budgetary support for appropriate funds.

Regarding opening of new post offices in 1996-97, the department has a target of 80 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 150 Departmental Sub Offices and these have been allotted to the respective circles. The post offices will be opened subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources. So far 20 Departmental Branch Post Offices and 02 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned during the current year. In respect of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras, the target for the current year is 250 Kendras and this also has been allocated to the Circles including 60 Kendras for tribal/hilly areas. Actions for fulfilling the plan target of the department in respect of opening new post offices are also under way.

The department is also observing the usual economy instructions of the Government. The exercises relating to revision of postal rates is a regular feature of the yearly budgetary exercises of the Government.

(c) and (d). In view of the reply against (a) and (b) above, do not arise.

Development of Halgarh Complex as a tourist spot

3394. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for development of 'Halgarh' complex in Surgana tehsil of Nasik district in Maharashtra, into a tourist spot (hill station);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). The Central Department of Tourism has not received any detailed proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for the development of Halgarh Complex in Surgana tehsil of Nasik district.

(c) Does not arise.

Doordarshan/AIR Projects in U.P.

3395. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects for setting up of Doordarshan Kendras/AIR stations completed/pending in Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(c) the details of the projects proposed to be undertaken during 1996-97 in the State, location-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up these projects in backward areas on priority basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The details of the Doordarshan/AIR projects in Uttar Pradesh are given in *Statement I* and *II*.

(d) and (e). While formulating AIR and Doordarshan projects, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to cover the entire population uniformly including urban, rural and backward population.

STATEMENT-I

S.No.	Location & Scheme	Status/	Date of	Approx. capital
		commissioning	commissioning	exp.incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Radio station with 6 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Faizabad	MPS	17.6.1993	265.25
2.	Radio station with 6 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Bareilly	MPS	17.6.1993	241.25
3.	Radio station with 6 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Jhansi	MPS	11.7.1993	219.82
4.	Radio station with 6 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Obra	MPS	28.8.1993	211.11
5.	Relay Centre with 10 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Mussorie		19.7.1995	155.85
6.	Radio station with 1 KW MW Tr. and Receiving facilities at Pauri	MPS	Technically Ready	241.93
7.	Relay Centre with 1 KW MW Tr. and Receiving facilities at Uttar Kashi		Technically Ready	126.59

S.No.	Location & Scheme		Status/ Date of commissioning	Approx. capital exp.incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
8.	Radio Station with 1 KW MW Tr. and Receiving facilities at Chamoli	MPS	To be completed during 1996-97	183.84
9.	Relay Centre with 1 KW MW Tr. and Receiving facilities at Pithoragarh		To be completed during 1996-97	199.13
10.	Relay Centre with 6 KW FM Tr. and Receiving facilities at Aligarh		To be completed during 1996-97	164.45

STATEMENT-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

Project	Expenditure	Status
PGF Mau	116.51	Completed
LPT		
Auraiya	79.86	-do-
Ganjdundwara	62.81	-do-
Mahoba	59.55	-do-
Mau Ranipur	55.02	-do-
Naugarh	90.00	-do-
New Tehri	44.09	-do-
Kasganj	58.99	-do-
Nan Para	57.01	-do-
Athdama	7.99	-do-
	(Capital cost in Rs. lakhs)	
Studio :		
Allahabad	977.79	under imple- mentation
Mathura	261.00	-do-
Varanasi	300.41	-do-
HPT		
Banda	599.00	-do-
LPT		
Almora	Rs. 1 crore approx.	-do-
Haldwani	-do-	-do-
Rudauli	-do-	-do-
Karan Paryag	-do-	
Barakot	-do-	-do-
Chunaghat	-do-	-do-
Narora	-do-	-do-
Raudhali	-do-	-do-

Project	Expenditure	Status
	Rs. 1 crore approx.	Under implementation
Rath		
Talbehat	-do-	-do-
Mahroni	-do-	-do-
Chhibramau	-do-	-do-
Airoha	-do-	-do-
Kaswi	-do-	-do-
Duchinagar	-do-	-do-
Mosi	-do-	-do-
Khatikhan	-do-	-do-
Nani Danda	-do-	-do-
VLPT	Rs. 0.8 crore approx.	-do-
Chamoli		
Chaukhata	-do-	-do-
Joshimath	-do-	-do-
Devprayag	-do-	-do-
Lansdowre	-do-	-do-
Pratapnagar	-do-	-do-
VLPT		
Binsar	-do-	-do-
Basot/Bhikhiasen	-do-	-do-
Gajja	-do-	-do-
Rateh Parbat	-do-	-do-
Kihait Parbat	-do-	-do-
Rajgarhi	-do-	-do-
Sirakota/Vaikunthdham	-do-	-do-
Saahiya	-do-	-do-
Maneshwar	-do-	-do-
Dhausi	-do-	-do-
Manila	-do-	-do-
Tharali	-do-	-do-
Rudraprayag	-do-	-do-
Manikpur	-do-	-do-
Naugaonkhal	-do-	-do-
Kedarnath	-do-	-do-
Badrinath	-do-	-do-
Gaurikund	-do-	-do-

Legend	PGF	Programme Generation Facility.
	HPT	High Power Transmitter.
	LPT	Low Power Transmitter
	VLPT	Very Low Power Transmitter.

[English]

Export of Wheat

3396. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI SANAT MEHTA:
SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have suspended issuing quotas of wheat to exporters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its impact on earnings from exports;

(d) the total quantity of wheat exported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(e) the total foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period; and

(f) the quantity of wheat likely to be exported during 1996-97 alongwith the estimated foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). The procurement of wheat by the Government in the Central Pool during the Rabi Marketing Season 1996-97 has been less by about 4 million tonnes compared to the previous year. The Government have directed Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEEDA) to with-hold issue of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate. EXIM Policy on foodgrains including wheat, is decided in such a way that it does not adversely affect the food security of the country.

(d) and (e). The country-wise exports of wheat indicating value thereof during the last three years are indicated in the *Statement* enclosed.

(f) It is not possible to accurately estimate the likely quantity of wheat exports on account of different varieties traded, variations in quality etc. The foreign exchange likely to be earned on export of wheat from the country depends, *inter alia*, on the world market prices, which cannot be precisely predicted at present. Ministry of Commerce has reported that in the first three months of 1996-97 i.e. April-June 96 a quantity of 7.47 lakh MT valued at Rs. 460.71 crores was exported.

STATEMENT

Statement showing country-wise exports of wheat and its value during the last three years

(Qty. in M.T.)

(Value in Rs. lakhs)

Country	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	40	5.39
Algeria	-	-	21000	1063.81	-	-
Bangladesh	-	-	22960	1108.95	131565	7476.44
Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	11836	748.73
Hong Kong	-	-	-	-	42	2.44
Iran	-	-	-	-	250	18.72
Jordan	-	-	-	-	21249	1358.52
Kenya	-	-	-	-	66312	3790.82

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kuwait	-	-	-	-	302	22.63
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	553	30.87
Maldivs	-	-	54	4.07	-	-
Marutius	-	-	-	-	5	0.47
Myanmar	-	-	7000	365.55	530	40.14
Morocco	-	-	-	-	40000	2392.09
Nymibia	-	-	-	-	112	6.72
Nepal	310	15.90	-	-	69	3.01
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	42216	2590.33
New Zealand	-	-	-	-	31	2.40
Qatar	-	-	-	-	42	3.22
Russia	-	-	-	-	3000	177.23
Singapore	-	-	41	2.11	5660	328.65
Somalia	-	-	-	-	125	9.61
S. Africa	-	-	-	-	23750	1424.02
Sudan	-	-	-	-	18100	1034.59
Tanzania Rep.	-	-	-	-	7816	470.72
Turkey	-	-	-	-	50067	3084.51
U.A.E.	40	2.63	35572	1689.49	83433	4847.08
U.K.	-	-	-	-	8338	492.78
U.S.A.	-	-	1	0.04	42	3.41
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	5695	358.40
Yemen	-	-	-	-	96031	5366.57
Total :	350	18.53	86628	4234.01	617211	36090.17

Payment of gratuity and other dues

3397. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers in the Central Public Undertakings are paid the amount of gratuity and other dues soon after their retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to clear the dues of retired persons expeditiously in future?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The responsibility for payment of gratuity under the P.G. Act, 1972 vests in the concerned employer. The retiring workers are, therefore, required to be paid gratuity by the concerned management of the Central Public Sector Undertakings. There have been some cases in which gratuity and other dues have not been paid in time mainly because of financial difficulties of the Company. Such cases of delay in payment of gratuity as and when received are brought to the notice of the concerned Administrative Ministry for appropriate action. In the case of default pertaining to the Provident Fund dues necessary legal and penal action as provided under Sec. 7A, 8B, 14, 14B of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 is taken against the management for recovery of the provident fund dues and its payment to the beneficiaries. In genuine cases provident fund dues are payable to the retiring workers pending its recovery from the establishment.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections by Private Sector in Rural Areas

3398. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to launch a pilot project for providing telephone connections in rural areas of Karnataka by the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the basis of selecting Karnataka State only for implementing the said pilot project on priority basis;

(d) whether the Government have also prescribed any time limit for the execution and assessment of this project; and

(e) if so, the details of the prescribed time limit and the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government and private sector separately for the implementation of the project?

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

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

[English]

Child Labour

3399. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Child Labourers working in different fields in Sundergarh Districts, in Orissa;

(b) the number of child labourers belonging to tribal community; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). As per the 1981 census, the number of working children in the district of Sundergarh was 36118. Occupation wise and Community-wise information on working children is not maintained. Information regarding working children according to 1991 census has not so far been released by the Registrar General of Census Operations.

(c) Government of India has already sanctioned 76 Child Labour Projects (including 16 in the State of Orissa) in the child labour endemic districts of the country in the first phase. The district of Sundergarh has not been sanctioned any project so far.

[Translation]

Contract workers in NMDC

3400. SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unskilled workers engaged in the work of loading/unloading in Kirandul and Bachel iron ore mines of NMDC in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of the above workers working as contract workers and the number of workers working under the management;

(c) whether these workers are provided with free basic facilities from the management; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The number of workers engaged in the work of loading of fine ore rakes/wagon in Biop Dep. 14, Kirandul is 341 and in Biop, Dop. No. 5, Bacheli is NIL.

(b) The above workers are not contract workers and all of them are departmental piece rated workers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Bhojpuri Films on Doordarshan

3401. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bhojpuri films telecast on various Doordarshan Kendras during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether a very less number of Bhojpuri films are being screened;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to screen more Bhojpuri films in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details are as under:

1993-94	:	3
1994-95	:	3
1995-96	:	20

(b) to (d). Doordarshan telecasts films in various dialects/languages offered to it depending upon their suitability and Doordarshan's programme requirements from time to time. The number of Bhojpuri films telecast by Doordarshan during the said period compared favourably with other dialect films.

[English]

Percentage of reservation for Scheduled Castes

3402. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of the increased population of Scheduled Castes, due to inclusion of Neo-Budhists in the list of Scheduled Castes vide Act 15 of 1990, as on date has been taken into consideration for fixing the percentage of

reservation for SCs in the recruitments in the services of the Maharashtra State as well as the Union Government;

(b) if so, the percentage determined;

(c) the number of posts created till date in accordance with this percentage; and

(d) the backlog and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). In respect of Maharashtra State, information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

In respect of Government of India, percentage of reservation made for Scheduled Castes remains unaltered since the time the percentage of 15% was fixed.

(c) Posts are not created in accordance with the prescribed percentage of reservation.

(d) Under Special Recruitment Drive, 1995, identified backlog of reservation for Scheduled Castes as on 1.4.1995 is as under:

(i) Ministries/Deptt.	=	8251
(ii) Banks	=	524
(iii) PSUs	=	3620
		<hr/>
		12395

Number of posts of Scheduled Castes filled up during Special Recruitment Drive, 1995 is as under:-

(i) Ministries/Deptt.	=	4672
(ii) Banks	=	385
(iii) PSUs	=	1879
		<hr/>
		6936

Government have since launched 6th Special Recruitment Drive in 1996 to fill up backlog vacancies for SC/STs on 1.7.1996.

Postal Stamps Racket

3403. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indrapuram Police of Ghaziabad unearthed a racket of printing of stamps;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against them; and

(e) the precautionary measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). No case of unauthorised printing of postage stamps at Ghaziabad has come to the notice of the Department

Workers in Pesticides Factories

3404. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper training and safeguards are ensured by the Government for the workers engaged in handling hazardous chemicals and working in pesticides factories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Telephone coverage in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3405. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the telephone coverage in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands so far;

(b) the progress made during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Action Plan for expansion of telecome services in the above Union Territory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) All major towns have been covered with telephone facility. All District Head Quarters, Sub-divisional Head Quarters and 6 out of a total 7 Tehsil Head Quarters have been provided with STD facility. 93 out of a total 292 villages have been provided with Public Telephone facility. At present 24 Telephone exchanges are working with equipped capacity of 6581 lines, 5153 Direct Exchange Lines and waiting list 2326.

(b) The progress made during each of last three years is given in Statement

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

The department has planned to add 2450 lines of switching capacity, 2000 new telephone connections and 201 village public telephones during 1996-97. This includes replacement/expansion of telephone exchanges at Port Blair, Campbellbay, Hut Bay, Revelock, Brichgunj and Lapathy. And opening of new telephone exchanges at Chouldary and Ograbraj.

STATEMENT

Progress made during each of last three years in A&N Islands

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. No. of Exchanges Commissioned	3	4	3
2. Net Switching Capacity added	680	1417	1384
3. Net DELs provided	301	722	1320
4. VPT provided	7	18	36
5. STD facility provided to No. of Stations in the circle (A&N)	2	1	2

Posts Offices in the Country

3406. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
SHRI RAM SAGAR :
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices in the rural and urban areas, State/Union Territory-wise, district-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices set up in rural and urban areas during each of the last three years, State-wise, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Action Plan for improvement/expansions/speedy mail delivery/proper supply of postal stationary of postal services in the rural and urban areas, separately;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of new Post Offices proposed to be set up during 1996-97 in rural/urban areas, separately, State-wise, district-wise?

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

(c) and (d). The Action Plan of the Department for improvement and expansion of Postal Services is given in *Statement* enclosed.

(e) It is proposed to open 80 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 15 Departmental Sub Post Offices in rural areas and 135 Departmental Sub Post Offices in urban areas during the year 1996-97. District-wise targets are not being allocated as Post Offices are opened keeping in view the norms based justification and merits of each proposal.

STATEMENT

Action Plan

Opening of Post Offices

A target for opening of 150 Departmental Sub Offices and 80 Branch Offices has been prescribed by MOF and Planning Commission for the year 1996-97. Since fresh sanction of posts is unlikely in view of recent economy measures, all circles will send proposals for opening of these post offices as per circle-wise target to the Directorate for approval before 30th September.

Rural Mail Monitoring

At present 1,36,064 post offices are working in rural areas, out of which 1,22,350 post offices have EDBO status but daily delivery has been provided for every village subject to weather conditions and operational compulsions. Every Circle will select 10% of total villages and monitor the delivery of money orders and mail with a view to identifying sources of delayed delivery/payment and take remedial measures. Heads of Circles will identify and circulate list of 10% villages in their jurisdiction within two weeks of receipt of Directorate instructions and allocate monitoring work to inspecting staff and also collect data in regard to efficiency of our rural mail collection and delivery network. While selecting the villages for monitoring, it should be ensured that only those villages/ areas are selected where regular complaints about delivery of mail or delayed payment of money orders are noticed. Specific data should be collected in regard to delay in mail/ payment of money orders as a result of absenteeism amongst the ED staff, suspension of state transport or private buses, lack of funds for payment of money order for other operational compulsions like weather conditions or civil disturbances. Areas where systematic defects in routing and delivery of

mail are noticed, or absenteeism on the part of ED staff is noticed, should be identified and remedial action taken.

Adequate supply of postal stationery

The existing availability of stamps and stationery should be reviewed in respect of all head post offices and sub offices, besides 10% of branch offices and a certificate should be given by each PMG that adequate stocks of stamp and stationery have reached the concerned post office and the procedural delays and defects notices have been rectified to ensure smooth and quick delivery of stamps and stationery from CSD to indenting offices.

Speed Post

All Circles will identify transmission and delivery points where speed post articles are not delayed beyond the prescribed norms and take remedial measures. Where consistent delay is noticed outside the home circle, detailed facts and data will be communicated DDG (Mails) and the concerned Circles with a view to ensuring at least 90% of speed post mail is delivered within the prescribed time by 30th September, 1996.

S.B. Pairing

At least 25% of pending ledger agreements should be completed within next 100 days and at least in respect of saving bank ledger agreement where the pendency is generally less than RD should be updated.

Issue of Duplicate money orders

All pending cases where duplicate money orders can be issued under existing instructions should be settled through issue of such money orders and all pending SB deceased claims where succession certificate is not required should be settled after verification.

Upgradation of counter services

Efforts will be made to supply 250 Electronic Franking Machines and 900 counter machines within next 100 days by the Directorate, and Circles will operationalise new machines.

Pending Investigation Reports

All pending investigation cases where the amount involved is more than Rs. 10,000/- would be personally reviewed by each Regional PMG/CPMG and it is expected that at least in 80% of cases completed investigation report will be submitted to the competent authority. Inter-Circle level enquiries should also be completed within this stipulated time and where staff dealing with cash and SB have overstayed their tenure then they will be transferred to other posts as a preventive measure. The SB claims in case of frauds will be

settled without waiting for punitive action against the concerned employee.

Section and promotion of staff

All Circles will hold DPCs for promotion to next higher ranks and also initiate recruitment process in respect of cadres where recruitment is due and vacant posts exist.

SC/ST recruitment

All vacant SC/ST posts should be filled up through special recruitment and in case any such posts could not be filled up before 30th September, the report in this regard will be submitted to Directorate. The total number of SC/ST posts filled up should be intimated to DDG (P) and Liaison Officer for SC/ST of Directorate.

Air Safety

3407. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases of air safety violation noticed by the Government during the last two years; and

(b) the steps being taken to bring the air safety in India to the level of internationally accepted norms?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There have been 39 cases of air safety violation during the period from August, 1994 to July, 1996. The break-up of these cases is as under:

Indian Airlines	-	10
Air India	-	3
Private Airlines and others	-	26
		39

Appropriate action such as suspension of licence of the pilots/co-pilots involved and withdrawal/suspension of approval granted to the operator concerned has been taken.

(b) To enhance the level of air safety, steps such as implementation of recommendation emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, monitoring of flight recorders, issuance of Civil Aviation Requirements, safety audit of operators, conducting safety seminars/meetings, inspection of aerodromes etc. are carried out continuously.

STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Andhra Pradesh

3408. SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO Booths in operation in each district of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and North Eastern Region in general and Dimapur in particular;

(b) the number of applications pending for allotment of such booths in each of the above States, district-wise;

(c) the time by which they are likely to be allotted booths;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints of irregularities being committed by such booth operators in the above States; and

(e) if so, the number thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government against them?

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

P.F. Offices in the Country

3409. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of PF Regional and Sub-Regional offices in the country;

(b) the number and location of such Offices in Karnataka;

(c) whether the Government purpose to open PF sub-regional offices in the industrial developed districts having large number of workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to Karnataka;

(e) whether all the PF regional and sub-regional offices in Karnataka have been computerised; and

(f) if not, the time by which these offices are likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There are at present 16 Regional and 53 Sub-Regional Offices of the EPF Organisation functioning in the Country.

(b) In addition to the Regional Office at Bangalore, there are 4 Sub-Regional Offices *i.e.* one each of Mangalore, Hubli, Gulbarga and Mysore.

(c) and (d). The EPF Sub-Regional Offices are opened keeping in view and workload and other parameters as and when the need for the same arises. However there is no proposal to open a new Sub-Regional Office in Karnataka for the present.

(e) and (f). Except Mysore, all the Regional & Sub-Regional EPF Offices in Karnataka have since been computerised. Necessary action to Computerise the EPF Office at Mysore has also been initiated.

[Translation]

Telecom Facilities in Madhuban (Bihar)

3410. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide communication facilities in East Champaran district (block Madhuban) of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether all the tehsil head-quarters have been linked with district headquarters;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Government have provided communication facilities in East Champaran district (block Madhuban) of Bihar and have proposals to further expand it as per the details of Action Plan given in *Statement-I*.

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) and (e). There are no tehsil headquarters in Bihar State. However there are 130 sub-divisional headquarters in Bihar which have been linked with STD facility to district headquarters. The district-wise details of the sub-divisional headquarters are given in *Statement-II*.

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

STATEMENT-I

Existing Communication Facility and Action Plan proposed for expansion in East Champaran District (Block Madhuban) of Bihar

Sl. No.	Name of Exch.	Type	Existing Cap	Proposed expansion during 1996-97 (Lines)
1.	Areraj	256P(RAX)	184	152
2.	Harsidhi	128P(RAX)	88	152
3.	Sataha	64P(MILT)	56	0
4.	Barachakia	512P(CDOT)	424	576
5.	Damodarapur	128P(RAX)	88	152
6.	Kalayanpur	128P(RAX)	88	152
7.	Kesariya	2*128P(RAX)	160	304
8.	Korwa	128P(RAX)	88	0
9.	Mehsi	2*128P(RAX)	160	160
10.	Piprikothi	128P(RAX)	88	152
11.	Chhauradano	128P(RAX)	96	152
12.	Chiraiya	128P(RAX)	88	152
13.	Draka	256P(RAX)	184	160
14.	Ghorasahan	2*256P(RAX)	264	160
15.	Motihari	1.4K+512(CDOT)	1888	3000
16.	Sehra	128P(RAX)	88	0
17.	Subauli	2*128P(RAX)	160	160
18.	Turkaulia	2*128P(RAX)	160	152
19.	S. Madhuban	2*128P(RAX)	160	152
20.	Pakaridayal	256P(RAX)	184	160
21.	Patahi	128P(RAX)	80	0

STATMENT-II

District-wise details of sub-Divisional Headquarters in linked with STD facility to district headquarters

Name of District	Sl. No.	Sub-Divisional Headquarters	Name of District	Sl. No.	Sub-Divisional Headquarters
				33.	Jainagar
				34.	Jhanjharpur
				35.	Phulparas
Bhojpur	1.	Arrah	Samastipur	36.	Samastipur
	2.	Jagsishpur		37.	Dalsingsarai
	3.	Piro	Khagaria	38.	Patori
Buxar	4.	Buxar		39.	Rosera
	5.	Dumraon		40.	Khagaria
	6.	Sasaram		41.	Gogri
	7.	Dehri	Begusarai	42.	Begusarai
	8.	Bikramganj		43.	Balia
Bhabhua	9.	Bhabhua		44.	Teghra
	10.	Mohania		45.	Manjhaul
Bhagalpur	11.	Bhagalpur		46.	Bakhri
	12.	Kahalgaon		47.	Dhanbad
	13.	Naugachia	Dhanbad Bokaro		
Banka	14.	Banka		48.	Chas
Saran				49.	Bermo
	15.	Chapra		50.	Dumka
	16.	Sonepur	Dumka		
	17.	Marwaurah		51.	Jharmundi
Siwan	18.	Siwan	Deoghar	52.	Deoghar
	19.	Maharajganj		53.	Madhupur
Gopalganj	20.	Gopalganj	Sahebganj	54.	Sahebganj
	21.	Hathuwa		55.	Rajmahal
Daltonganj	22.	Daltonganj	Pakur	56.	Pakur
	23.	Latehar	Godda	57.	Godda
	24.	Husainabad			
	25.	Chatterpur	Gaya	58.	Gaya
				59.	Tekari
Garhwa	26.	Garhwa		60.	Sherghati
	27.	Nagarutari			
Darbhanga	28.	Darbhanga	Jahanabad	61.	Jahanabad
	29.	Benipur		62.	Arwal
	30.	Biraul	Aurangabad	63.	Aurangabad
Madhubani	31.	Madhubani		64.	Daudnagar
	32.	Benipatti	Nawada	65.	Nawada

Name of District	Sl. No.	Sub-Divisional Headquarters	Name of District	Sl. No.	Sub-Divisional Headquarters
	66.	Rajauli	W. Champaran	99.	Settiah
Hazaribagh	67.	Hazaribagh		100.	Bagha
	68.	Barhi		101.	Narkatiaganj
	69.	Ramgarh	Muzaffarpur	102.	Muzaffarpur
Koderma	70.	Koderma		103.	Motipur
Chatra	71.	Chatra	Vaishali	104.	Hajipur
Giridih	72.	Giridih		105.	Mahua
E. Singhbhum	73.	Jemshedpur	Sitamarhi	106.	Sitamarhi
	74.	Ghatsila		107.	Belsand
W. Singhbhum	75.	Chaibasa		108.	Sheohar
	76.	Chakradharpur		109.	Pupri
	77.	Saraikela	Patna	110.	Patna
Katihar	78.	Katihar		111.	Patna City
	79.	Manihari		112.	Masaurhi
	80.	Barsoi		113.	Danapur
Kishanganj	81.	Kishanganj		114.	Barh
Purnea	82.	Purnea	Nalanda	115.	Bigarsharif
	83.	Baisi		116.	Rajgir
	84.	Banmankhi		117.	Hilsa
	85.	Dhamdaha	Ranchi	118.	Ranchi
Araria	86.	Araria		119.	Khunti
	87.	Forbesganj	Gumla	120.	Gumla
Monghyr	88.	Monghyr	Lohardaga	121.	Lohardaga
	89.	H. Kharipur		122.	Simdaga
	90.	Jamui	Saharsa	123.	Saharsa
Shekhpura	91.	Shekhpura		124.	S. Bakhtiarpur
Lakhisarai	92.	Lakhisarai		125.	Supaul
E. Champaran	93.	Motihari		126.	Nirmali
	94.	Chakia		127.	Birpur
	95.	Raksaul		128.	Tirveniganj
	96.	Sikarhana	Madhopur	129.	Madhepura
	97.	Areraj		130.	Udakishanganj.
	98.	Pakridayal			

Job opportunities for workers in Foreign Countries*[English]*

3411. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *Alias* PAPU YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether job opportunities are made available by the Government in foreign countries for different categories of labourers;

(b) if so, the details of the role of the Government in this regard;

(c) the total number of labourers sent to other countries by the Government during the last two years;

(d) the demand for different categories of labour received from different countries during the current year;

(e) whether there is a proposal to provide such an opportunity to the labourers of Bihar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f). Under the provision of the Emigration Act, 1983, and rules made thereunder the role of Central Government is limited to examining the terms and conditions of employment, wages offered, social security benefits, the mode of settlement of disputes etc. in respect of the Indian labour emigrating for employment purposes abroad. The job opportunities for Indian workers in foreign countries are found out either by Recruiting Agents registered with the Ministry of Labour or by the project exporters or by the individuals themselves. Some of the State Governments have also set up Manpower Export Corporations for deployment of Indian workers abroad. These corporations are also registered as Recruiting Agents under the Act. The demand for different categories of workers is directly received by the Recruiting Agents from the foreign employers. During the years 1994 and 1995, 4.25 lakh and 4.15 lakh persons respectively were granted clearances for employment abroad. The workers from all parts of the country including the State of Bihar can approach the Recruitment Agents registered with Ministry of Labour for ascertaining opportunities for overseas employment. However, India has been seeking enhanced market access for its citizens to provide specific services in foreign countries through negotiations in the FTO under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) which provides a framework for the negotiation of market access commitments in various services sectors and for the temporary relocation of skilled personnel as a part of service contract or in the categories of intra-corporate transferees and business visitors. Concerned professional organisations like the NASCOM which represents the computer software professionals, have taken sectoral delegations to target countries. The matter has also been taken up during bilateral talks with concerned governments at different levels.

Breakdown of Telecom Network in Nagpur

3412. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the total breakdown of telecommunication network in Nagpur city and the officials of the Nagpur Telephones are not taking any care to set right the dead telephones;

(b) the number of telephones lying dead and the number out of these rectified since the last six months in the city; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to restore telephone lines immediately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There has not been any major breakdown of Telecommunication network in Nagpur. During the rainy season in June-July increase in faults has been reported.

(b) During the last six months a total of 1,18,462 faults were registered and out of which 1,14,136 have been rectified. The details of faults pending as on 15.8.96 is as follows:

Faults pending for		
3 to 7 days	-	1921
7 to 15 days	-	1367
15 to 30 days	-	858
30 to 60 days	-	80

(c) All out efforts are being made by Nagpur Telephones to rectify the faults immediately.

*[Translation]***Development of Tourism**

3413. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI SAT MAHAJAN :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from various State Governments for the development of tourism for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, Statewise;

(c) the number of proposals out of them approved/pending/rejected by the Union Government so far;

(d) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of tourism during the above period alongwith the financial assistance proposed to be provided for the next two years, State/Union territory-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to provide funds for the development of Sabrimala and Erumely Pilgrim centres of Kerala; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism has extended finan-

cial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments for creation of 34 Yatri Niwases, 199 Tourist Bungalows and 119 Wayside Amenities/Tourist Reception Centres during the last three years. The Statewise details of Central Financial Assistance extended during the above mentioned period is given in *Statement*.

(c) and (d). The Department of Tourism does not allocate funds in advance for projects as the same are identified in consultation with the State Governments based on their merits, *inter se* priority and availability of funds. The financial assistance is extended to the project which are within the guidelines and complete in all respects.

(e) and (f). No proposal for the development of Sabrimala and Erumely Pilgrim centres of Kerala has been received from State Government.

STATEMENT

Central Financial Assistance sanctioned Governments/Union Territories during the last three years viz. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Amt. Sanctioned	Amt. released	Amt. sanctioned	Amt. released	Amt. sanctioned	Amt. released
1. Andhra Pradesh	114.28	57.97	174.64	73.23	13.46	9.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	45.40	23.50	-	-	52.26	25.50
3. Assam	78.11	28.83	52.99	27.00	70.24	23.33
4. Bihar	53.61	19.95	112.12	28.00	116.52	14.04
5. Goa	78.82	41.83	162.07	75.52	221.55	96.15
6. Gujarat	65.76	35.48	21.19	11.00	7.98	4.73
7. Haryana	223.21	81.62	188.96	65.98	119.45	61.57
8. Himachal Pradesh	349.28	177.22	368.85	131.91	373.39	35.97
9. Jammu & Kashmir	225.60	100.88	215.98	108.55	150.30	43.43
10. Karnataka	177.44	114.53	229.96	104.50	229.36	82.55
11. Kerala	97.40	26.50	307.05	146.00	209.94	83.95
12. Madhya Pradesh	31.57	9.00	9.32	5.00	-	-
13. Maharashtra	309.31	156.49	273.46	103.92	83.64	23.90
14. Manipur	45.50	27.35	4.00	2.00	75.81	24.20

States	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Amt. Sanc-tioned	Amt. released	Amt. sanc-tioned	Amt. released	Amt. sanc-tioned	Amt. released
15. Meghalaya	1.85	1.85	-	-	4.08	2.04
16. Mizoram	88.18	62.83	111.80	41.29	100.86	36.27
17. Nagaland	16.66	10.97	36.43	16.85	51.60	18.94
18. Orissa	101.52	61.79	166.31	35.62	108.86	27.50
19. Punjab	186.67	50.38	136.71	56.14	139.49	21.50
20. Rajasthan	260.43	132.93	662.78	567.37	164.65	33.56
21. Sikkim	130.89	111.49	49.07	12.63	24.61	13.68
22. Tamil Nadu	402.45	186.89	145.72	67.35	250.11	72.72
23. Tripura	15.07	9.69	46.61	22.40	35.43	10.00
24. Uttar Pradesh	151.04	60.65	223.80	144.30	26.21	26.21
25. West Bengal	167.30	57.50	144.01	37.26	191.10	22.70
Union Territory						
1. Andaman & Nicobar	53.47	26.00	-	-	45.00	20.00
2. Chandigarh	18.66	14.80	64.66	19.50	17.20	10.86
3. Dadra & Nagar Havelli	-	-	23.62	12.00	-	-
4. Daman & Diu	12.03	7.50	42.31	21.45	44.21	9.30
5. Delhi	117.23	74.64	116.50	56.67	28.23	17.77
6. Lakshadweep	-	-	19.95	10.00	24.65	-
7. Pondicherry	29.75	15.00	-	-	28.12	13.10
Total :	3648.49	1786.06	4110.87	2003.44	3009.31	884.37

Air Deal with Air India

3414. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Viman saude ke liye kampaniyon mein kadi takkar" appearing in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated July 18, 1996;

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

(c) whether a boeing company of U.S.A. is making all out efforts to strike the air deal with Air India somehow in its favour; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d). Air India has plans to induct Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) aircraft into its fleet during the Ninth

Plan period. The aircraft being evaluated are A340-300 of Airbus Industrie, B777-200 of Boeing Airplane Company and MD-11 of Mc Donnell Douglas Corporation.

[English]

Improvement in Telecom Services

3415. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently contemplated steps to monitor the improvement in telecom services throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telecom services are deteriorating day by day; and

(d) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for improvement in telecom services in the country?

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

(b) For improvement of telecom services throughout the country the following norms have been fixed:

(i) Local Shift: within seven days.

(ii) Inter-exchange shift: within 15 days.

(iii) Inter-state shift: within 30 days.

(iv) fault clearance: within 48 hours.

(v) New Telephone Connections: within 15 days.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Field officers have been instructed to put all out efforts to keep the service parameters within norms. Monitoring of these parameters is done by field units as well as by Telecom Headquarters.

International flights from Calcutta

3416. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the international flights from Calcutta or divert some of the foreign flights from Mumbai and Delhi to Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The Government of India as a matter of policy, if offering various incentives to foreign airlines to operate to Calcutta like the ability to combine Calcutta with other prime gate ways, liberal fifth freedom rights, liberal terms of commercial agreements etc. In certain cases the ability to operate to prime gate ways like Delhi and Bombay has been made conditional to their operating to Calcutta. The actual operations, however, depend on the commercial judgement of the airlines concerned.

Conversion of Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges

3417. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exchanges which have been converted into electronic exchanges in Kerala during 1995-96, district-wise?

(b) the number of exchanges likely to be converted in the State during 1996-97 and 1997-98, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to replace old system of Kasaragod Telephone Exchange in the State with modern technology to cater the greater needs of the people of Malabar area who are waiting for telephone connection for the last six years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 34 Telephone exchanges were converted into electronic during 1995-96 in Kerala. District-wise details are given in enclosed as *Statement-I*.

(b) The number of exchanges likely to be converted into electronic during 1996-97 in Kerala, district-wise is enclosed in *Statement-II*. The commissioning programme for 1997-98 shall be finalised in the first quarter of 1997-98 after the budget for 1997-98 is approved.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The equipment required for replacement of 4000 lines ICP Cross Bar exchanges is likely to be received by March, 1997 and replacement is expected to take place by the middle of 1997-98.

STATEMENT-I

District-wise No. of Exchanges converted into Electronic during 1995-96

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of exchanges converted into electronic during 1995-96
1.	Alleppey	5
2.	Calicut	2
3.	Cannanore	5
4.	Ernakulam	3
5.	Idukki	1
6.	Kasaragod	2
7.	Kottayam	1
8.	Malappuram	2
9.	Palakkad	1
10.	Pathanamthitta	5
11.	Quilon	4
12.	Trichur	2
13.	Trivandrum	1
Total :		34

STATEMENT-II

District-wise No. Exchanges likely to be converted into Electronic Exchanges during 1996-97

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of exchanges likely to be converted into electronic during 1996-97
1.	Calicut	3
2.	Cannanore	3
3.	Ernakulam	6

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of exchanges likely to be converted into electronic during 1996-97
4.	Kottayam	13
5.	Malappuram	4
6.	Palghat	1
7.	Pathanamthitta	1
8.	Quilon	3
9.	Trichur	3
Total		37

[Translation]

P&T Offices in the Country

3418. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deterioration in the Posts and Telegraph services day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have fixed any criteria/norms for setting up of Posts and Telegraph Offices in the rural/urban areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof, urban/rural, separately;

(e) whether the Government propose to open more Posts and Telegraph offices in the country;

(f) if so, the number of rural/urban, separately and by when; and

(g) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to make postal and telegraph services more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). **Department of Post:** The Postal Services in the country are by and large satisfactory. Post is dependent on several external agencies like Airways, Railways and Roadways for its various functions. Hence occasional operational lapses occur which are solved through appropriate intervention.

Department of Telecommunications

The performance of telegraph services is satisfactory. During the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, 92.75%, 92.75% and 94.58% telegrams respectively were delivered within 12 daylight hours.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Norms for opening of Post Offices and Telegraph Offices are given in *Statement-I*.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir.

Department of Posts

It is proposed to open 80 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 15 Departmental Sub Post Offices in rural areas and 135 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Urban areas by March, 31, 1997 subject to availability of resources.

Department of Telecommunications

The independent telegraph offices are opened on the basis of prescribed norms and feasibility.

No target is fixed for providing telegraph facility in rural areas as it is provided on the basis of demand & justification of volume of traffic.

(g) The steps taken and being taken by the Government to make Post and Telegraph services more efficient are given in *Statement-II*.

STATEMENT-I*Norms for opening of Post Offices***1. Norms for opening of new Branch Post Office****1.1 Population****(a) In Normal areas:**

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages)

(b) In the hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance**(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Offices will be 3 Kms.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income**(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of cost.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Norms of Opening New Departmental Sub Post Offices:**2.1 In rural areas:**

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

2.2 In Urban Areas:

2.2.1 In Urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2 The minimum distance between two Post Office should be 1.5 km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 kms. in other urban areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 kms. for each other.

2.2.3 Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

2.2.4 A Delivery Post Office in Urban Areas should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Department of Telecommunications**Norms for setting up of Telegraph Offices:****Rural Areas**

Telegraph facility in rural area is provided on the basis of demand and justification of volume of traffic.

Urban Areas

- (i) As and when daily average of telegraph traffic reaches the norm of 500 operations, the combined Post and Telegraph Offices are upgraded to the status of independent Telegraph Offices.
- (ii) Also in a place, if a telegraph office is already existing and the delivered telegrams are more than 500, an area can be carved out for 200 telegrams delivery to open a zonal telegraph office.
- (iii) There is also a policy to setup an independent telegraph office at each Revenue District Headquarter in the country irrespective of any prescribed norms.

STATEMENT-II

Steps taken and being taken by the Government to make Postal and Telegraph Service more efficient

Department of Post

- (a) Introduction of Speed post Service, Domestic and International for movement of time sensitive mail—The Domestic Speed Post Service is available at 73 cities on the national network. India is linked to 76 countries on the International EMS Network.
- (b) Metro Channel has been introduced to expedite movement of mail between Metropolitan cities. Rajdhani Channel has been introduced linking Delhi to a number of State capitals. Business Channel has been introduced to devote special attention to bulk mail offered by Business houses.
- (c) Computer based multi-purpose machines have been introduced in selected Post Offices to provide better service to consumers.
- (d) Transmission of Money Order through Satellite Channels has been introduced. 69 cities are linked on this channel at present. There is a plan to cover 75 cities during the current financial year.
- (e) Hybrid mail service has also been introduced recently.
- (f) Automated Sorting machines are functioning at Bombay & Madras with very high capacity to process mail.
- (g) An ambitious programme of modernisation and computerisation of front room operations has been taken up.

Department of Telecommunications

- (i) Ten store and forward message switching 128 Lines systems, eleven SFMS-64 Lines systems and Twenty

one SFMS-32 Lines systems are already operational in the telegraph network.

- (ii) About 190 Electronic Keyboard concentrators and 1850 Electronic Keyboards are already working all over India. They have been inducted in the Telegraph Network to replace age—old low speed more system:
- (iii) About 800 formatted terminals have been inducted in the Telegraph network.
- (iv) One SFMS-64 Lines system at Jaipur and one SFMS-32 Lines system as Shillong are under installation.
- (v) Nine more SFMS-32 Lines systems are under supply and installation.
- (vi) 600 more formatted terminals will be commissioned shortly.

[English]

STD facility at halt in Jabalpur

3419. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that STD services were at halt on 13.6.96 in Jabalpur area in Madhya Pradesh due to cutting of optical fibre cable;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was made in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against defaulters; and

(d) the precautionary measures taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir, STD services from Jabalpur were partially affected for 6 hours and 30 minutes, on 13.6.96 due to cut in Optical Fibre Cable caused by rodents.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) The fault spot has been concreted and maintenance efforts have been stepped up.

[Translation]

Conditions for T.V. Channel Operators

3420. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conditions prescribed by the Government at the time of giving approval to the private companies for starting independent T.V. Channels are being carried out properly;

(b) if so, whether the 'Programme for Adults' viewing is being telecast according to the prescribed conditions;

(c) if not, the reasons, therefor;

(d) whether protests are being made on this action by various social organisations; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) As per extant Government policy no private company or an individual is permitted to set up an independent T.V. Channel in the country.

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

(d) and (e). Government is aware of protests made in this regard but the programmes telecast on foreign satellite television channels do not come within the ambit of Indian laws as these are uplinked from abroad. Cable Operators in India are, however, required to ensure that the programmes telecast on such channels whose reception requires the use of a specialised gadget-decoder, conform to the provisions of the programme/advertisement code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

[English]

Upgradation of Administration in Tribals/Scheduled Areas

3421. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any award was given by the Tenth Finance Commission for the upgradation of administration in Tribal or Scheduled areas during 1995 to 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) (a) and (b). The Finance Commission Division in the Ministry of Finance have intimated that the Tenth Finance Commission has not recommended any award as Upgradation grants for Upgradation of Administration in Tribals or Scheduled Areas of the States during 1995 to 2000.

[Translation]

Out of Orders Telephones in Jalandhar

3422. SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the telephones are out of order in Jalandhar and are not rectified after making complaints repeatedly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government for early rectification of these telephones?

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

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

Monitoring of Flights

3423. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether very shortly satellite is likely to replace Radar for monitoring the flights in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which satellite system is likely to be started for the purpose?

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

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

Financial assistance to Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation

3424. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance/grants provided to Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation by the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the above assistance has been properly utilised by the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The Union Government have not provided Central Assistance/grants to Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation during the last 3 years.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Utilisation of Airports in Gujarat

3425. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airports in Gujarat like Keshod, Kandla, Porbander and Rajkot are not being used by any airlines in public or private sectors;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to make full use of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). No, Sir. NEPC Airlines operates to Keshod, Kandla, Porbandar and Rajkot. Indian Airlines operates to Rajkot.

[Translation]

Telephone facilities with STD to Gram Sabhas

3426. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided telephone facilities with STD to Gram Sabhas in the country;

(b) if so, the number of 'Gram Sabhas' have been provided this facility during 1994-95, 1995-96; and

(c) the target fixed for providing this facility to the gram Sabhas during 1996-97 and the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) There is no separate policy for providing STD facility to Gram Sabhas of the country. Such facility is given on public telephones installed in villages

including Gram Sabhas wherever there is a demand and technical feasibility exists.

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

[English]

Janvani as Jan Adalat

3427. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

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

(a) whether the programme 'Janvani' is being telecast on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this programme has been rechristened as 'Jan Adalat' and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Modern Techniques for Mineral

3428. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Airborne Geophysical Survey is required to locate the vast and a noble metals in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign company in collaboration with Indian companies has applied for such survey;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has sent any proposal to enable locations of minerals through modern techniques including airborne survey;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

An area of 30,140 sq. km. was covered under 'Operation Hard Rock' (Electro-magnetic), some parts of Rajasthan was also covered by the BRGM/CGG Surveys during 1971-72. GSI has covered 93,674 sq. km. area in Rajasthan through multisensor aerogeophysical surveys. Follow-up ground surveys for evaluation of airborne geophysical anomalies as well as investigation for base-metal and precious metals (gold) are in progress.

During F.S. 1995-96, investigation for gold was undertaken in Manpura-Sanjola and adjoining areas of Udaipur, Banswara and Durgapur districts of Rajasthan.

During F.S. 1996-97 surveys in parts of Bundi, Sawai Madhopur and Bharatpur districts besides in Kakalwar-Salgis-was area in parts of Dioli and Toda Rai Singh Tehsil, Tonk district are being planned.

(c) to (g). Government of Rajasthan has submitted an application of M/s. C.R.A. Exploration Ltd. (Australia), New Delhi in collaboration with M/s. Associated Cement Companies (ACC) for Airborne geophysical survey for lead, zinc, copper, gold and associated minerals. The Government of Rajasthan has been advised that the M/s. CRA Exploration Ltd. may approach the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for necessary clearance in the first instance.

The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Ltd. (BHP) (Australia) has proposed to collaborate with Geological Survey of India (GSI) for acquisition and processing of Airborne Geophysical data in Rajasthan. The modalities of co-operation between GSI and BHP Ltd. have not yet been finalised.

[Translation]

Tourist Centres

3429. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourist centres situated in Padrauna and Deoria districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to allocate funds during the current financial year for extension and beautification of Kushinagar-Narvan place of Lord Buddha;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Government also propose to allocate funds for construction of 100 K.M. road linked to Kushinagar with Didweshwar Nath Majhauri Raj tourist centre situated in the Deoria district;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to allocate funds for the development of Didweshwar Nath Majhauri Raj tourist centre;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Didweshwar Nath Majhauri Raj and Dugdeshwar Nath in Padrauna and Deorahababa Ashram in Deoria district are the places of tourist importance.

(b) and (c). Kushinagar-Narvan forms part of Buddhist Circuit in the State of U.P. which has been taken up for development through the externally aided project of OECF (Japan). Under this Project, land scaping, electricity supply schemes, water supply schemes and telecommunication schemes have been taken up.

(d) No, such proposal is under consideration with the Department of Tourism, Uttar Pradesh.

(e) to (g). The State Government has not submitted any proposal to the Department of Tourism, Government of India for development of Didweshwar Nath Majhauri Raj tourist centre. The State Government has taken up the work of development through their district plan.

[English]

Production of Stainless Steel

3430. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of steel plants producing stainless steel, State-wise locations thereof;

(b) whether the proposal to set-up some stainless steel plants are pending with the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to clear such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The State-wise details of the industrial units borne on the list of Development

Commissioner for Iron & Steel Producing stainless steel are as follows:

(1)	West Bengal	(i)	M/s. Guest Keen Williams, Howrah.
		(ii)	M/s. Poddar Udyogs Ltd., Hooghly.
		(iii)	M/s. Indo-Japan Steels Ltd., Howrah.
		(iv)	M/s. Nipha Steel Ltd., Hooghly.
(2)	Maharashtra	(i)	M/s. Mahindra UGINE Steel Co. Ltd., Raigad.
		(ii)	M/s. Firth (India) Steel Co. Ltd., Nagpur.
		(iii)	M/s. Mukand Ltd., Thane.
		(iv)	M/s. Ferro Alloys Corp. Ltd., Nagpur.
		(v)	M/s. Kalyani Steels Ltd., Mundhwa, Pune.
(3)	Haryana	(i)	M/s. Haryana Steels & Alloys Ltd., Sonapat.
		(ii)	M/s. Pratap Steels, Bullabgarh.
		(iii)	M/s. Starwire India Ltd., Bullabgarh.
(4)	Madhya Pradesh	(i)	M/s. Kusúm Ingot & Alloys Ltd., Indore.
		(ii)	M/s. Shri Ishwar Alloys & Steel Ltd., Indore.
		(iii)	M/s. Reliance Ispat Ind. Ltd., Dewas.
(5)	Gujarat	(i)	M/s. Panchmahal Steel Ltd., Kalol.
		(ii)	M/s. Vikram Steel Ltd., Rajkot.
(6)	Punjab	(i)	M/s. Punjab Concast Steel Ltd., Ludhiana.
		(ii)	M/s. Pratap Steel Rolling Mills (1935) Ltd., Amritsar.
(7)	Rajasthan	(i)	M/s. Rathi Alloys & Steel Ltd., Alwar.
(8)	Uttar Pradesh	(i)	M/s. Rathi Ispat Ltd., Ghaziabad.
(9)	Goa	(i)	M/s. Marmogoa Steel Ltd., Marmogoa.
(10)	Himachal Pradesh	(i)	M/s. Ashoke Alloys Steels Ltd., Sirmour.

In addition, Alloys Steels Plant, Durgapur, West Bengal of the Steel Authority of India Limited, the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravati, Karnataka and a number of small electric furnace units also produce stainless steel.

(b) to (d). As per the present industrial policy, iron and steel industry including stainless steel has been exempted from the provisions of compulsory licensing, barring certain locational restrictions. As such, no proposal to set up stainless steel plant is pending with Ministry of Steel.

Transportation Charges

3431. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any step to approve the transportation charges (including transportation of retailers) as approved by the State Governments in levy sugar price equalisation fund accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government also propose to allow State Governments to claim Octroi and Insurance charges under levy sugar price equalisation fund as per earlier guidelines issued by the Union Government on October 28, 1972; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL
SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). Transportation charges to wholesalers and retailers are allowed in accordance with the guidelines for fixing margins for wholesalers & retailers issued to State Governments. These guidelines also include actual transportation charges by road as approved by the State Government and certified by an authority appointed for the purpose limited to railway freight.

(c) and (d). Octroi and Insurance Charges are not reimbursible as per Government policy.

Newspapers published from Assam

3432. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the circulation of daily newspapers published from Assam as certified by the Press Registrar of India during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantity of newsprint allotted to each newspaper during the above period; and

(c) the new dailies and other magazines etc. that have come out in the State since 1990, year-wise with their circulation position?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Circulation claim of every newspaper in the country is not assessed/verified as claimed in the Annual Statement every year by the Office of the Registrar of the Newspapers for India (RNI) in view of limited resources. Details of daily newspapers published from Assam whose circulation claim for the years 1992, 1993 & 1994 were certified assessed by the RNI during the last three years are enclosed as given in *Statement-I*.

(b) and (c). The requisite information is enclosed as *Statement II* and *III* respectively.

STATEMENT-I

Details of daily newspapers whose circulation claim for the year 1992, 1993 and 1994 have been certified/assessed during the last 3 years is as under

Sl. No.	Name of the publication	Language/periodicity	Place of publication	Circulation	
				Claimed	Assessed
1	2	3	4	5	6
For the year 1992					
1.	News Star	English/daily	Guwahati	14311	13402
2.	Janmabhoomi	Assamese/daily	Jorhat	39380	37586
3.	Eastern Clarion	English/daily	Jorhat	12015	11449
4.	Frontier Sun	English/daily	Silchar	NS	Unestablished
5.	News Front	English/daily	Guwahati	37336	35639
6.	Poorvanchal Prahari	Hindi/daily	Guwahati	NS	Unestablished
7.	Nutan Dainik	Assamese/daily	Guwahati	40480	39388
8.	Aravte Jyoti	Bengali/daily	Silchar	NS	Unestablished
9.	Sandhya Batori	Assamese/daily	Guwahati	15778	15190
10.	Poorvanchal	Assamese/daily	Guwahati	NS	Unestablished
For the year 1993					
1.	Nutan Dainik	Assamese/daily	Guwahati	40611	38775
2.	Present Times	English/daily	Guwahati	NS	Unestablished

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Nutan Assamiya	Assamese/daily	Guwahati	NS	Unestablished
4.	Assam Express	English/daily	Guwahati	25159	24275
5.	Ajir Asom	Assamese/daily	Guwahati	24401	23906
6.	Dainik Sonar Cathar	Bengali/daily	Silchar	NS	Unestablished
7.	Janakranti	Assamese/daily	Guwahati	NS	Unestablished
For the year 1994					
1.	News Star	English/daily	Guwahati	NS	Unestablished
2.	Assam Tribune	English/daily	Guwahati	39265	38426
3.	Dainik Assam	Assamese/daily	Guwahati	32103	31425
4.	Poorvanchal Prahar	Hindi/daily	Guwahati	23686	23183

NS*—Not supplied.

STATEMENT-II

	Qty. allocated (in Metric tonnes)
Entitlement Certificate issued during 1993-94	
1. Sentinel English/Daily, Guwahati	Open E.C.*
2. Samay Prabha, Bengali/Daily, Guwahati	121.09 Mts.
3. Ajir Asom, Assamese/Daily, Guwahati	Open E.C.
4. Janambhumi, Assamese/Daily, Jorhat	Open E.C.
5. Janambhumi, Assamese/Weekly, Jorhat	9.20 Mts.
6. Assam Tribune, English/Daily, Guwahati	Open E.C.
7. Agradoot, Assamese/Bi-Weekly, Guwahati	Open E.C.
8. Nutun Dainik, Assamese/Daily, Guwahati	Open E.C.
9. Dainik Asom, Assamese/Daily, Guwahati	Open E.C.
10. Asam Bani, Assamese/Weekly, Guwahati	55.41 Mts.
11. Sentinel Hindi/Daily, Guwahati	125.21 Mts.
12. Chitra Sambad, Assamese/Weekly, Guwahati	96.08 Mts.
13. Sandhya Batori, Assamese/Daily, Guwahati	39.35 Mts.
14. Nutun Din, Assamese/Weekly, Guwahati	27.17 Mts.
15. Bisnoi, Assamese/Monthly, Guwahati	33.65 Mts.
16. Ajir Batori, Assamese/Daily, Guwahati	458.90 Mts.

	Qty. allocated (in Metric tonnes)
17. Uttarkaal, Hindi/Daily, Guwahati	223.14 Mts.
18. Dongomusa, Kasi/Weekly, Guwahati	8.68 Mts.
19. Eastern Clarion, English/Daily, Jorhat	195.17 Mts.

Entitlement Certificate issued during 1994-95

1. Sentinel English/Daily, Guwahati	Open E.C.
2. Samay Prabha, Bengali/Daily, Guwahati	Open E.C.
3. Ajir Asom, Assamese/Daily, Guwahati	Open E.C.
4. Janambhumi, Assamese/Daily, Jorhat	Open E.C.
5. Assam Tribune, English/Daily, Guwahati	Open E.C.
6. Agradoot, Assamese/Bi-Weekly, Guwahati	Open E.C.
7. Nutun Dainik, Assamese/Daily, Guwahati	Open E.C.
8. Asam Bani, Assamese/Weekly, Guwahati	55.38 Mts.
9. Sentinel Hindi/Daily, Guwahati	49.91 Mts.
10. Janambhumi, Assamese/Weekly, Jorhat	13.07 Mts.
11. Chitra Sambad, Assamese/Weekly, Guwahati	80.22 Mts.
12. Rongpur, Assamese/Weekly, Guwahati	23.33 Mts.
13. North East Observer English/Daily, Guwahati	99.88 Mts.
14. Ajir Sambad, Assamese/Daily, Dispur	302.92 Mts.
15. Sandhya Batori, Assamese/Daily, Guwahati	58.82 Mts.
16. Alok, Assamese/Weekly, Guwahati	31.64 Mts.
17. Sutradhar, Assamese/Fortnightly, Guwahati	7.53 Mts.
18. Bisnoi, Assamese/ Monthly, Guwahati	21.76 Mts.
19. Chitrandha Assamese/Fortnightly, Guwahati	1.68 Mts.
20. Pylon, English/Weekly, Guwahati	15.96 Mts.

Entitlement Certificate issued during 1995-96 (FOR APRIL)**

	Annual Basis	Monthly Basis
1. Janambhumi, Assamese/Weekly, Jorhat	20.12 Mts.	1.68 Mts.
2. The Eastern Clarion, English/Daily, Jorhat	192.12 Mts.	16.01 Mts.
3. Bisnoi Assamese/Monthly, Guwahati	28.17 Mts.	2.35 Mts.

* Open Entitlement Certificate issued in respect of newspapers whose annual entitlement of newsprint is above 200 Mts.

** Import of newsprint was placed under OGL by the Government w.e.f. 1.5.1995. As a result, RNI was not required to issue entitlement certificate to newspapers.

STATEMENT-III

The new dailies and other magazines etc. that have come out in the State of Assam since 1990

Year - 1990

Sl. No.	Name of the Newspapers	Language	Periodicity	Circulation					
				1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1.	Samaya Prabha	Bengali	Daily	NS*	NS*	11484	14207	NS*	NS*
2.	Business Relation	English	Bi-weekly	NS	NS	14508	14031	12187	NS
3.	Action News Magazines	English	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	8534
4.	Asom	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
5.	Chitra Sambad	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	44721	36380	35759	35856
6.	Mor Borak	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
7.	Sadnya Sambad	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	8625	NS	8669	NS
8.	Simanta Asom	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
9.	Jirdad	Multilingual	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
10.	Nua Dristi	Multilingual	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	15000	NS
11.	Khel Sambad	Assamese	Fortnightly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
12.	Nutan Awiscar	Assamese	Monthly	NS	3863	4000	4315	4789	NS
13.	Amar Jatiya Barta	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
14.	Prak Jyotish Panjika	Assamese	Annual	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

NS* — Not supplied

@ — Circulation as indicated in the Annual Statement.

The new dailies and other magazines etc. that have come out in the State of Assam since 1990

Year - 1991

Sl. No.	Name of the Newspapers	Language	Periodicity	Circulation				
				1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1.	News Front	English	Daily	NS	37336	NS	NS	NS
2.	Sandhya Batori	Assamese	Daily	NS	15778	15762	15809	NS
3.	Action News Magazine	English	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
4.	Dhipu Times	English	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
5.	Pylon	English	Weekly	NS	21527	21819	NS	NS
6.	Sapta Setu	Hindi	Weekly	NS	NS	3049	994	688
7.	Agnigarh	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

Sl. No.	Name of the Newspapers	Language	Periodicity	Circulation				
				1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
8.	Natun Din	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
9.	Ratana Peeth Barta	Assamese	Weekly	NS	8618	8603	NS	9178
10.	Saptahik Swadhin Asom	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
11.	Millater Dak	Bengali	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
12.	Bodosa	Bilingual	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
13.	The Construction Tribune	English	Fortnightly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
14.	Ajir Chitra Jyoti	Assamese	Fortnightly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
15.	Silchar Times	Bengali	Fortnightly	NS	NS	NS	5280	NS
16.	Aamee	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS	NS	14428	NS
17.	Bikalpa	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
18.	Kishore	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
19.	Pubali	Assamese	Quarterly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
20.	Samayanti	Assamese	Quarterly	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

The news dailies and other magazines etc. that have come out in the State of Assam since 1990

Year - 1992

Sl. No.	Name of the Newspapers	Language	Periodicity	Circulation			
				1992	1993	1994	1995
1.	Eastern Clarion	English	Daily	12015	11879	10649	11645
2.	Dainik Ajir Batori	Assamese	Daily	NS	NS	80880	NS
3.	Asom Prahari	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS
4.	Asom Sambad	Assamese	Weekly	NS	41029	NS	NS
5.	Saptah Darpan	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS
6.	Desh Barta	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	NS	NS
7.	Nava Preerana	Assamese	Fortnightly	NS	NS	NS	NS
8.	Pubali	Assamese	Fortnightly	26270	18679	18060	16479
9.	Angana	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS	NS	NS
10.	Bijoyinee	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS	NS	NS
11.	Mahanayak	Bengali	Monthly	NS	NS	NS	NS
12.	Ajir Samanwaya	Assamese	Bi-monthly	NS	NS	NS	NS

The new dailies and other magazines etc. that have come out in the State of Assam since 1990

Year - 1993

Sl. No.	Name of the Newspapers	Language	Periodicity	Circulation		
				1993	1994	1995
1.	North East Observer	English	Daily	NS	42352	NS
2.	Gana Patrika	Bengali	Daily	31536	NS	NS
3.	Amarjyoti	Assamese	Bi-weekly	NS	NS	NS
4.	The Bodoland Times	English	Weekly	NS	NS	NS
5.	Rangpur	Assamese	Weekly	NS	22249	NS
6.	Saptahik Deobar	Assamese	Weekly	16590	NS	NS
7.	Saptahik Ganayug	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS	NS
8.	Deuka	Assamese	Bi-monthly	NS	NS	NS
9.	Akshar Bretta	Bengali	Quarterly	NS	NS	NS

The new dailies and other magazines etc. that have come out in the State of Assam since 1990

Year - 1994

Sl. No.	Name of the Newspapers	Language	Periodicity	Circulation	
				1994	1995
1.	Ajir Sambad	Assamese	Daily	NS	NS
2.	Jagrota Prohori	Assamese	Fortnightly	NS	NS
3.	Chitragada	Assamese	Fortnightly	NS	NS
4.	Posekia Navarun	Assamese	Fortnightly	NS	NS
5.	Swarupa	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS
6.	Gariyoshi	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS
7.	Trishnatur	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS
8.	Srijani	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS
9.	Natun Dharitri	Assamese	Monthly	NS	NS
10.	Aagan	Assamese	Other Periodicity	NS	NS
11.	Saptahik Rengonee	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS
12.	Saptahi Krishak Bandhu	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS
13.	Assam Janasutra	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS
14.	Rangili Barta	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS

Sl. No.	Name of the Newspapers	Language	Periodicity	Circulation	
				1994	1995
15.	Saptahik Kalpataru	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS
16.	Saptahik Soobanshiri	Assamese	Weekly	NS	NS
17.	Sambad Bibidha	Bengali	Fortnightly	NS	NS
18.	Uttar Purba Sambad	Bengali	Weekly	NS	NS
19.	Purba Bharat Sambad	Bengali	Weekly	NS	NS
20.	Karimganj Sambad	Bengali	Weekly	NS	NS
21.	Amar Barak	Bengali	Weekly	NS	NS
22.	The Sentinel and Ajir Asom Homelink	Bilingual	Weekly	NS	NS
23.	Bodoland Radab	Bodo	Weekly	NS	NS
24.	The Brahmaputra Times	English	Fortnightly	NS	NS
25.	Highland Observer	English	Fortnightly	NS	NS
26.	Northeast People	English	Weekly	NS	NS

The new dailies and other magazines etc. that have come out in the State of Assam since 1990

Year - 1995

Sl. No.	Name of the Newspapers	Language	Periodicity	Circulation, 1995
1.	Challenger Barta	English	Weekly	NS
2.	The Oil Field Times	English	Weekly	NS
3.	Amar Agniban	Assamese	Weekly	NS
4.	Asomiya Karnakshetra	Assamese	Weekly	NS
5.	Nam Achey	Assamese	Weekly	NS
6.	Natun Parichay	Assamese	Weekly	NS
7.	Barak Valley	Bengali	Weekly	NS
8.	Samayer Ahban	Bengali	Weekly	NS
9.	Satabdi Varta	Bengali	Weekly	NS
10.	Jugar Sandhan	Bilingual	Weekly	NS
11.	Athikhal	Bodo	Weekly	NS
12.	Baran Tampak	Manipuri	Weekly	NS

Year - 1995

Sl. No.	Name of the Newspapers	Language	Periodicity	Circulation, 1995
13.	Purnima	Manipuri	Weekly	NS
14.	Bodoland Khourang	Multilingual	Weekly	NS
15.	Jana Kantha	Assamese	Fortnightly	NS
16.	Krodhanol	Assamese	Fortnightly	NS
17.	Pasekia Brahmaputra	Assamese	Fortnightly	NS
18.	Aikya Bani	Bengali	Fortnightly	NS
19.	Kala Lipi	Bengali	Fortnightly	NS
20.	Chinta Moni	Assamese	Monthly	NS
21.	Jyotish Phalak	Assamese	Monthly	NS
22.	Mahekia Chintadoot	Assamese	Monthly	NS
23.	Sanskritiksamvad	Assamese	Monthly	NS
24.	Aho Raho	Bengali	Monthly	NS
25.	Barkhetri Sambad	Assamese	Quarterly	NS

Postal Headquarters at Mysore

3433. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of setting up of postal headquarters of South Karnataka Region at Mysore is pending for the last 17 years;

(b) whether the orders in this regard were issued in March, 1979;

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) Orders were issued in July, 1979 for setting up of South Karnataka Region with headquarters in Mysore. Subsequently, However, it was decided to retain the head-quarter of the Region at Bangalore itself.

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

Airports at Pilgrimage Centres

3434. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any uniform policy for providing Airport and flight facilities to all major pilgrimage centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all major pilgrimage centres of the country are likely to come on Air route map?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). Providing airport facilities to pilgrimage centres depends upon the location of the centres, favourable terrain conditions, traffic potential and economic viability. Some of the pilgrimage centres such as Badrinath, Kedarnath, Vaishnodevi etc. are located in difficult terrain and construction of an airport in mountainous area is not feasible. But pilgrimage centres such as Varanasi, Amritsar, Puttaparty, Tirupathi, Madurai, Gaya, Nanded etc. have functional

airports. Some pilgrim centres are located within a short distance from the nearest airport. However, operation of services to these airports, is subject to the traffic potential and commercial judgement of the airlines.

(d) Does not arise.

Disabled Persons

3435. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken to enforce the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) act, 1995;

(b) the details of directions given to the various Ministries; and

(c) the details of directions given to State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Sir, the following steps have been taken to enforce the provision of the Act:

- (1) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 came into effect as Act I of 1996 pursuant to its notification in the Extraordinary Gazette of India dated 1.1.96.
- (2) Accordingly the Act was notified for enforcement w.e.f. 7.2.1996.
- (3) The post of Chief Commissioner in the consolidated pay of Rs. 8000/- p.m. has been created.
- (4) The draft rules as required under the Act have been formulated by the Central Government and circulated to different Ministries/Deptts. for ascertaining their views.
- (5) The model rules for the guidance of State Governments have also been formulated and circulated to the State Govts.

(b) Sir, various Ministries/Deptts. have been requested to take necessary steps for implementation of the provisions of the Act falling in their jurisdiction and make adequate budget provision for this purpose.

(c) The Welfare Minister has taken up the matter with the Chief Ministers of States/UTs to issue necessary directions financial, administrative and institutional to facilitate enforcement of this Act.

Judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court

3436. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1786 on July 25, 1996 regarding abolition of contract labour system:

(a) the date on which the copy of the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court has been sent to all Ministries/Departments and State Governments;

(b) whether his Ministry have given any time to Ministries/Departments and State Governments for implementation of the recommendations contained in the judgement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the recommendation will be get implemented by his Ministry from other Ministries/Departments of Union Government in spirit?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The copy of the judgement of Supreme Court of India was circulated all State Governments and all Ministries/Departments on 30-6-1995 and 6-11-1995 respectively.

(b) to (e). After receiving the views/comments of all the State Governments and the various concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, a decision will be taken on the recommendations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

[Translation]

Granite Mining

3437. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh where Granite is being carried out;

(b) whether the export of granite was undertaken during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, yearwise; and

(d) the name of the countries along with the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof?

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

*[English]***Sugar Stockists**

3438. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed ban on the appointment of Sugar Stockists since 1993 at district level which supply sugar for the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification therefor;

(c) whether the number of sugar Stockists in the country have been reducing;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to restore or substitute such stockists?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The Central Government have not imposed any ban on the appointment of wholesalers/retailers for the distribution of levy sugar.

(b) Does not arise

(c) to (e). Information is being collected from the State Governments/UTs.

Construction of Buildings for Post Offices in Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan

3439. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI N.J. RATHWA
VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices/ Telegraph Offices in Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan, district-wise;

(b) the number out of these in rented/departmental buildings in the above States, district-wise;

(c) the number of buildings being constructed/at completion stage in the above States, district-wise; and

(d) the number of buildings proposed to be constructed in the above States during 8th Plan, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) **Department of Post:**

The district wise number of Head Post Offices and Departmental Sub Post Offices in Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan Postal Circles is given in *Statement - I*.

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

(a) and (b) **Department of Telecommunications:**

The district-wise number of Telegraph Offices and out of these the number of Telegraph Offices in rented/departmental buildings is given in *Statement-II*.

(c) **Department of Post:**

The district-wise number of Post Office buildings being constructed at completion stage in the Postal Circles of Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan is given in *Statement- III*.

(c) **Department of Telecommunications:**

The district-wise number of Telegraph Offices constructed/under construction is as follows:—

Name of Circles	Districts
Kerala	(i) Trichur
	(ii) Tellicherry
Gujarat	Nil
Rajasthan	Jaipur

(d) **Department of Post:**

Buildings for departmental Post Offices will be constructed depending upon the availability of funds, land and other resources.

(d) **Department of Telecommunications:**

The number of buildings proposed to be constructed in Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan Circles during the 8th Plan is given in *Statement-IV*.

STATEMENT - I*Number of departmental Post Offices in Kerala Circle—
District-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Head Post Offices	Departmental Sub-Post Offices
1.	Trivandrum	4	145
2.	Quilon	4	107
3.	Pathananhitta	3	104
4.	Alleppy	5	114
5.	Kottayam	5	124
6.	Idukki	2	52
7.	Ernakulam	5	140
8.	Trichur	5	167
9.	Palghat	4	139
10.	Malapuram	4	99
11.	Wynad	1	18
12.	Cannanore	3	99
13.	Calicut	4	101
14.	Kasaragod	2	30
Total :		51	1439
Lakshadweep			6
Pondicherry		-	1
Grand Total :		51	1446

*Number of Departmental Post Offices in Gujarat Circle—
District-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Head Post Offices	Departmental Sub-Post Offices
1.	Ahmedabad	4	161
2.	Gandhinagar	1	32
3.	Sabarkantha	2	52
4.	Banaskantha	2	36
5.	Mahesana	5	89

Sl. No.	Name of District	Head Post Offices	Departmental Sub-Post Offices
6.	Bharuch	1	65
7.	Dang	1	5
8.	Keda	4	132
9.	Panchmahala	4	44
10.	Surat	2	116
11.	Vadodara	3	97
12.	Valsad	3	80
13.	Amreli	1	38
14.	Bhavnagar	2	65
15.	Jamnagar	2	64
16.	Junagadh	3	87
17.	Bhuj	2	65
18.	Rajkot	2	87
19.	Surendranagar	1	41
Total :		42	1356

Daman & Diu

1.	Daman	-	2
2.	Diu	-	4
Total :		-	6
Dadra & Nagar Haveli		-	2
Grand Total :		42	1370

*Number of Departmental Post Offices in Rajasthan Circle—
District-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Head Post Offices	Departmental Sub-Post Offices
1.	Ajmer	4	105
2.	Alwar	3	68
3.	Banswara	1	21
4.	Baran	-	15

Sl. No.	Name of District	Head Post Offices	Departmental Sub-Post Offices
5.	Bharatpur	4	56
6.	Barmer	1	34
7.	Bhilwara	1	47
8.	Bikaner	1	43
9.	Bundi	1	20
10.	Chittourgarh	1	45
11.	Churu	2	49
12.	Dausa	1	27
13.	Dhaulpur	1	18
14.	Dungarpur	1	28
15.	Hanumangarh	1	27
16.	Jaipur	5	134
17.	Jalore	1	24
18.	Jaisalmer	1	16
19.	Jhalawar	1	21
20.	Jhunjhunu	2	67
21.	Jodhpur	2	69
22.	Kota	2	47
23.	Nagaur	3	59
24.	Pali	2	58
25.	Rajsamand	1	22
26.	Sawai Madhopur	3	54
27.	Sikar	4	72
28.	Sirohi	1	25
29.	Sri Ganganagar	1	36
30.	Tonk	1	24
31.	Udaipur	2	56
Total :		55	1387

STATEMENT - II**(b) Name of Circle : Kerala**

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of Telegraph Offices functioning		Total Number of Telegraph Offices
		In Deptl. Building	In rented Building	
1.	Alappuzha	01	04	5
2.	Ernakulam	03	04	7
3.	Idukki	-	-	-
4.	Kannur	-	02	2
5.	Kasaragod	-	01	1
6.	Kollam	01	02	3
7.	Kottayam	01	02	3
8.	Kozhikode	01	03	4
9.	Malappuram	-	01	1
10.	Palakkad	01	01	2
11.	Pathanamthitta	-	02	2
12.	Thiruvananthapuram	01	02	3
13.	Thrissur	01	03	4
14.	Wynad	-	01	1
15.	Lakshadweep (UT)	-	01	1
16.	Pondicherry	-	-	-
Total :		10	29	39

(b) Name of Circle : Gujarat

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of Telegraph Offices functioning		Total Number of Telegraph Offices
		In Deptl. Building	In rented Building	
1.	Ahmedabad	02	09	11
2.	Amreli	-	01	1
3.	Vadodara	-	04	4

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of Telegraph Offices functioning		Total Number of Telegraph Offices
		In Deptl. Building	In rented Building	
4.	Bharuch	01	03	4
5.	Bhavnagar	01	-	1
6.	Bhuj (Kutch)	-	02	2
7.	Banaskantha	-	01	1
8.	Dangahwa	-	-	-
9.	Jamnagar	01	01	2
10.	Junagadh	01	02	3
11.	Kheda	01	04	5
12.	Mehsana	-	02	2
13.	Panchmahal	-	03	3
14.	Rajkot	01	01	2
15.	Surat	01	01	2
16.	Sabarkantha	-	01	1
17.	Surendranagar	01	-	1
18.	Valsad	01	04	5
19.	Gandhinagar	-	01	1
Total :		11	40	51

(b) Name of Circle : Rajasthan

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of Telegraph Offices functioning		Total Number of Telegraph Offices
		In Deptl. Building	In rented Building	
1.	Ajmer	02	01	3
2.	Alwar	01	-	1
3.	Banswara	01	-	1
4.	Barmer	01	01	2
5.	Bharat Pur	01	-	1
6.	Bhilwara	-	01	1

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of Telegraph Offices functioning		Total Number of Telegraph Offices
		In Deptl. Building	In rented Building	
7.	Bikaner	01	-	1
8.	Bundi	01	-	1
9.	Chittorgarh	-	01	1
10.	Churu	-	02	2
11.	Dholpur	-	01	1
12.	Dungar Pur	-	01	1
13.	Sriganga Nagar	01	01	2
14.	Hanumangarh	01	-	1
15.	Jaipur	02	04	6
16.	Dausa	01	-	1
17.	Jaisalmer	-	01	1
18.	Jalore	-	01	1
19.	Jhalawar	01	-	1
20.	Jhunjhunu	-	01	1
21.	Jodhpur	01	02	3
22.	Kota	01	01	2
23.	Baran	01	-	1
24.	Nagaur	-	02	2
25.	Pali	01	01	2
26.	Sawaimadhopur	-	01	1
27.	Sikar	-	01	1
28.	Sirohi	01	-	1
29.	Tonk	-	01	1
30.	Udaipur	01	01	2
31.	Rajasamand	-	01	1
Total :		20	27	47

STATEMENT- III

Number of Buildings being Constructed /at completion stage for Post Offices in Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan distric-wise

District	Number of building under construction/at completion stage
Kerala	
1. Trivandrum	7
2. Quilon	2
3. Pathanamthitta	1
4. Alleppey	2
5. Idukki	1
6. Ernakulam	1
7. Trichur	1
8. Calicut	2
9. Malappuram	1
10. Cannanore	4
11. Kasaragod	1
Total :	23
Gujarat	
1. Ahmedabad	1
2. Gandhinagar	2
3. Sabarkantha	1
4. Khoda	1
5. Valsad	2
Total :	7
Rajasthan	
1. Alwar	3
2. Sirohi	1
Total	4

STATEMENT - IV

*Department of Telecommunications:
District-wise Number of Buildings for Telegraph Offices proposed to be constructed during the 8th Plan*

Name of the Circle	Districts	No. of Buildings
Kerala	Trichur	1
	Tellicherry	1
	Ernakulam	1
Gujarat	Nil	-
Rajasthan	Jaipur	

In Rajasthan, buildings exclusively constructed for the purposes of Telegraph Offices for the remaining part of the 8th Plan is nil. However, as per a policy decision, Telegraph Offices, as required, may be considered to be provided in the building under construction/to be constructed for administrative/Telephone Exchange purposes.

Productivity Linked Wage Settlement between ITDC and Employees

3440. SHRI E. AHAMAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has arrived at a major productivity linked wage settlement with its employees recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees benefited due to this settlement; and

(d) the details of the India Tourism Development Corporation's turnover for the year 1995-1996?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). A Wage Settlement has been arrived at on 31 July, 1996 between the ITDC management and its employees for a period of five years effective from 1.1.1992 to 31.12.1996 in respect of Hotel & Catering units and Headquarters non-executive employees working on IDA pay pattern. This wage settlement is not productivity linked but a normal wage settlement as per the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises. In terms of the settlement, the pay scales of employees would be revised giving the fixation benefit of 20% of basic pay. Besides applicable fixed DA and variation DA, these employees will get House Rent Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance on revised basic pay w.e.f. 1.4.1994. Further the employees would also be benefited with the up-

ward revision of other allowances and parks from the date of settlement.

(c) The total number of employees who will be benefited is about 6120.

(d) ITDC's turnover for the year 1995-96 was Rs. 298.05 crores.

[Translation]

Schemes to Improve Postal Services

3441. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive Scheme to streamline the Postal services during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed and achievements made under the scheme during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b). Programmes of development through the respective Annual Plans of the department are

aimed at improving and streamlining the postal services, and Annual Plans for 1995-96 and 1996-97 also contained such programmes as indicated below:

1. Introduction of computer based multi purpose counter machines;
2. Automatisation of mail processing large nodal centres;
3. Setting up of Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) Network for speedy transmission of money orders and provision of other value added services;
4. Use of computers for Savings Bank, Postal Life Insurance and Speed Post operations;
5. Modernisation of the counter services and the front office activities in selected important post offices;
6. Provision of upgraded operational equipment in more important Post Offices to modernize work process;
7. Expansion of Postal Network.

(c) The physical targets and achievements in respect of these schemes for the year 1995-96 and targets for the current Annual Plan 1996-97 are as below:

Scheme	Targets 1995-96	Achievements as on 31-03-1996	Targets 1996-97
1. Upgradation of Technology :			
a. Multi purpose counter machines	1000	550	1500
b. Modernisation of Post Offices	350	366	380
c. Automated integrated Mail Processing System	1	1	-
d. Satellite Money Order Service	Completion of Phase I (75 VSATs)	61	14
e. Savings Bank			
(i) Local Area Network (LAN)	100	45 LAN equipment installed	200
(ii) Savings Bank Control Organisation	60	105	100
f. Postal Life Insurance			
(i) Computerisation of PLI work in Circles	3	3	-

Scheme	Targets 1995-96	Achievements as on 31-03-1996	Targets 1996-97
(ii) Upgradation of Computer system	-	-	4
g. Speed Post			
(i) Track & Trace System	20	6	4
h. Provision of upgraded equipment	200	245	200
2. Expansion of Postal Network:			
a. Opening of Extra-departmental branch offices	80	4	80
b. Opening of Departmental Sub-Offices	150	53	150
c. Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras	500	497	250

The programmes for the year 1996-97 are under implementation and achievements can be quantified only after completion of the period.

[English]

Postal Services in Rural Areas

3442. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the mail delivery and other postal services in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government systematically monitors and reviews at the field and Headquarters level the delivery of mails in the rural areas. Other postal services in the rural areas are also periodically subjected to scrutiny and review. There is also a system of conducting regular surveys through inspectorial staff for examining the justification of opening Post Offices.

(b) The Postal Services in the rural areas are generally satisfactory but occasional delays in delivery of mails do occur due to unforeseen transportation problems and other such reasons beyond the control of the Department.

(c) (i) The review of delivery of mails is an ongoing process. The reasons for delays to mails, if any, are identified by carrying out surveys at different levels.

(ii) The Postal services are being extended progressively by opening new Post Offices. Under the 8th Five Year Plan,

so far, 1312 Post Office have been sanctioned in the rural areas of the country.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for the Welfare of Tribals

3443. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign institutions have provided financial assistance to the organisations of different States in the country, particularly in Gujarat for the welfare of tribals during the last three years and till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various organisations in Gujarat have misused the financial assistance received from foreign institutions;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have received any complaints in this regard during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(f) the details of guidelines being issued by the Union Government to the State Governments to ensure the proper utilisation of financial assistance being received from abroad for the welfare of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes; and

(g) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government against those social organisations which are not

spending this amount of foreign financial assistance for the welfare of poor tribal people?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (g). The information is being gathered and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

[English]

Assistance to Voluntary Organisations

3444. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Central Scheme for providing assistance to Voluntary Organisations engaged in serving persons with cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation for manpower development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b). A Plan scheme providing for grant-in-aid upto 100% to Non-Governmental Organisations for developing Organisations for developing organisational and infrastructural facilities for manpower training and provision of hostel facilities and other assistance required for imparting training to various categories of workers/trainers in the field of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation has been launched in the 8th Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 5 crores. A provision of Rs. 30 lakhs has been kept under this scheme during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Diamond Mines

3445. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether diamond mines have been found at Devbhog in Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to suitably improve the management of the said diamond mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per information available there are no Diamond mines in Devbhog area of Raipur.

(b) Does not arise.

Finance Corporation for Development of Maithils

3446. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finance Corporation has been set up for the development of Maithils;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the above Corporation likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Revision of Rates

3447. SHRI RAMSAGAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether undue long time is taken to give approval to revision of rates and approval of suppliers in the Super Bazar as a result of which the supplies to the consumers are affected;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to cut down the delay and to bring efficiency in the working of the Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, no undue long time is taken to give approval to the revision in rates and approval of suppliers. It is usually done immediately for fast moving items and within a week or two for slow moving goods. This does not effect supplies to the consumers.

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

Licensed Agents for Selling Postal Stationery

3448. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licensed agents authorised to sell postal stamps and stationery and book registered articles in the country;

(b) whether any opposition has been registered against the scheme of appointment of such agents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 144 Licenced Postal Agents are operating the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Staff Unions had opposed the scheme.

(d) The scheme has been kept in abeyance since 1987 for granting further licences.

Censorship on Press

3449. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Censorship on the Press;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made into abuse of freedom of press in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mobile Telephone Facility in Patna

3450. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide mobile telephone facility in various cities and particularly in Patna, the capital of Bihar;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Government has licensed M/s. Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd. to provide Cellular Mobile Telephones service in Bihar. A letter of intent has also been issued to M/s. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. for this service in Bihar. As per the license agreement, the companies are required to provide the service in atleast 10% of the district headquarters in the first year.

(b) As per the Licence Agreement, the company should start the service in Bihar including Patna by the end of December, 1996.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a).

[English]

Indian Bureau of Mines

3451. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the regional offices of the Indian Bureau of Mines State-wise, location wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up such more Regional Offices in various States particularly in Karnataka;

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

(d) the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The regional offices of Indian Bureau of Mines are as follows:—

State	Location
Rajasthan	Ajmer and Udaipur
Karnataka	Bangalore
West Bengal	Calcutta
Uttar Pradesh	Dehradun
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
Tamil Nadu	Madras
Goa	Margao
Maharashtra	Nagpur
Bihar	Ranchi
Sub-Regional Office:	
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore

(b) to (d). The IBM Review Committee recommended in 1979 opening of regional offices at Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad and a Zonal Office at Calcutta. Due to financial constraints, Govt. is not in a position as of present to set up new Regional Office of IBM, in any State including Karnataka.

Additional Channels for Paging Services

3452. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is presently faced the demand for additional frequency channels from operators of paging services;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce any new paging code to reduce the pressure on frequency demand; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof and the extent to which it will increase the number of subscribers within existing frequencies?

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

(b) The use of high speed protocols like ERMES & FLEX is under consideration.

(c) Brief features of proposed high speed protocols are:

(i) ERMES:

- (1) European standard
 - (2) Frequency band of operation: 169.4—169.8MHz
 - (3) Channel spacing: 25 KHz
 - (4) Speed of operation: 6.25 Kbps
 - (5) If only Numeric Subscribers: Capacity 3,81,000.
 - (6) If only Alpha Numeric Subscribers: Capacity 1,11,000
- (ii) FLEX
- (1) Proprietary of Motorola, U.S.A.
 - (2) Frequency band of operation: 929.0—932.0 MHz: 138.0—174.0 HMHz
 - (3) Channel spacing : 25 KHz
 - (4) Speed of operation: 1.6, 3.2 & 6.4 Kbps
 - (5) If only Numeric subscribers: capacity: 6,35,000 at 6.4 kbps.
 - (6) If only Alpha Numeric subscribers: capacity 1,24,000 at 6.4 Kbps.

The suppliers of High Speed Protocols claim that a figure of 3 to 4 times capacity (No. of subscribers) increase over the existing system of POCSAG.

Telecom Tenders in Calcutta

3453. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies who received the telecom tender in Calcutta Metropolitan jurisdiction during 1995-96;

(b) whether any objection has been raised by the State of West Bengal; and

(c) whether Chief Minister of the State attended the opening function of Modi Group Cellular Services launching commercial Cellular Mobile Service in Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The licences to operate Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Calcutta Metro City were awarded to M/s. Modi Telstra and M/s. Usha Martin Telecom in November, 1994.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The Chief Minister of West Bengal did not attend the opening function of Modi Group Cellular Services launching commercial Cellular Mobile Service in Calcutta on 23rd August, 1995. However, it is reported by M/s. Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd. that Hon'ble Chief Minister was present during the launch of trial run of the network which was conducted on 31st July, 1995.

Old Age Homes

3454. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the number of old persons kept in the Old Age Homes of Delhi and the facilities being provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): The number of Sr. citizens kept in the three Sr. Citizens Homes, run by the Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi are as under:—

Home for Old & Infirm Persons	:	37
Dr. Hedgevar Sr. Citizens Home, Kalkaji	:	10
Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sadan Green Park	:	11

In these Homes, the Department provides free lodging, boarding, clothing and bedding, casework and counselling services, medical care and recreational facilities, helpers to assist the bed-ridden or incapacitated inmates to perform their daily routine.

Interconnect Agreements

3455. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cellular operators have objected to the draft interconnect agreements of the Government;
- (b) if so, whether this has resulted delay in roll-out of the cellular services in 17 regions of the country;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have agreed to make the amendments in the above draft agreements;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be amended;
- (e) whether all the concerned authorities have been consulted before taking any final decision; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The licences awarded to the operators of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service do not provide for any Interconnect Agreement. However, for the same of operational clarity, an Interconnect Agreement has been circulated amongst the operators of the service.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a).

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The draft interconnect agreement has been prepared after taking the views of concerned authorities in DOT from technical and financial angle and the view of Ministry of Law & Justice.

[Translation]

Setting up of Hostels for SC/ST Students

3456. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have not set up hostel for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the last many years;

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

(c) whether his Ministry has allocated funds under the said head for other States except Bihar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the Union Government propose to allocate funds for Bihar under the said head?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). At present there is no Scheme under which the Union Government sets up hostels for students belonging to SCs/STs. However, the Ministry of Welfare has been implementing four Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Construction of boys and girls hostels for SCs/STs under which 50% Central share is given to the State Governments for construction of hostel buildings.

(c) and (d). Under these Schemes, the State-wise funds are not allocated. Proposals for release of 50% as Central share are sent by the State Governments for setting up hostels for SC/ST students after making a provision in the State Budget of the concerned State to the extent of 50% of the estimate of the construction of the hostels.

(e) So far no proposal has been received from the State Government of Bihar during the current financial year.

[English]

News Bulletins on Doordarshan

3457. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any norms for telecast of news on all the channels on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the timings of news bulletins on Doordarshan language-wise, category-wise and channel-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVILAVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Telecast of News on Doordarshan is governed by Programme Code and Advertisement Code of Doordarshan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details are enclosed as *Statement I and II*.

STATEMENT-I*News Bulletins Telecast from Headquarters (New Delhi) Language-wise*

Language	Name	Time	Duration	Channel	Frequency
Hindi	Samachar	0700-0715	15 mts.	I (National)	Daily
	-do-	1400-1410	10 mts.	-do-	-do-
	Samachar Regional	1900-1915	15 mts.	I (Delhi)+ LPT	-do-
	Samachar	2030-2050*	20 mts.	I (National)	-do-
	News Headlines	2230-2232	02 mts.	-do-	-do-
English	The News	0815-0830	15 mts.	-do-	-do-
	-do-	1410-1420	10 mts.	-do-	-do-
	-do	2100-2120*	20 mts.	-do-	-do-
	News Headlines	2330-2332	02 mts.	-do-	-do-
Urdu	Urdu	1425-1435	10 mts.	II (Metro)	-do-
Sanskrit		1315-1325	10 mts.	1I (National)	Sunday
Sign Language	For Hearing Impaired	1300-1315	15 mts.	-do-	-do
English	India News	0900-0915	15 mts.	DD-International Channel	Daily
Hindi	Bharat Samachar	1145-1200	15 mts.	-do-	-do-
Hindi	Sansad Samachar	2045-2100	15 mts.	I (National)	} When Parliament session
English	Parliament News	2115-2130	15 mts.	-do-	

*During Parliament in Session days the bulletin is for 15 mts. duration.

STATEMENT-II*Details of Bulletins Telecast from Regional News Units of Doordarshan*

S.No.	Station	Language	Time	Duration	Channel
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarati	1900-1915	15 mts.	I
2.	Bangalore	Kannada	-do-	15 mts.	I
3.	Bhubneshwar	Oriya	1900-1920	20 mts.	I

1	2	3	4	5	6	
4.	Bhopal	Hindi		1900-1915	15 mts.	I
5.	Bombay	Marathi	(i)	1900-1915	15 mts.	I
			(ii)	2150-2200	10 mts.	I
						(Monday-Friday)
				2200-2210	10 mts.	II
						(Saturday/Sunday)
6.	Calcutta	Bengali	(i)	1700-1705	5 mts.	I
		-do-	(ii)	1900-1915	15 mts.	I
		Urdu	(iii)	1915-1925	10 mts.	I
		Bengali	(iv)	2150-2200	10 mts.	I
						(Monday-Friday)
				2200-2210	10 mts.	II
						(Saturday/Sunday)
7.	Guwahati	Assamese	(i)	0845-0900	15 mts.	I
			(ii)	1900-1915	15 mts.	I
8.	Hyderabad	Telegu	(i)	1900-1915	15 mts.	I
		Urdu	(ii)	1915-1925	10 mts.	I
9.	Jaipur	Hindi		1900-1915	15 mts.	I
10.	Jalandhar	Punjabi	(i)	1700-1705	5 mts.	I
						(Monday-Friday)
		-do-	(ii)	1900-1915	15 mts.	I
11.	Lucknow	Hindi	(i)	1900-1915	15 mts.	I
		Urdu	(ii)	1915-1920	5 mts.	I
12.	Madras	Tamil	(i)	1900-1903	3 mts.	I
		-do-	(ii)	2030-2050	20 mts.	I
		-do-	(iii)	2150-2200	10 mts.	I
						(Saturday & Sunday)
13.	Patna	Hindi	(i)	1900-1915	15 mts.	I
		Urdu	(ii)	1915-1925	10 mts.	I
14.	Srinagar	Kashmiri	(i)	1900-1915	15 mts.	I
		Urdu	(ii)	1915-1930	15 mts.	I
15.	Thiruvananthapuram	Malayalam	(i)	1700-1703	3 mts.	I
			(ii)	1900-1915	15 mts.	I

*[Translation]***Welfare Schemes in Uttar Pradesh**

3458. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some welfare schemes of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Union Government for approval/clearance;

(b) if so, the schematic details thereof, as on date and the date since when these schemes are pending;

(c) the reasons for delay in their clearance;

(d) the estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which these schemes are likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e). Yes, Sir, there are some proposals pending in different Divisions of this Ministry and are at various stages of consideration. Some of them require clarifications from the Government of Uttar Pradesh before final approval.

*[English]***Delicensing of Sugar Industry**

3459. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to decontrol sugar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its impact on sugarcane production, its availability to mills, crushing by sugar mills, payment of full prices to the sugarcane producers at the time of purchase, sale of sugar at fair prices etc.;

(d) whether there is also a proposal for decanalisation of the sugar industry;

(e) if so, whether the prices of sugar are likely to go up; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. The policy of partial control of sugar, is continuing at present.

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

(d) The proposal for decanalisation of sugar exports is under examination.

(e) and (f). In view of the surplus availability of sugar, an upward spurt in sugar prices is unlikely.

Channel for Adults

3460. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan is going to start a channel earmarked for adults;

(b) if so, the details thereof and features of the programmes proposed to be telecast on the channel;

(c) whether these programmes are likely to be subjected to precensorship; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and its effect on children?

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Mobile Telephone Facilities in Andhra Pradesh

3461. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide mobile phone service in the various cities of Andhra Pradesh and particularly in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when;

(c) whether basic infrastructures have been installed for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely cost of a cellular phone connections and the cost of a call per minute?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Govt. has

licensed the two Indian companies namely, M/s. Tara Communication and M/s. J.T. Mobiles Ltd. to provide Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Andhra Pradesh. As per the licence agreement entered with the companies, the companies have to provide the service in atleast 10% of the District Headquarters within the first year. The service is likely to start in Andhra Pradesh including Hyderabad in the financial year 1996-97.

(c) and (d). As per the licence agreement the licensee is responsible for the provision of all infrastructure required for the service.

(e) The ceiling tariff to be charged from the subscribers of the service are enclosed as *Statement*.

STATEMENT

Ceiling Tariff for the four Metros

Tariff

1. Monthly Rental for the Service - Rs. 156/- per month
2. Security Deposit - Rs. 3000/-
3. Installation Charges - Rs. 1200/-
4. Call Charges :—

4.1 for calls originated by the Mobile Subscriber:

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

4.2 for calls terminating on the Mobile subscribers:

Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call will be levied. No charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.

5. Notes on tariff:

- 5.1. Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.
- 5.2. The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed network (Rs. 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

Radio Transmitters on Border Areas

3462. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the border districts of Punjab and other states are affected by the neighbouring countries through their high power transmission centre as reported in the 'Times of India' dated July 29, 1996;

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

(c) the steps taken at diplomatic level for checking this anti India propaganda by the Pakistan radio?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The Lahore Station of Pakistan Radio among other anti-India programmes, broadcasts a daily programme entitled "Punjabi Darbar" which presents distorted information about Punjab. To counter the Pak propaganda, number of programmes are broadcast from AIR, Jalandhar and in Punjabi service of the External Services of AIR, presenting the factual position of happenings and developments in Punjab.

(c) Government have, in the course of diplomatic interactions with other countries, apprised them of Pakistan's propaganda against India and their support to terrorism. There is widespread International recognition of Pakistan's interference in India's internal affairs.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Post Offices

3463. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have postponed the programme for computerisation of the Post Offices at a large scale for the time being;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the additional amount earned by the Government due to expansion of postal services in the country during the last three years;

(d) whether the work of computerisation of the post offices is proposed to be started;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of reply at (a).

(c) Expansion of postal services is achieved through opening of new Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) in rural area and departmental sub offices (DSO) in urban area. During the last three years 675 EDBOs and 199 DSOs were opened in the country. The existing norms for opening new EDBOs in normal area provide for subsidy upto 66 2/3% of the estimated cost, while for tribal/hilly and inaccessible area, the permissible amount of subsidy is 85% of the estimated cost. DSOs in urban area are opened if the estimated revenue covers the estimated cost.

In the circumstances the Department has not earned any additional revenue due to opening of these post offices.

(d) and (e). The work of computerisation of post offices have been initiated in the 8th Five Year Plan and is continuing. 2300 number of PC based counter machines have been installed in 680 Post Offices in the country, and 69 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) stations have already become operational with computer based technology which are providing speedy transmission of money order and other value added services. Automated Mail processing Centres with computer technology have been set up in Bombay and Madras. Computers have also been introduced in modernising the work of Savings Bank, Postal Life Insurance in post offices.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Private Telephone Operators

3464. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement (Inter connectivity) has been signed between the DOT and the Private Telephone Service Operators;

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

(c) whether Private Telephone Service Operators abide by the rules, norms and conditions of the agreement in its full context; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Opening of a College of Catering in Karnataka

3465. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Union Government to open a college of catering in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has been asked to examine the issue;

(c) if so, the estimated cost alongwith the location of the proposed college;

(d) the annual recurring expenditure for the proposed college;

(e) whether the Karnataka Government has decided to provide land and other infrastructural facilities for the establishment of such college;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g). Do not arise.

An Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition has already been established at Bangalore in 1984 by the Govt. of India.

Industrial Training Institutes for Women

3466. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU
YADAV :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being implemented in Orissa and Bihar for imparting industrial training to women under the World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project;

(b) the number of existing Industrial Training Institutes for women in the above states and the number of such institutes proposed to be opened during the current year, state-wise and location-wise;

(c) the amount of World Bank assistance received for opening the above Institutes; and

(d) the number of women trained in these institutes so far and proposed to be trained during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Two schemes, namely "Establishment of New ITIs/Wings for Women" and "Introduction of New Trades in Existing Women ITIs/Wings," are being implemented in

Orissa and Bihar for imparting industrial training to women under the World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project.

(b) The number of existing Industrial Training Institutes for Women in the above States, location-wise and institutes proposed to be opened during the current year are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(c) The States do not get financial assistance directly from the World Bank. The Central Government is reimbursed by the World Bank for the expenses incurred on approved schemes in terms of the credit agreement. Fifty per cent of the expenditure incurred by the States on approved schemes is borne by the Central Government. State-wise expenditure incurred so far on the two schemes for woman's training in the States of Orissa and Bihar, as per the information furnished by the concerned States, is Rs. 372.515 lakh and Rs. 90.347 lakh respectively.

(d) As per the information furnished by the concerned States, the number of women trained so far is 795 and 305 in Orissa and Bihar respectively. The number of women proposed to be trained during 1996-97 is 261 and 704 in Orissa and Bihar respectively.

STATEMENT

A. Name of Scheme : "Establishment of New ITIs/ Wings for Women

Sl.No.	Location of Institute
Orissa	
1.	Umerkote
2.	*Chhatrapur
3.	*Baragarh
4.	*Bolangir
5.	Dhenkanal
6.	Boudh
Bihar	
1.	Siwan
2.	Muzaffarpur
3.	Arra
4.	Chaibaqsa
5.	Motihari
6.	Darbhanga
7.	Gaya
8.	Hazaribagh

*Proposed to be opened during the current year.

There is no proposal to open new ITIs for Women during the current year in Bihar.

B. Name of Scheme : "Introduction of New Trades in the existing Women ITIs/Wings."

Sl.No.	Location of Insitute
Orissa	
1.	Cuttack
2.	Anandapur
Bihar	
1.	Ranchi
2.	Dumka

[*Translation*]

T.V. Studio, Bihar

3467. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :

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

(a) whether a studio was inaugurated on March 15, 1996 at the Doordarshan Kendra, Patna;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on the construction of the studio;

(c) whether the studio has now been closed;

(d) if so, when and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper telecast and production of local programmes?

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

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 2251.71 lakhs has been incurred on TV studio, Patna upto June, 1996.

(c) to (e). The power supply available, at present, at DDK, Patna is not adequate for smooth functioning of the new studio set up. Besides, staff sanction for the permanent studio set up is yet to be accorded by the competent authority and the available staff for the interim studio set up at Patna is not sufficient for normal operation of the new studio. Production and telecast of local programmes by the new studio set up would depend upon availability of uninterrupted power supply and sanction of full complement of staff for the permanent studio set up at DDK, Patna.

[English]

Income/Expenditure of Doordarshan

3468. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the income and expenditure of Doordarshan during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Doordarshan has now become like a commercial organisation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the advertisement rates of various programmes and the other sources of income of Doordarshan;

(e) whether any concession is given to small and cottage industries in advertisement; and

(f) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details are as under:

I. Gross Commercial Revenue

1993-94	Rs. 372.98 crores
1994-95	Rs. 398.02 crores
1995-96	Rs. 430.13 crores

II. Expenditure (Rs. in crores)

1993-94	Rs. 744.64 (voted)
	Rs. 0.57 (charged)
1994-95	Rs. 906.17 (voted)
	Rs. 0.61 (charged)
1995-96	Rs. 106.54 (voted)
	Rs. 13.23 (charged)

(b) No, Sir. Doordarshan is not being run entirely like a commercial organisation.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The sponsorship rates of Doordarshan vary from Rs. 1,500/- to Rs. 3,00,000/- and spot-buy (per 10 seconds) from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs. 90,000/- Apart from commercial advertisements. Doordarshan also earns from sale of coverage rights of events held in India like Republic Day Parade etc.

sale of programmes commissioned/produced by Doordarshan and by lending facilities to other organisations.

(e) Small scale industries are given a rebate of 15% on advertisement charges when they book advertisement directly with Doordarshan.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pre-Examination coaching to SCs/STs, OBCs and Minorities

3469. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI E. AHAMED :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pre-examination coaching centres functioning for SCs/STs, OBCs and Minorities run by the Union Government, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to open more such centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities received coaching for different competitive examinations during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the amount of financial assistance provided under these coaching schemes alongwith the funds proposed to be allocated for the next two years, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A State/U.T.-wise list of Pre-examination Coaching Centres which are receiving financial assistance under Coaching & Allied Scheme for SC/ST students and pre-examination coaching scheme based on economic criteria for OBCs and Minorities is enclosed as *Statement*.

(b) and (c). Both the Coaching & Allied Schemes are presently under modification. Opening of new centres will be considered after the scheme are modified.

(d) The information is being collected.

(e) The financial assistance provided under the two Coaching & Allied Schemes during the last 3 years is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

[English]

Name of the Scheme	Year & Amount		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Coaching & Allied Scheme for SC/ST	1.73	2.00	2.05
Pre-examination Coaching Scheme based on economic criteria for OBCs & Minorities	0.50	1.46	1.35

The allocation for 1996-97 for these two schemes are Rs. 3 crores and Rs. 2 crores respectively. The allocation for 9th Five Year Plan is under finalisation.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of State/U.T.	Total Number of P.E.T.C.	
		For SC/ST	For OBC/Minorities
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	13
2.	Assam	1	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-
4.	Bihar	3	3
5.	Delhi	2	7
6.	Gujarat	6	-
7.	Haryana	6	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	-
10.	Karnataka	7	2
11.	Kerala	4	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	13	3
13.	Maharashtra	4	-
14.	Manipur	1	1
15.	Meghalaya	1	-
16.	Nagaland	1	-
17.	Orissa	17	3
18.	Punjab	1	2
19.	Rajasthan	36	2
20.	Tamil Nadu	2	1
21.	Tripura	1	-
22.	Uttar Pradesh	13	4
23.	West Bengal	5	-

Transfer of Airstrips in Maharashtra

3470. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has asked Union Government to transfer airstrips in the State which are under the jurisdiction of the Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details of the airstrips in Maharashtra under the jurisdiction of various organisations; and

(c) the time by which the airstrips are likely to be handed over to Maharashtra Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The State Government of Maharashtra has requested for handing over Sholapur and Kolhapur airports.

(b) The Airports Authority of India controls airports located at Akola, Aurangabad, Bombay, Juhu, Kolhapur, Nagpur and Sholapur. The airports at Ahmednagar, Darna Camp (Nasik), Deolali, Kalyan, Nasik, Ozar and Pune are under the Ministry of Defence. The airports at Amravati, Chandrapur, Jaith, Jalgaon, Karad, Kawalpur, Nanded, Osmanabad, Phaltan, Ratnagiri and Yawatmal are operated by the State Government. There are two airstrips at Kudal and Waluj under private licence and DGCA runs a gliderdrome at Hadapsar near Pune.

(c) Airstrips at Sholapur and Kolhapur are likely to be handed over to the State Government by November, 1996.

[Translation]

Surat Airport

3471. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to the Union Government to bring the Surat Airports of Gujarat under National Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this Airport is likely to be brought under National Airports Authority of India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. However, due to financial constraints, it is not feasible, at present, for AAI to take over Surat Airport.

Atlanta Olympics, 1996

3472. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been discriminated in sending the Government media in Atlanta Olympics, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. From Doordarshan, an 8-member official team was deputed for coverage of Atlanta Olympic Games, 1996. In the case of All India Radio, although Voice of America provided a daily capsule of 15 minutes in Hindi covering important events of the day free of cost, Shri Jasdev Singh, non-official commentator, was also deputed to Atlanta for providing Telephone Voice Casts in Hindi which was broadcast daily during the period of games.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Tourist Places in Orissa

3473. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places of tourist interest in Orissa which are on National and International tourist map; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of tourist spots during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The National Action Plan for tourism in 1992 had identified Puri-Bhubaneswar-Konark for intensive development. Details regarding these places are available in the publicity literature brought out by the Department of tourism.

(b) The details of financial assistance sanctioned to the State of Orissa for the last three years is provided below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
101.52	166.31	108.86

Pension Scheme

3474. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have tried to popularise the new pension scheme through seminars etc. during July 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the opinion expressed by some of the Trade Unions in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The Central Government had not organised any Seminar on new pension scheme in July, 1996. However, earlier several meetings were held with the Central Trade Union Organisations. They had suggested *inter-alia* removal of discrimination between married sons and married daughters and between remarrying widows and remarrying widowers, extension of the scheme benefits to the employees drawing wages beyond Rs. 5000/- per month, provision for commutation, reduction in discounting rate for early payment of pension, provision of ensuring pension payment in default cases, application of the scheme to the subscribers who did not join the Family Pension Scheme, 1971, refund of family pension-related withdrawal benefit in the case of exemption and coverage of piece-rated workers. These suggestions have since been examined and on 28.2.1996 a notification was issued carrying out necessary amendments in the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995. Suggestions like providing individual option, linking pension with the consumer's price index and giving pension as third benefit have not been found actuarially feasible for acceptance.

Killings of Tourists in Kashmir

3475. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent killings of Tourists by militants in Kashmir has resulted in drastic fall in tourists arrival in valley;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of tourists visited Kashmir valley during the current year, so far;

(d) whether the tourists on arrival in valley are briefed about Security instructions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the information available from the State Government as many as 5744 tourists visited Kashmir Valley during January to July 1996.

(d) to (f). A Tourist Advisory has been issued by the State Government and the same is being displayed at various tourist entry places in the State such as Airport and Tourist Reception Centre.

Availability of Sugarcane

3476. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar mills currently operating in Uttar Pradesh are getting about 33 per cent of the total available sugarcane;

(b) whether this percentage is less than the national average;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to bring the existing percentage of availability of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh at par with the national average?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). Historically, drawal rate of sugarcane by the sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh has been on the low side largely because of the presence of a large number of gur and khandsari units in the State. Based on the advance estimates of sugarcane production for 1995-96 and the quantity of cane crushed by the sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh upto 30.6.1996 for the season 1995-96 the drawal of sugarcane by the factories worked out to 43.8% as against the national average of 62.5%.

(d) In order to increase the percentage of crushing of sugarcane by the sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh, the Government is closely monitoring the implementation of unimplemented letters of intent granted for establishment of new sugar factories and expansion in the existing sugar factories & has granted letters of intent for establishment of more new sugar factories and expansion in the existing sugar factories.

12.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically handicapped, Calcutta for 1994-95 alongwith statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta for the year 1994-95.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.363/96]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : The post of Director is vacant for the last so many years. As the hon. Minister lays papers on the Table, I want a clarification on that.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will fill up within fifteen days.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : That is an assurance.

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of Vayudoot Ltd., New Delhi for 1990-91 alongwith statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

(ii) Annual Report of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.364/96]

**Notification under sub-section 3 of the Essential
Commodities Act, 1955**

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Sugar (Price Determination for 1995-96 Production) Amendment Order, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 209(E)/Ess. Comm. Sugar in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 1996, under sub-section of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Libaray. See No. LT.365/96]

**Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India
on Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : On behalf of Shri T.R. Balu, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution:—
- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 20 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Refineries and Pipelines).

[Placed in Libaray. See No. LT.366/96]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 23 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Single Buoy Mooring for Export of Natural Gas Liquid and Import of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited).

[Placed in Libaray. See No. LT.367/96]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 24 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Marketing Division and International Trade).

[Placed in Libaray. See No. LT.368/96]

- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 19 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Pricing of Petroleum product in the wake of Economic Liberalisation.

[Placed in Libaray. See No. LT.369/96]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Abdul Rehman Antulay — not present.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — not present.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : The hon. Members are not present to lay the papers on the Table. It is not correct. Though the hon. Member belongs to my Party, I want to draw your attention to that.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : The report of the Business Advisory Committee is very important.

12.03 ½ hrs.

[Translation]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Reports and
Minutes**

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : I beg to present the following reports and the Minutes thereon (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Co-operation).
- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education).
- (3) Third Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).
- (4) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Ministry of Water Resources.
- (5) Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

12.04 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fourth Report

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we will go back to Item No. 6.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I beg to

present the Fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : I am on a point of order. My point of order is that the Item which was listed for Business Advisory Committee Report to be laid on the Table of the House is skipped. Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar has placed his papers at item No. 7 on the Table of the House. Can we go back? We cannot go back. That is my point of order.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no point of order in it. In case an hon'ble Member is not present at the time of certain item, he is called later on.

12.04 ½ hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Third and Fourth Reports and Minutes

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEO (Silchar) : I beg to present the following Reports and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development:

- (1) Third Report on Demands for Grants 1996-97 of Department of Wastelands Development of Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment.
- (2) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants 1996-97 of Department of Urban Development of Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.

12.05 hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Twenty-sixth Report

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Twenty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce, on Demands for Grants 1996-97 of Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce).

12.05¼ hrs.

[Translation]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Forty-First and Forty-Second Reports

SHRI MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA (Etah) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of

the following reports of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:—

- (1) Forty-first Report on the Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 1995 which was presented to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on the 26th March, 1996; when the House was not in Session; and
- (2) Forty-second Report on Demands for Grants 1996-97 of the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

12.05 ½ hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA (Alwar) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table copies (Hindi and English versions) of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports of the Standing Committee on Industry on the Demands for Grants (1996-97) of:

- (i) Ministry of Steel; and
- (ii) Ministry of Mines.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what he has said about me should be deleted from the records... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I have given a notice to raise a very important issue... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, I gave a notice to raise a very important matter which relates to the Constitution of India. You have to hear me for two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Listen to me, please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have given a notice. Allow me to raise the issue, please. It is a very serious matter... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I have given a notice to raise a very very important matter... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sit down, please. In this way, I will not be able to listen to anyone. I have got a list. I will call each one of you.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is the use of talking like this? Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have sent a motion to constitute a House Committee to go into the conduct of a Member I have sent a motion to constitute a House Committee regarding conduct of Shri Sukh Ram and please allow me to raise the same before the House... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am prepared to listen to everybody. Please make your point one by one. I shall call every one. Now, please sit down.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have given a notice to raise a very important matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have received your notices. I will call everybody.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Allow me to raise it, please.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not sit down?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All issues are important.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No. This is more important. All issues are not important like this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you go on talking like this, nothing will go on record.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Allow me to raise it first, please.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you not want to raise the issue in a proper way?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want to raise it... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have promised you that I would call everybody. Why do you not sit down?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : All right. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have sent a motion regarding conduct of an hon'ble Member, Shri Sukh Ram.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yours is in the middle, I shall take it up. There are notices, I shall take them up.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Mr. Speaker had stated on the 2nd that he has not yet gone through it. That was the last day. This session has commenced on 26th... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have also not read it so far I have not get it.

[English]

I will get the information. Then, only, I can tell you.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Ferozepur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious problem being faced by farmers of Punjab. The Government have been purchasing paddy P.R. 106 variety from farmers in the form of super-fine quality for the last 25 years. But last year P.R. 106, which is called 'Parmal' also has been classified as Fine Quality. The rate of the fine quality was Rs. 375 per quintal last year and the rate of super fine quality was Rs. 395 per quintal. But last year super fine quality was classified as fine quality and owing to this, small farmers have to sell their paddy in *mandis* of Punjab at reduced rate as the rate was reduced by Rs. 20 per quintal. The big farmers sold their paddy in the form of super fine quality in Haryana as well as in Rajasthan and they get the same rate. In this manner PR 106 was sold in Punjab at a lesser rate. The farmers have suffered a loss of crores. The Government of Punjab promised later on that the Government would give bonus to farmers at the rate of Rs. 5 per quintal. But the same has not been paid so far I demand from the Central Government to ensure that farmers may not be allowed to be looked like last year. PR 106 should be treated as super fine quality and same old rate should be paid to them so that they are not looked.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : I had been at Punjab the other way. They have changed the fine variety into super-fine variety. Thus, there is a difference of Rs. 20 for the

farmers. There is no qualitative difference as such. So, I share the feelings of what the hon. Member has said. The Agriculture Minister must direct the State Government to take action on it... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Not only that. The jute prices are also coming down. The price of raw jute has been slashed down by half. The Agriculture Minister is here. He should see that the price is raised.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him first reply for the paddy.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the question of paddy has been raised. It is a State subject. The hon'ble Member has also said that quality has been down graded. I think, he should see me, then we shall discuss the matter in the Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please examine the question of jute also.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Our Ministry does not procure Jute.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Last year the rate was Rs. 600 but Rs. 562 have been paid.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have not decreased but increased.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That is not enough. Earlier the price was Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 1,700 and now it has come down to Rs. 800 and something... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The JCI has not come forward to purchase the raw jute from the growers.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The purchasing is not done by my Ministry. It is done by the other Ministry... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Although that is not done by his Ministry, yet the jute growers are being looted terribly... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The senior Ministers are here. Mishraji is right that his Ministry does not deal with it. But this is a national problem. And I would request the Minister to take initiative and see that some solution is found out. It is not a question of dividing the responsibility between the Ministries. That is a matter which should be immediately looked into... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to his reply. He wants to say something.

[English]

Madam, he is replying.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the hon. Member has said that I should do something and write to the Textile Minister.

I can write to him immediately. When the hon. Members have raised it, I must respond but I have got my jurisdiction. My jurisdiction is limited. Even then, I will refer it to the hon. Minister and ask him to do so.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is a very serious matter... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : They cannot purchase the jute on payment... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : There is no jute production at all... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I feel that some lobby is definitely working deliberately to ruin the jute industry... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Anyway, we appreciate his concern... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I can do this much that in order to draw the attention of the Textile Minister I should go there and purchase the jute... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, or you please allow Call Attention on this. It is a very important issue and it should be discussed... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I am going to take the next item.

There are four persons who have given notice on this subject. I will try to accommodate all the four.

Shri Basudeb Acharia, please.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Delhi-Sadar) : Sir, I have also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your name is there. All of you will be called one by one. I shall try to give chance to every one, whose name is there.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, last year, this House could not function, because then we in the Opposition raised this issue—when we found that the contracts for thousands of crores of rupees were being awarded to a particular firm, giving a favour—at that time we were criticized by the Members of the then Ruling Party, Congress (I). Now, it has been vindicated... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The Court did not give that verdict and your leader gave a clean chit to him... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Bypassing the Parliament, the order was given although there was opposition in this very House at that time... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Besides, he should be hanged.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is no question of hanging. The prescribed punishment would be awarded.

[English]

They have not expelled him; they have only suspended him... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We are not like South Korea... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Now, the CBI has unearthed more than Rs. four crore from his houses both at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh and from his Delhi residence including jewellery worth lakhs of rupees and also foreign currency.

He had overruled the recommendation of the two Committees to award the contract to M/s. Advance Radio

Mass, a firm of Hyderabad. He ignored the repeated warnings of the officials against awarding this contract. He directed that 900 sets be bought from that particular firm. These 900 sets were of inferior quality, that is, crystal-500, of synthesized quality.

Shri Sukh Ram by making this direction, distinctly made a favour to that particular firm—Advance Radio Mass. It is a clear case of favoritism and corruption.

The Crystal system was of inferior quality. Then the other firm was asked to supply as this particular firm was supplying inferior quality material. On 27th, Shri Sukh Ram ordered at the same price both the systems—the Crystal system and the synthesised system. A number of officers like Director MCC, Advance Planning, Member (Planning), reiterated and observed that since the Crystal version was inferior in quality, a price difference should be made... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, please take less time because three more Members have also given notice on the same subject.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But the former Communication Minister has overruled it. Thus, he has violated the norms, rules and the system of the Telecommunication Department. It involves a huge corruption.

I urge upon the Government and demand that a statement should be made on the floor of the House giving the present status of the enquiry. The CBI should be allowed to enquire and the House should be informed of the present status and the action taken against the former Communication Minister, Shri Sukh Ram and other high officials who were involved in this large scale corruption.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hogghly) : During the last few days a mega scandal involving the former Communication Minister hailing from Himachal Pradesh is unfolding. During the raids conducted by the CBI in several houses belonging to the former Minister as also some of the associates including high officials and friends of the Minister, it has come to light that the Minister was involved in granting undue favour to certain companies against monetary consideration.

This was a demand made by us during the last session and for a pretty long period, for a number of days, there was no option left to us but to protest against what was happening in the name of liberalisation in the telecom sector. It was one of the greatest events involving corruption in high places.

I can cite one example. When we are discussing at a particular forum about the efficacy of the MARS, the Multi Access Radio System, provided to the Panchayats which was

not working, we were told that after the version-one, version-two was provided which was expected to work better. But even this, version provided by the same company belonging to Hyderabad had not been working. Still the favour continued. This is not just in the case of that particular Hyderabad Company ARM, but it relates to another company, Sham Company, and such other companies which were quite unknown to the corporate world. When contracts were given by way of granting tenders in favour of HFCL, Himachal Futuristic Co. Ltd., we were discussing that Futuristic's offer, which was quite an unknown company, was to the tune of Rs. 84,000 crore out of Rs. 1,10,000 crore that was to be mobilised.

The nine sectors that were given were ultimately capped to only three sectors and then the process continued and continued and continued. After the raids, we find that it is like a serial unfolding. Again, there are coded names in the personal diaries suggesting that not only Indian companies but some multinational companies have also been favoured.

We have demanded that it needs a total review of whatever contracts have been given. We have now been told of a very recent news. As it had happened in the case of the *hawala* scam, the CBI has got incriminating documents, which they have seized after the raids. The case involves violation of FERA also but the Enforcement Directorate—as it happened in the *hawala* case—are not given access to the documents relating to FERA violations.

It is widely believed that the money is quite disproportionate to the real income of the former Minister and some of his associates. The money is not only lying inside India; some of it might be lying abroad also. The Enforcement Directorate should be put into service and they should not be deprived of the documents already seized by the CBI.

We want a full-fledged discussion and we want that all the relevant documents involving the former Minister relating to the telecom tender activity and such other issues should be laid on the Table of the House for having a proper discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform you that I am not raising this matter in the House for the first time. When a deal has struck between Department of Telecommunications and Himachal Futuristics Ltd. and other companies. I filed a writ petition in the capacity of President of Lok Abhiyan. Other hon'ble Members had also raised this matter in this House with full force. It continued for 15 days in the Parliament and Congress Members continued to defend him and they used to say that proceedings of the House are being hampered. I want to know for how long such scams would be coming to light. What action has Government taken so far, Government should place all the relevant record before the House. I demand that a thorough

probe should be conducted not only in respect of this scam but all other scams taken place during his tenure. The C.B.I. has recovered cash and other assets for the residences and godowns belonging to Sh. Sukh Ram. I want to know as that why warrants have not been issued against him inspite of all the recoveries. It would be wrong to supply documents to the Enforcement Directorate in haphazard way. They should be supplied all the documents so that a thorough probe could be conducted by them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I do not want to use the word 'keep' (Rakhe) but when C.B.I. raided various houses, women friends were also found to be present there. Such things do not have good bearing on our respectable society. So many scams are coming to light one after the other. Our friends belonging to congress party are silent today. Earlier, they used to oppose us. I want to know as to why has he not been expelled from the party so far.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a voluntary scheme for disclosure of unaccounted money. The Government should introduce such voluntary scheme for the corrupt representation of the people also so that they could explain various scams in which they have been involved. (Interruptions) I need not mention names of all the Members of Congress party so many charges have been levelled on the President of the party itself and so many inquiries are being conducted, it would be better to give benefit of Voluntary Disclosure Scheme to such people to enable them to disclose their assets and the Government may give them some relief. I demand that a House Committee should be constituted and passport of Shri Sukh Ram should be seized at once. His son is also a Minister, he should be kept under surveillance. We should watch activities of the son of Shri Sukh Ram as to how he is trying to hide the facts relating to his conduct. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Naik can speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : I have been called to speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I know you have been called. Are you going to speak on the same subject? ...(Interruptions) Then, you go ahead.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him finish first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Sir, with your kind permission I would like to make a suggestion. Many hon. Members have given notice on this subject. Many new hon. Members have come down to this august House. We do not

know what exactly had transpired in the previous discussion. Perhaps, the new hon. Members' views may also fall in line with the same views. What I feel is that this is not a small matter. It is a very huge and big matter which has to be discussed on the floor of the House. You please permit all the hon. Members to speak so that they can also participate in the discussions and throw a lot of light on the subject. Allow this under a particular Rule for a separate discussion altogether. This is a normal suggestion. You please think over it. It is better that other Members also get an opportunity to speak on the subject so that they could throw a lot of light on the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

I would like to inform you that I have learnt that some other Members have also given notices and they are with the hon'ble Speaker. He is, perhaps, going to take it up under Rule 184. It would, therefore, be better if we close this issue right now.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I have given a notice for a Motion for constituting a House Committee to inquire into the conduct of Shri Sukh Ram because he has behaved in a derogatory way which has brought disrepute to the House. As 45 years back, when Shri S.C. Mudgal, had just taken Rs. 2,000 for asking a question and also for moving some amendments, a Committee was constituted by the then Prime Minister and the House, this time also a House Committee should be constituted. I do not want to just raise this issue in the Zero Hour but I would like to place my views through a Motion. So, it is better if you allow the motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Speaker is already seized of the matter and he would take a decision on that issue.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I think, you have not gone through my notice. Sir, I have asked for constitution of a House Committee and an enquiry should be conducted. That Committee should conduct an enquiry into his deeds. A criminal case should also be filed besides C.B.I. enquiry. The House Committee should examine the whole issue that how hon'ble Members of the House should behave. I have given notice for this purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, on the 26th morning, there was a meeting of all party leaders. In that meeting various matters were raised by some hon. Members, including the Sukh Ram issue. On behalf of the Congress Party, I

attended the meeting. I had made it abundantly clear to the hon. Speaker and other Members who were present there, that we were not averse to any sort of discussion that would be allowed by the hon. Speaker on Sukh Ram issue.

Secondly, we have said that this issue, as it has come in the newspapers and the investigating agency's press conferences, is quite a serious one. In view of that if the House unanimously decides to take certain stand, either through House Committee or Standing Committee or any other method, we do not have any objection to that.

We have also said that our experience in the past, of JPCs on Bofors and Securities Scam, is that the JPC does not serve my vital purpose, when a criminal case is going on. But, if it is the wisdom of all the parties, we are with them and we are not against that. Some hon. Members are pinpointing and accusing Congress. No Congress, as in the past, has taken action. We have also paid penalty for this in the election, when many of our stalwarts against whom investigations are going on, were not given tickets. In the past also, when there was a report against Shri Ghani Khan Choudhary, during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time, he was asked to resign. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I raised that matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Yes. You raised that matter; and subsequently, it was found not to be correct! But he resigned.

So, please do not try to make a political game by saying that the Congress is standing in the way. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Why had you done it 15 days before...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Rather, we are surprised that the House has not discussed this for the last four days. They are raising it now only. But we were mentally prepared for it on the first day of this Session itself. So, we are not standing in the way, in any matter. Whatever, the House decides, we will accept. Let it be very very clear. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What is the view of the Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I take exception to one part of his statement. The JPC on Bofors issue and the JPC on the Securities Scam were of two different qualities altogether. While the JPC on Bofors issue was boycotted by the entire Opposition, the other JPC was not. It performed an eminent service to the country by bringing out so many

facets of the bank scam. So, such comments are not at all called for in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you. I brought it to your notice also. I would like to raise this issue today and I hope most of the hon. Members of the House will agree with me that the matter is very sensitive. While the entire nation is debating on the agenda of corruption, CBI is found to be functioning as an active agency at the behest of the judiciary to investigate all matters of corruption at high Offices. At this juncture, I would like to quote the provision of Article 26 of the Constitution which says:

- “(b) to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;
- (d) To administer such property in accordance with law.”

It is a fundamental right of everyone. In this very House any matter that affects the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, anything that affects the dignity of women and anything that affects the interests of the minorities, especially the Muslims have been debated time and again. Today, I am sorry to mention that a scam of more than Rs. 1000 crore involving the Wakf property of the Muslims in Bengal has come out. It has been exposed and why not a CBI inquiry is held? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Dasmunsi, it is a State subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : No, Sir. It is not a State subject. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a subject of the minorities. ...(*Interruptions*) It is not a State subject. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, carry on.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the Accountant-General of Bengal has observed irregularities and passed strictures about this great Wakf scam. ...(*Interruptions*) It has been exposed. ...(*Interruptions*) Efforts had been made to suppress the entire facts by constituting this committee and that committee. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, let him finish first.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, we are always talking of secularism. ...(*Interruptions*) They are minorities, they are Muslims and they are crying. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Banatwalla

knows it and everybody knows it as to how they are using the music. ...(*Interruptions*) Now, I demand a CBI inquiry immediately on the entire affairs of the scam of Wakf property. It is about Rs. 1000 crore scam. ...(*Interruptions*) Efforts had been made to suppress the facts. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, they need the protection of Article 26 of the Constitution. ...(*Interruptions*) On the Sukh Ram issue, it is at the highest order of investigation and we said that whatever the Parliament decides, we would do and that the Congress will stand by that decision. ...(*Interruptions*) So, equally, such a corruption charge which has been protected and shielded by the party in power, should not be left to any agency except the CBI. CBI must be directed for this investigation. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You all had your say. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is all.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : That has been looted and plundered. It is in the knowledge of everybody. Why should there not be an inquiry? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your views have come. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Waqf Board is a national issue. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a secular issue. ...(*Interruptions*) CBI should inquire into that matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentlemen, please take your seats. Mr. Chatterjee, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please listen to me?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please have a decorum.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you allow me to say a few words?

[Translation]

Shri Banatwalla and Shri Somnath Chatterjee — two persons will speak on this issue.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, here we have a grave instance of serious irregularities — malpractices — in the functioning of the West Bengal Waqf Board. There was a Report even by the Judicial Secretary. The Report is an eye-opener. My friends from West Bengal here are hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Even the Accountant-General has pointed out all those irregularities, all those malpractices. We have a scam of Rs. 1,000 crore. No action has been taken. I do not understand why we must have a partisan attitude towards this thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is all. Please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I urge upon the Government that let there be no delay and strictest possible action must be taken.

There is a Welfare Minister concerned with our Waqfs. The Home Minister is here. They must rise. They must make a statement. They must let the House know what stringent action is being taken in the question of malpractices involving Waqf properties.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let Shri Somnath Chatterjee speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There are two Members of the party and both of them would speak.

[English]

...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I can understand the uneasiness of Mr. Dasmunsi...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Persons who are shielding corrupt people and talking of corruption are adopting double standards ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Self-appointed people are maintaining the financial integrity of this country. When people have given their verdict, why are you raising this question? People have given their verdict and that is why, they have gone there, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Have you come on your right? Then why are you pinpointing us? Have people given you the verdict? Please do not claim like this. People have given their considered verdict. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Pilotji, allow him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kindly have some patience. Let him conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I was listening very quietly and I never interrupted. The only thing that is being said here is, all sorts of judgements are being told and I do not know which hon. Member knows the details of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We have got the Judicial Secretary's Report. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All have listened to you. Now listen to him also, Mr. Banatwalla.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He is knowledgeable enough to show that the Chief Minister made a statement on the Judicial Secretary's Report and that was placed before the Legislative Assembly in West Bengal. He must know about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am not going to be taught lessons about integrity by anybody and we are not playing with integrity or corruption. The Government of West Bengal have directed a judicial inquiry by a sitting judge of the Calcutta High Court. Now, in many matters, they are asking for judicial inquiry. For political purposes, when a judicial inquiry has been ordered by a sitting judge today, they do not have faith in judiciary.

Sir, raising this question is totally improper. Therefore, I request not to allow this discussion to continue. There is no question of approving any corruption anywhere. If anybody is found guilty, stringent action will be taken. I can assure the House that stringent action will be taken against anybody found guilty. Therefore, let them have a little patience. They talk of judiciary when it suits them. Now, when a judicial inquiry is ordered, they have lost patience. I strongly repudiate the

reflections made by them. With all the contempt it deserves, I plead that the way Mr. Banatwalla has referred to Members of Parliament is not the way to treat his colleagues in Parliament. We are trying to uproot corruption; we all know that. Sir, I strongly repudiate his allegations. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is all right. Your views have come on record. Please sit down. Please let him have his say.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. You all had your say. No side talks please.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : The Centre cannot wash off their hands on such a serious matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this going on? Both of you sit down. Mr. Chandumajra may speak now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is unlike gentlemen.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED : We are also hon. Members of this House. We are also entitled to know what the Government is intending to do in this matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

Shri Somnath Chatterjee is not a member. ...(*Interruptions*) We want to know. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, please sit down. I have called the name of another Member. Yes, Prof. Chandumajra.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this going on?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, we are entitled to have a statement from the Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not allow others to speak? Gentlemen, you had your say and now allow others also to speak. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, you are a senior man, please sit down now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Government to a judgement delivered by Justice Dhingra of Delhi High Court day before yesterday. He convicted a total of 89 persons who were culprits of 1984 riots. While delivering his judgement the learned Judge^t passed certain strictness also against some persons.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not read from newspaper.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : The learned Judge has said about the people who were political masters of that time. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not read from newspaper. Please speak about what you have already read.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : The learned Judge has said about the political masters that

[*English*]

Those who have engineered all these incidents are still at large.

[*Translation*]

I would like to know through you, Sir, whether Government would investigate the matter on the basis of strictness passed by the learned Judge. The court is of the opinion that the matter should be investigated because there were political masters who were behind heinous crimes and massacre of Sikhs on the roads of Delhi.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you would, perhaps, remember and many hon'ble Members also would recollect that the political masters who were behind these riots who are now no more in this world but they were in the hierarchy, they were political leaders. When Sikhs were being massacred, the press people asked them as to why that was happening, they replied that when a big tree falls, there is a sort of earthquake — how shameful is it?

Although it is late but justice has not been denied. At least we have got some satisfaction with this judgement. But justice delayed is justice denied that is there. The people who hatched this conspiracy, because of whom thousands of sisters became widow and because of whom sentiments of thousands of mothers were crushed, their grievances must be heard in the court of law. Although the judgement has been delivered by the court but the real culprits, who are political masters, who said at that time that when big tree falls, a sort of earthquake occurs, action must be taken against them and they must be convicted. This matter should be

thoroughly investigated keeping in view this judgement. The Minister of Home Affairs is present. I would like to request him, through you Sir, that this is an important matter and it must be investigated. I want to know whether Government will order an inquiry in this matter? I demand that C.B.I. should be entrusted with this job because it is C.B.I. who have got hold of big political masters involved in various scams such as money scam, urea scam, bofors and other similar scandals. Therefore this matter should also be investigated by the C.B.I. so that real culprits, who engineered 1984 riots and who are responsible of massacre of sikhs are brought to book. I request the Home Minister to make an announcement in this regard that an impartial inquiry will be held. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is enough.

SHRI BASANT SINGH KHALSA (Ropar) : This is very serious matter. Thousands of people were killed. The court of law had delivered this judgement. It has been proved now that investigation should be done against the people who are political personalities and involved in this matter and who engineered the whole process. I demand that Home Minister should make a statement in this regard today itself and announce that he will get the matter investigated. They are responsible of the massacre, many women became widow. It was a great loss to the country. It was very shameful act in our country. A proper enquiry should be held and facts should be placed before the House.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, we are happy that atleast a process is started in this matter. In the judgement that has appeared in the Papers, the learned magistrate has passed serious strictures. Many important persons, high ranking persons, should have been proceeded against. This is a matter which has to be seriously attended to. This is a matter concerning a large number of people. There was mayhem in the Capital of India. Therefore, this matter should be looked into very seriously, particularly in the context of the adverse comments that have been made by the magistrate. We would like to know what steps the Government will take in this regard. I request the Home Minister to make a Statement, at an appropriate time if not now, giving the views of the Government in this matter. A very very serious matter should be properly looked into.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to point out one thing. Shri Chatterjee has also said that this is revealing judgement. This names of some culprits have been known but some political personalities have been successful in keeping themselves away from legal process. Action must be taken against them. I demand on behalf of my party that a thorough probe should be conducted and the guilty persons must be brought to book.

Secondly, the entire House should congratulate BJP Government of Delhi, where Chief Minister Shri Madan Lal Khurana pursued this case for two years and the culprits have been awarded punishment. The Gurus of this minority Community of India sacrificed their lives for the sake of our country and the people who are responsible for the inhuman behaviour to this community have been sent to jail because of the efforts made by B.J.P. Government. We should, therefore, congratulate them.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I came from Khurja Constituency. Jewar, Dadri and Sikanderabad areas of my Constituency are in the grip of devastating floods. I have been telling the administrative authorities that the condition of 'Kchha Pushta' is very bad, but they have not paid any attention towards this. When I went there today, I found that 90 per cent 'Pushta' has been cut off. Because of this floods 30-35 villages have been submerged which from Sikanderabad region. On the other side, there is a 'Pushta'. In case its water is not drained out, people of that area would be reduced to nothing. Their crops have already been submerged. I would request the Government to construct the 'Pushta' strong one and action should be taken against the officials who were negligent. The D.M. of Ghaziabad and Bulandshahr are camping there. I have informed them on the day before yesterday that the condition is such that army should be called out. When army has been called out today, I talked to Major O.P. Paraswal. He told me that they have been called but they do not have equipment to prevent the floods. We shall take precautionary measures only. When the area would be submerged, we shall take the people out on higher places.

Shri Rajesh Pilot, my elder brother also belongs to that area. Every year several villages are submerged. Jewar has already been submerged. Sikanderabad is also in the process of submerging. I returned at 9.30 a.m. That, Pushta might have been cut off completely by now. I therefore, request that action should be taken immediately.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, it is a very serious matter. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs must talk to the Governor of UP. The situation is very tense there. The hon. Member is very right. If Pushta is not repaired or worked out, 30 villages will be totally demolished in the next few days because of this flood.

13.00 hrs.

The Government must take the U.P. Administration into confidence and tell them to do something. The hon. Member is right in saying that the Army has gone there because they have been told them that people are drowning. The Minister must convey the feelings of Parliament to the Governor and ask him to come back in the evening with the measures taken to save the lives of these people.

[Translation]

Now my elder brother sitting on the left is saying that I should say something regarding Ballia. Now he will tell you about Ballia.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Government should take serious note of it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : We have taken note of it. Necessary instructions will be conveyed to the U.P. Administration.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government of Haryana has constructed a 'Pushta' in the name of constructing a road and consequent upon which another is flowing on this side. Therefore many villages of my constituency are being flooded. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, condition in Ballia and Ghazipur...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Chaubey, I have not allowed you. I have called Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma. Please sit down.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak....*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you have called the name of 'Nawal Kishore Sharma' but Nawal Kishore Rai has stood up to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Chaubey, please sit down. I have called the name of Nawal Kishore Sharma, not you. I shall call you later...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, on a point of order, Sir.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no point of order in Zero Hour. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Chaubey, I have no objection. When I shall call you and then you may speak.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to place a very important matter concerning Delhi

before the House. Hon'ble Home Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs are also present. The condition of poor people and small farmers of villages of Delhi who have small holdings, is miserable. Delhi Rent Control Act was passed in this Parliament, a year ago and consent of the hon'ble President were awaited. Thereafter he signed the Bill and then it took the shape of law. A year ago when the amended Bill took the shape of law but the same is not being implemented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to inform the Government that people living in villages of Delhi are sitting on 'Dharna' on Jantar-Mantar demanding implementation of Delhi Rent Control Act. They are demanding justice. They say as to why the aforesaid Act is not being enforced inspite of its taking the shape of law, a year ago. I would request the Home Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to implement that law and persuade the people sitting on *Dharna* to go home. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 90 per cent people of Delhi are against enforcement of this law. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai is, perhaps, not aware of the facts. All the political parties of our country are against this law. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Agarwal, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing of what he says is going on record

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ (Jamshedpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the growing anxiety and fear among the 10000 employees of a Government of India company near Jamshedpur called the Hindustan Copper Limited. This company mines for copper. They have three mining lease areas called Mosabani, Kendadih, and Rakha. In Mosabani mines they have worked to a depth of about 1000 metres below the surface. Obviously, that is supposed to be quite deep, and so they are facing problems of deep-mining like strata control, ventilation, water drainage and environmental problems. Because of deep-mining, the cost of production is going high. Added to this, in the new Budget the Union Finance Minister has reduced duties on copper cathodes...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Bharadwaj you cannot read during the Zero Hour, please speak extempore.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ: I am not reading.

[English]

I am just giving the information that the duties of these two items are reduced. Because of that they are facing more competition in the open market. The problem is that they had 469.63 hectares of mining area for which the lease is cancelled. They had that lease before but was cancelled for certain reasons — given by the State Government. They have complied with all those regulations. They have submitted a programme to the Union Ministry. That programme is approved by the Ministry of Mines. They have also asked for global tender for a joint venture so that they do not have to look for a budgetary support alone. I feel that this company is surviving only because of the work force. Mosabani mines and its company are going to be shut down very soon. The management wants to shift all the work force from Mosabani mines to Chapri and Siddheswar area and their whole expansion plan depends only on the lease of this area. I do not see any reasons why this lease should not be given to a company which is a Government of India undertaking and the same lease should be considered. Why should it be considered for the private company called Sterlite Mining Company? The lease was already there with the Government company. It should be given to that company. Otherwise this company faces closure very soon and there is a growing anxiety and a fear of unemployment among ten thousand employees of this company.

As you know, in Bihar and especially in this part of Bihar nothing else is happening. Only mining is happening and I do not think it is fair enough to shut down even this business which is going on very fast. Thank you.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, I would like to know whether you want to avoid lunch hour or not. Rule 377 still remains. (Interruptions) What is the consensus of the House? Do you want lunch hour or not, because discussion on budget is yet to commence.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Right now, we have to take up matters under Rule 377 and then discussion under Rule 193. Thereafter discussion on the budget would begin. If we skip lunch hour and take up the matters under Rule 377, it would be better. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is the consensus of the House?

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): What about the promise you have made?... (Interruptions) I have not been given the opportunity. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am asking whether lunch hour will be observed or not.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): We will skip the lunch, Sir... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Zero-Hour is over.

Now, we take up Matters under Rule 377.

Shri Mangal Ram Premi.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: Please listen to the grievances of people sitting on Dharna... (Interruptions) They are unable to make their both ends meet... (Interruptions) Thousands and lakhs of people are suffering and you do not pay any attention towards them. If this is the state of affairs in this House, then surely this is not the place where justice could be done.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2.10 p.m.

13.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[Translation]

14.16 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Sixteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to protect Indian News Print Industry as recommended by the Kelkar Samiti**

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Indian Newsprint manufacturers, including Hindustan Newsprint, are facing great hardship in selling their newsprint because Government have allowed import of

newsprint custom free under O.G.L. consequent upon this newsprint manufactured in India is gathering dust in the Mills.

I demand that protection should be given to the Indian Newsprint Manufacturers as recommended by the Kelkar Committee.

[English]

(ii) Need to exempt Kerala State from the purview of Coastal Zone Regulations

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram): The Coastal Zone Regulations being implemented by the Ministry of Environment is causing great hardship to the States like Kerala. Kerala, a coastal State, having 700 kms. of coastal line as its border, finds it impossible to comply with the restrictions being imposed for construction in the Coastal Zone. According to a recent court decision, 500 metres from the High tide Zone only is permitted for any construction. Kerala coasts are so thickly inhabited by the fishermen housing colonies and commercial constructions attached to fishing and fisheries industry, the restriction for any construction along the coastal line and also on the banks of backwaters and rivers will affect the tourism potential of Kerala to a great extent. Backwater tourism is considered to be the most potential thing of the future for the economy of Kerala. Due to present restriction, no construction is possible within 200 metres from the backwaters.

The Ministry of Environment may formulate appropriate policy leaving out coastal States like Kerala from this restriction and regulating the constructions keeping in mind problems of the States like Kerala instead of mechanically implementing the so-called policy which will hamper the economic growth of the State.

(iii) Need to sanction more funds out of Central Road Funds to Andhra Pradesh

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Sir, the Ministry of Surface Transport in their letter dated 3.1.1989 to the State Governments informed that as per the revised resolution of Parliament passed on 13.5.1988, a sum of Rs. 202.86 crore is to accrue annually to Andhra Pradesh under Central Road Fund. The Ministry of Surface Transport had requested the Andhra Pradesh Government to draw up a list of works to be included under the programme for a period of six years from 1989-90 to 1994-95. The Andhra Pradesh Government as per guidelines communicated by the Ministry of Surface Transport, forwarded 25 items of work to the Government of India for the release of funds under the Central Road Fund.

Sir, the Government of India sanctioned only six items of work to the tune of Rs. 20.09 crore so far. The Andhra Pradesh Government had urged the Central Government to release Rs. 80 crore in 1995-96 for repairing the road system in our State which has been severely damaged but this

amount has not been released so far. Further the remaining 19 items of work have not been approved by the Government of India so far which shows that the directive of the Government of India that Rs. 202.86 crore to be released annually to Andhra Pradesh Government under the Central Road Fund is not being adhered to. This has created a great problem in the State for development of roads. I, therefore, urge the Government that they should immediately approve the remaining 9 items of works which have been sent to them by Andhra Pradesh and also release the amount regularly for the development of roads in Andhra Pradesh as per the resolution of Parliament.

(iv) Need for Action Plan for regular dredging of the silt and sand deposited in the catchment area of Durgapur Barrage, West Bengal

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, in order to save thousands of acres of agricultural lands in the districts of Bankura and Burdwan in West Bengal and for the development of industry, the Durgapur barrage was conceived over Damodar river in the year 1957, with an object to store water in rainy season and to distribute water for irrigation in the dry season. But since its inception, no action whatsoever has been taken to dredge the silt at the catchment area of Damodar river. As a result, the holding capacity has gone down to a great extent. In the year 1978, the people who need to live in the embankments of Damodar river had witnessed an unprecedented flood situation. Not only the adduct of the barrage collapsed and thousands of acres of agricultural lands were submerged but also huge layers of sands were left on the agricultural lands and thus, diminishing the fertility of the lands perpetually. In the last week of September 1995, villages namely Kuldia, Pinguri, Madhavpur, Navpara under Maliara Gram Panchayat, Jalanpur under Barjon Gram Panchayat and Mana under Pokhannya Gram Panchayat were again submerged under flood water leaving tons of sand on the agricultural lands afterwards. It is noteworthy to mention here that most of the people of these areas are poor agricultural labourers and they simply turned to be out of employments for ever as the fertility of the lands is finished for ever. There are reports of formations of in-numerous crack zones in and around the embankment areas of Patrasayer and Sonamukhi Panchayat Samity areas in the district of Bankura. Already hundreds of acres of lands have gone down in the Damodar river for ever. In order to save the lives, properties and agricultural lands of the local people and for the development of industry, both in Durgapur and Barjora areas, I demand immediate action plan for regular dredging of the silt and sand deposited for years in the catchment areas of Durgapur barrage.

(v) Need to televise programmes through L.P.Ts throughout the day particularly at Martandam, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Sir, in several low power transmission centres in this country, there is no full time transmission programme. It is carried out only for a short

duration, generally after 4.30 p.m. So the viewers depending on such low power transmission centres are disappointed due to the non-transmission of full time programme. It is seen that adequate staff strength is not provided for the transmission of full time programme. This deficiency in staff strength and consequent reduction in the time of transmission and programmes is causing concern and disappointment among the viewers. The L.P.T. at Martandam, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu is one of such stations which has no full time transmission programmes due to low staff strength and inadequate arrangements. So I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to provide PTs with adequate staff strength and other arrangements so as to enable the viewers to get the opportunity of full time programme.

(vi) Need to restore the railway line between Kotipalli and Kakinada in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI T. GOPALKRISHNA: A railway line between Kotipalli and Kakinada in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh existed during World War time. During the war period, some lines like one being mentioned have been removed whereas many or almost all those rail lines were restored after Independence. This line which is about 50 kms. in length has not been restored till date. During the 10th Lok Sabha in one of his Budgets, the then Hon'ble Railway Minister was kind enough to include this line in his Budget proposals. I understand that a survey has been conducted. This line, when restored, will benefit the people of agriculturally rich Konaseema area.

At present due to increased operations of ONGC in this area, there is a lot of pressure on road transport. Further, Kakinada is one of the important educational centres with Medical, Engineering and other colleges, besides being a port and district headquarters. A large number of students, farmers, businessmen, employee, commute from Konaseema area to Kakinada daily. They depend only on road transport which is unable to bear the pressure. The businessmen/agriculturists of Konaseema can conveniently transport their products to Kakinada Port and in the process the Railways too can earn sufficient revenue.

I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to see that his predecessor's promise to restore this line is fulfilled.

[Translation]

(vii) Need for early completion of by-pass in Lalitpur, U.P.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The Construction work of a by-pass road in Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh is going on. It was started 10 years ago. Foundation stone was laid by a Union Minister. For the last 5 years construction work is held up. Construction of bridges on the river and stream is yet to be completed.

Sir, Jhansi, Sagar and Jabalpur road passes through Lalitpur city which comes traffic jams for three to four hours

during the day time and 10-12 serious accidents take place there every year. Therefore it is quite necessary to build the road and bridges on the river and stream to reduce the congestion in the city.

I, therefore, urge the hon'ble Minister to issue urgent instructions for the completion of remaining work expeditiously.

(viii) Need for early construction of a by-pass on National Highway No. 3 between Indore and Dewas, M.P.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): An action plan is under consideration of the Government for the past several years to build a bypass and fourlanes of the National Highway Mumbai-Agra between Indore and Dewas. This Highway passes through the city and as a result thereof accidents take place every now and then. During the recent past a survey for this pass was also conducted under the aegis of World Bank. The cost of construction may also increase because of delay in taking up this work. I, therefore request the Central Government to start the construction work without any further delay.

14.29 hrs.

[English]

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Loss of Lives due to Heavy Rains and Landslides during Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up discussion under Rule 193. The time available is two hours. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. .

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Before I start, I would like to know since two days have elapsed in between, whether the Home Minister wants to add anything; because many news items appeared in the newspapers which are quite contradictory to what he has said. I being one of the Members of the supporting party, would like to know whether the newspapers are right or the Government is right. I will urge upon him to share the information with us so that it will be easier for us to react.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I do not know which newspaper report the hon. Member is referring to. But I can give you some latest information which we have received regarding different aspects of this tragedy.

It is with deep regret that I have to inform the House that the number of total deaths has now gone up to 194. Last time, when I made a statement in this House, the figures

available with us were of 127 deaths. This figure has now gone up to 194. These figures can be divided as follows:—

Pilgrim/ <i>Yatris</i> died after the rainfall and snowfall began	165
<i>Yatris</i> died before this weather deteriorated	13
Porters who were engaged in carrying loads on the pilgrimage route and <i>ponywallahs</i> who give out horses on hire for people to go on horse-back	12
Security forces personnel	4

So, as per the latest information available with us, the number of total deaths is 194, out of which 165, as I said, was the number of deaths of *yatris*, once the rain and snow had begun and the weather had deteriorated.

The number of bodies identified is 112. Out of these 96 bodies are of *yatris*, 12 bodies are of local porters, etc. and four, as I mentioned, are of the security forces personnel. So, this makes the number of total bodies identified as 112.

As far as disposal of the bodies of the civilians is concerned, the number of bodies of *yatris* cremated is — 164; the number of bodies buried is — 12; the number of bodies airlifted is — 11; and the number of those bodies, which are at the time of the coming of this report early this morning, are in the process of being airlifted, is — three. This makes a total of 190 deaths. The four bodies are of the same security force personnel, to whom I have referred to earlier.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I do not want to interfere. I would like to know whether all the 164 bodies, which have been cremated, have been identified by their relatives or not... (*Interruptions*). Some bodies which have not been identified have also been buried because, as you said, they were getting decomposed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: As I stated the other day also, generally those bodies only were cremated or which consent was given by their friends or relatives. But later on, they may have cremated some more bodies because nobody came to identify them and the bodies were decomposed.

At present some search teams are further working and looking along the whole route. The Additional Director-General of Police has gone there today to make a survey of all the campus along the route. I do not want to rule out the possibilities of a few more bodies being found, especially between Panjtarni and the Amarnath Cave. It may be that a few bodies may be lying somewhere in that area. If so, of course, they will be located by the search teams which are working there.

But I cannot say definitely. According to the State Administration, this is their report conveyed to us... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): What is the number of persons/pilgrims missing? The relatives of the pilgrims are searching for them but are not finding them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Do you mean 'missing and their families cannot find them and in that sense they are missing'? I think that is what you mean.

As far as I know, the names of all the people whose bodies have been identified, have been published. The full lists have been published in the Press. Of course, the identity of those bodies which are unidentified and have either been cremated or in case they were Muslims, they were buried, I suppose, is not known. I am informed that as of now, this morning only roughly 3,000 people remain at Pahalgam. The roads have been opened. The traffic is moving. All the rest, out of this huge number that was there, are now being moved by vehicles on the road to Jammu.

According to the State Administration, most of the deaths took place at the camps at Sheshnag and at the Cave and in the small camps in between, that is Panchtarni, Poshpatri and Mahaguna and on the road between these camps. It is also stated that wireless communications are available only at the camps at Sheshnag at Panchtarni and at the Cave. Therefore, information from the intermediate small camps like Poshpatri and Mahaguna had to be collected by personal visits. It is also said that in the first one or two days the dead were cremated by their relatives at the Cave itself and at the place of death. Later on, the dead bodies were left behind by the other *Yatris* and these were collected by the Administration and cremations were done at Sheshnag (46 bodies); at Manigaon (38 bodies) and at Chandanwari (25 bodies). This portion is the report given to us by the State Administration.

Sir, there are one or two other points which I might add, because some of the questions which were raised relate to these points. That is about the sequence of events. It started raining heavily on the night of 21st August. I was there till the evening of 22nd August. It had started raining the previous day, on 22nd morning. The Home Secretary and the Home Minister visited Srinagar to review the election arrangements. They also reviewed the arrangements for the *Yatra*.

The weather forecasting reports — this was asked about— were obtained by the State Government on a daily basis from the Indian Air Force station at Avantipura. This is the only weather forecasting unit or station in that area which operates from the Indian Air Force station at Avantipura. From there the reports have to be obtained. On 22nd itself at 9.00 a.m., orders were issued by the Director of Tourism who is camping at Pahalgam not to allow the pilgrims to go forward from the respective camps which they had reached. These instructions were repeated in the afternoon of the same day, that is, 22nd by the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag who is designated as the Chief *Yatra* Officer.

Requisition of Air Force helicopters — this was also asked about was made on the 22nd itself when reports were first

received about heavy snowfall taking place on the upper reaches. However, aircrafts could not take off on the 22nd due to bad weather. Efforts were made by the Advisor on 22nd and 23rd to reach various camp sites by helicopter.

He could not do so because the helicopters could not take off. There is a trouble with the helicopter at the time of fuelling or refuelling that even if a few drops of water gets into it, I believe - I am not an expert on it; and this is what I was told by helicopter people - the whole thing is to be called off. On 24th August, the Advisor reached Panchtarni but could not land due to bad weather. He, however, landed at Pahalgam and reviewed the rescue arrangements. On 24th itself, most of the *yatris*, were shifted by road from the higher altitudes to the base camp at Pahalgam. On 24th August, the airborne relief operations were started. On 25th, 26th and 27th August, the concentration of the Administration was to clear the road blocks and to move the stranded pilgrims back to their homes. The retrieval of dead bodies from various upper reaches took time and every effort was made to recover all the dead bodies. These are the things relating to the sequence of events.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with a heavy heart, we share the concern which has been expressed by the various parties in this Parliament. After the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister, we have today gathered here to discuss the tragedy which has costed, according to the hon. Home Minister, 194 lives. He also mentioned during his speech now that he is assuming - God forbid - that some more dead bodies may be traced out during the next few days. This is the reason for which, before I started, I requested the hon. Home Minister to share with the House any information that he has with him regarding this incident.

From our party side we share the concern of this august House and the nation, I would mention that we are not here to pinpoint towards any individual, or for that reason to the Central Government, that this incident has happened because of the mistake committed someone. But we strongly feel that the tragedy that has happened, could have been avoided had there been more alertness on the part of the State Government, their officials and the hierarchy in the Jammu Administration *i.e.* the Governor, the Chief Secretary and the Advisor to the Governor. When this august House, irrespective of any party, tries to point out to the Government the information that has reached us, the Government, we have seen that day, gets a bit annoyed. Today it is proved beyond doubt. This is one of the points I wanted to raise. But I am grateful to the hon. Home Minister who has explained that on 22nd and 24th August the weather was very bad. In the past two days, before the Prime Minister and Shri Indrajit Gupta shared their information with us, they could not explain why the Advisor to the Governor, Shri Saklani reached there on 24th August. Today he has explained that efforts were made, but since the weather was bad, he could not land at the spot and went to Pahalgam.

Now, the Prime Minister has informed the House about the efforts that has been made by this Government that they have increased the number of tents, shelters and other things. He has also informed that his Government has done wonderful job. Well, whether or not they have done a wonderful job, but it has cost life of 194 people. I agree with the Prime Minister and the Home Minister that one cannot foresee the vagaries of the nature. The Prime Minister has explained that there was bad weather, heavy rains, snow fall, land slides and flooding of the roads. It was unprecedented what has happened. I know a little bit about the crisis management as I had the opportunity to work with the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Tourism as well as Ministry of Home Affairs. I had the opportunity to visit Siachin which is also in Kashmir. Here the altitude is 12,000 feet and in Siachin it is double that figure. The Army has got all the expertise with them to live with that type of temperature, namely, zero and minus degree atmosphere. Now, the other day, the Prime Minister had laid a statement which has been circulated as dos and don'ts, for the *yatris* of Shri Amarnath. In all the seven dos and five don'ts, there is no mention other than taking blanket and windcheater — that the situation may deteriorate to such a level that you may not be able to go forward and that you have to be careful about the weather. Fourteen thousand blankets were given and the Prime Minister said that 1,25,000 *yatris* had gone there. I would like to request the hon. Home Minister will you please let the House know what was the system for making sure that those 1,25,000 has gone with their tents, blankets, windcheaters and other materials. They were just saying that we have done it. Under what circumstances were you convinced? As per the newspaper reports in Delhi, these dos and don'ts state that children below the age of 12 years are not allowed. How many children were allowed to go? Who allowed them to go? I do not know whether the newspaper report is correct or not. You may not say it today but in future you have to verify where the lacuna on the part of the administration is and who allowed the children to go.

Now, the Prime Minister has said that contact was lost. My friend, Shri Rajesh Pilot has said the other day that in today's scientific age, it is difficult to believe that wireless system collapsed there. If you say, 'it has collapsed', it will not be easy for us to believe. Again I quote from today's newspaper that most of the pilgrims, after returning from the *yatra*, have narrated horrid tales of miseries faced by them. They are not sorry for not having *darshan* of Shiva but they are happy to have come back safely and had they not kept on moving, it would have been their *samsadhi* there. According to them the death toll is likely to be 234. They further said that it is the porters who told them not to move up and not to go further because weather was going to be bad in the next 24 hours. From their experience they warned them. Those pilgrims who were not fanatic to go and reach the spot, took the counsel of these porters. They evacuated and saved themselves.

You just see. I am not blaming. But according to this newspaper, 'The Indian Express' front page — if somebody

challenges, I have kept the newspaper with me and you have also admitted to a certain extent in your speech — Rs. 15 was a cup of tea and Rs. 50 the cost of a breakfast, *roti* or something like that. As against that, you have said that "We have taken appropriate action to keep enough rice, wheat and other materials." Who was running this *Lungar Khana*? Was it sufficient for 1,25,000 people? Non-government sources say two lakh people have gone. I do not want to go into that. I would like to know why someone has not taken care. Now you have explained to us that on those fateful days, 21st and 22nd, you were in Kashmir. You went there to supervise the election arrangement and you also wanted to know about the Amarnath *Yatra*. You and the Home Secretary were there. It is very good. If your statement is correct, before you left, did you get the information of bad weather and the warning that had been sent to the Pahalgam Administration "Come back. Do not go further? If so, after coming back, what has your Home Secretary done? Why were the Governor and the Chief secretary not sent back immediately? What action has been taken after they went back? All these questions are not to pinpoint for anyone to be punished. I am raising all these points because Amarnath Cave is a historical and religious monument. In future also, people will have to go there and we have to learn from the mistake of today so that this does not repeat in future. This is my main submission. I am not trying to say that punish this one or that one. I will come to that afterwards.

A Sadhu has written a very very small item but a very valid item. He said that *yatras* are mainly done by people who are 50 years of age and above. Whatever arrangement has to be made in a *yatra* like this, Government fail to do. You were yourself there and you have seen people who were incapable of trekking that terrain. In that respect, I must congratulate my friend Shri Jagmohanji who is sitting here. I was then Minister of State for Home. Complaints came against him that he took over *Vaishno Devi*. I went there being sent by my Prime Minister then. I did not inform him that I went there. I visited the site. I saw the arrangements he wanted to do. I do not want to say but there was a caucus there. They used to earn money and spend that money for the villagers, not for you. I came back and submitted report. The intention with which he was doing was good. But time would spell out whether it is good. After three months when I visited, he was on the verge of going out. He did a very good job there. The other day Shri Biju Patnaikji gave a suggestion to try to improve the road and the arrangements on the road to Amarnath. I do not know whether he is participating. I think he should throw light. I think it is possible to do that improvement for future. It is needed. Come to Kamakhya. Twenty years ago, you could not have climbed that place. Today you can climb very easily.

Today very easily, you can climb. So, let us also, in this House today, take a decision on that it should not be the duty of the Kashmir Government alone to do this job. The Central Government, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Finance should take the responsibility for improving the facili-

ties and should take steps to correct what has happened. The Ministry of Defence should be involved in this task.

It is very surprising and it is very shocking to know about one thing. In the statements of the Home Minister and the Prime Minister, there is no mention of the local people who have done a wonderful job. They praised the Parliamentary Forces, very rightly. They have praised the Defence Forces, very rightly. But read the Calcutta newspapers. How many newspapers do you, Mr. Home Minister, read? Now, you have to tell me about it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There is no time answering all these things.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: This is my habit.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He wants to poke his nose in West Bengal.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The Calcutta newspapers have written that unless the villagers, the Kashmiri people and the porters had helped, there would have been more than 1000 deaths. In this House, today we must admit that the public have risen to the occasion and we should have a word of thanks to them.

I now come to my friends from the BJP. Their basic information is more than anybody's. I agree to that... (*Interruptions*) But I cannot agree with them. You want to take advantage of it and pinpoint that the Government is at fault. You want to move an Adjournment Motion. What happened to your Joshiji when he took a vow that he would go to Kashmir and raise the National Flag? It was a very good venture. At that time, our Government did not object to that. But could he reach there? The weather was against him. It was not his intention.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi): He reached there. I was there. We hoisted the Flag at Lal Chowk.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: You are right. I am not saying that you had not hoisted the Flag. I am saying that weather in the month of August in Jammu and Kashmir region is always bad. Even your *Yatra* was affected.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: In spite of that weather, we reached there.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: You reached there. I am not saying that you have not done a good job. What I was telling was that you had yourself experienced the bad weather there in August. I am only saying that aspect. I am not saying that your intention was bad. I am not saying that you could not reach there. But you wanted to go by helicopter. You wanted to go by air for the *Yatra*.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALU): Shri Sontosh Mohan Devji, he was airlifted.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Yes, he was airlifted. You are saying that the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the others are responsible for this. What happened to your *kar seva*? Thousands of people went there for a good cause. Let me tell it. You can answer later.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Sontosh Mohan Devji, if the road had not been broken, we would have gone there. The road was not there. Therefore, we went by flight. But we were determined to reach there.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sharmaji, I am trying to raise the point that the climate there in August is always bad.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: I agree. But in spite of that weather, a good work can be done.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: My point is that the weather in the month of August was also bad. It stopped them from going there through their normal route. They were airlifted. Coming to my point, because of this weather, this has happened. I want to draw an analogy and a conclusion from this. I would request the senior leader and Home Minister to kindly take this into consideration for future Amarnath Yatra.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You control the number of pilgrims.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I do not know that particular thing. One thing is there. A man who does not believe in pilgrimages went half the way to Amarnath.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Not half the way, only six kilometres from there.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: One of the officers said that it was intentional on his part. He said something like that. You deny it. But you did that. Why did you do that? It was for pilgrimage.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): He was praying to be saved from Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Killing of people in a religious function like this is not done by any individual. It was because of nature. And nature is beyond anybody's control. Indrajitji, I am standing here and speaking from a seat which was your traditional seat. Had you been here, what would you have said?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: 'Most inefficient Government.'

15.01 hrs.

[SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I am grateful that another co-partner is saying this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It is a part of the game.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The BJP member from Jammu is not here. He had raised a point: What was the function of the control room? You have not answered to that. How many control rooms were opened? What Jaswant Singhji said that day, that has come in today's newspapers. Even today you have given figures about the number of persons dead, number of persons buried, number of persons cremated and the number of persons air lifted. What will happen to those who were buried on cremated without their identification being made? I would like to know about that. There is a system about it, you had mentioned in your speech also, and I will request you, as the Home Minister, to take care of that. All those persons who have not been identified, all the information about their photographs, their body identification, should be kept by the administration there. That is because when a claim is made, someone like Shri Somnath Chatterjee should not make money by appearing before the Supreme Court and fighting out a case. You kindly take this into consideration. There is a system to deal with the natural calamities. Kindly keep a track of that.

I have been told by an Army friend of mine that the length of the route is 45 kilometres and the highest altitude at any point is 12,000 feet. And at that altitude of 12,000 feet, you will invariably get the problem of respiration. I am the sufferer. As the Tourism Minister, I had visited Amarnath along with my wife. I went on a pony back.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did that pony survive!

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Survived. What I would like to say is at that time, from the Tourism Ministry we offered to the Kashmir Government to have more *Yatri Niwas* on the route. The Tourism Ministry has got a scheme of making *Yatri Niwas*. But the argument given by the State Government was, "this Amarnath Yatra comes once in a way. What will happen to these *Yatri Niwas* of the Tourism Ministry?" If you have better roads, better facilities, it can be utilised for tourism purposes. This *Shiv Linga* cannot be seen always. This *Shiv Linga* gets formed only once. You do not know religion. It comes only once, unlike other *Lingas*, there it fades away and again it appears. Kindly take some steps. I do not want to speak for long.

I want to say one point. Your Government has taken all the credit for it. Probably you have forgotten that last time when the Amarnath Yatra was due, at that time, the terrorists

had given a threatening call. But our Government had accepted the challenge with the cooperation of all.

Not a single killing took place. When Shri Bal Thackeray gave a warning from Bombay that 'if one Amar Nath Yatri is killed, I will not allow any Muslim to go to Mecca from Bombay', we accepted that challenge also. And, nothing had happened. Shri Bal Thackeray had not done anything. But we accepted that challenge.

Sir, the Prime Minister is taking credit for everything. But who has to take the discredit for all that happened—neither Shri Indrajit Gupta nor the Home Secretary nor Shri Deve Gowda? We wanted magisterial inquiry. The culprits are the Governor, the Chief Secretary and the Adviser to the Governor. Is it possible for a magistrate to go and tell, 'Krishna Raoji, you are wrong'? No.

You have got two options. One option is, you kindly have a judicial inquiry. If you feel that judicial inquiry is not possible—you are interested to make JPC for Telecommunication—you make a Committee of Parliament. After the 13th, let that Committee go and visit all the areas, speak to the local people, speak to the officials. After three to five days, let that Committee submit its Report. Do not leave it like that. What has happened is very serious. What has happened is very grievous and what is happening in other pilgrimages is also bad. In India's religious psychology and philosophy, you cannot neglect the religious places. You have to take care.

Your Government might be supported by the CPI and CPI(M) but do not forget that it is supported by Congress (I) also. And, we want all the religious places to be protected because if the destruction takes place in the religious places, the obstruction takes place from the BJP. Let us not give that chance to them. Their apathy is correct and they should not be overruled. Whatever point has been raised by all of us, the Government should put their heads into it, try to take a lesson from it. I am repeatedly saying this.

I am not here to blame the Prime Minister. I am not here to blame the Home Minister on this issue. Everyday he gives enough point to criticize him. But on this point I will not criticize him. But I would appeal, let us put our heads together in spite of criticizing anybody and let us send a message that we, in future, will see that for the fault of the Nature, if there is any calamity, we in the 21st Century overcome this. And that can be done. That could have happened but it could not be.

What Shri Indrajit Gupta has said, was very correct and I also take note on it that 13 deaths were natural deaths as some elderly people died out of disease and other things. That may take place, I agree.

Sir, with these words, I will request the Home Minister and the Prime Minister, that those villagers and organizations who have done well, should be encouraged by giving some sort of rewards to them—not by cash but by building some community halls in their area. That is also written by *The Times of India* or other some other newspapers that if you

cannot make all these villages under IRDP, DRDA scheme, make for them some community hall. In future, in normal times they can utilize it for their functions and in some emergency times this can be utilized by the Government. For example, in Assam in flood-affected areas, our late lamented Shri Dev Kant Barua always used to give additional schools. He said that it would not only create an additional educated youth but it will also be of great help to be used as the flood relief camps for the flood-affected people because the Government may not have money. That was his idea.

Sir, with these words, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak. And as I said, I would expect Indrajit Guptaji, you take many decisions on your own without Cabinet, but today please give us a decision.

I might criticise you, but I feel happy that you are the first Minister of Home Affairs from the State of West Bengal. Secondly, I feel happy that I am in safe hands as you are a much more senior Member. Also, I am more happy that you have kept Shri Somnath Chatterjee out of the Government.

The Prime Minister has increased the quantum of money, but the beneficiaries should get the money. When the identification of those who have been cremated is made without tracing the relatives, a proper chart should be prepared and the people should immediately get the certificates. There should not be any corruption involved in that.

With these words, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to move this issue under Rule 193.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing a very tragic incident in this House. We have before us the statement made by the Home Minister yesterday. My main objection is that the statement is not in conformity with such a big tragedy. It lacks terminology and the sentiments. On the other hand if some body goes through this statement, he would feel that it has hurt the sentiments of crores of people of our country. Instead of consoling the people it shows indifference with which the government has taken it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to say with full responsibility that this tragedy has been termed as natural calamity and not a word has been said about the failure of Administration in the statement. It means that had it been possible for them, they would have court martialled Indira Dev on interrogated him as if the administration is not at fault at all. When Home Minister visited that place, he met one pilgrim, he made a complaint which has been incorporated on page 5 of the statement:

[English]

"At Pahalgam, one 'Yatri' complained of attempts by private shopkeepers to overcharge for food items." That means

he came across only one pilgrim, who complained to him. An effort has been made to minimise the incident. I am pointing out from the terminology of the statement. I would like the Home Minister to tell us whether he came across only one person during his visit, who complained to him. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev was just now pointing out that people got a cup of tea for Rs. 15/-. I want to know whether none other pilgrims met him and whether only one person complained to him?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, second objectionable thing is that it has been stated in the concluding paragraph that:—

'Although some minor lacunae in the arrangement could be seen.' This is the only indictment of the Administration, and I was astonished to read Hindi translation of the statement, I do not know who has translated it. The terminology used in Hindi version is such that I was amazed and I felt it very much. The Home Minister says that there were some minor errors of omission and commission on the part of the administration. What is meant by minor errors? Please let us know. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, you also know that it means negligible of which no notice need be taken. ...*(interruptions)* Sir, last year 70 thousand people visited the shrine and this time it was expected that number would be more. Now the first question is that whether arrangements were made in accordance with expected number of pilgrims. Bad weather is altogether a different aspect. The Home Minister has told during his tour that he visited base camp of the army in Pahalgam. Pahalgam is a standing point where pilgrims assemble in good number.

SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH : Whether Home Minister is listening or sleeping.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : He is listening. I can see. ...*(Interruptions)* This Yatra starts from Pahalgam. He has commented on certain arrangements made at Pahalgam. I would like to ask him whether any arrangements were made at other places like Chandanvadi, Sheshnag, Panchtarni and in between sacred cave? Whether there were any camps for medical aid? You can correct me. There were only 1000 tents and 8 persons can stay in a tent, which means that there was arrangement for 8000 people whereas lakhs of people were expected to visit the shrine. Complete details should have been given in the statement e.g. number of tents, other arrangements and number of vehicles etc.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : All these figures have been given in the statement.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : It would be better if you provide these figures. According to my knowledge, the arrangements made were for less than the expected number of pilgrims. If you do not take this factor seriously and give clean chit to the administration then in future also proper arrangements would not be made and such tragedies will continue to occur. These were two negative aspects this time: One aspect was weather and the other was terrorism. Shri Sontosh

Mohan Dev was telling me that all of us know about the uncertainty of season in the month of August, but Government should know better. Should we presume that all arrangements were complete in all the camps keeping in view the vagaries of weather and terrorism.

You have rightly pointed out that Genl. Saklani did not reach there. But had he been there, what could he do? In the absence of any arrangement, what could be do? Had there been some arrangements, he could streamline them, monitor them or do something else. I am astonished to observe that even in the event of this enormous tragedy, our Prime Minister was busy in touring Uttar Pradesh. The Home Minister went there on 26th when session was to commence. He did not go there earlier. The Governor of the State visited on the 25th. He was also in Delhi. Genl. D.D. Saklani reached there on 24th. Now I want to say one thing that elections in Jammu and Kashmir will take place soon but at present the State is under President's rule. It is governed by the Centre. I want to ask whether keeping in view the importance of Amar Nath Yatra, Central Government had no responsibility whatsoever? Whether everything was left to the State administration and Central Government had no role to play in making various arrangements. In so far as State administration is concerned, General D.D. Saklani, Deputy Commissioner of Anantnag, Governor and rest of the paraphernalia were camping in Delhi. There were only two persons to look after the arrangements. No doubt terrorism exist there, weather uncertainty was also there but then Amar Nath Yatra is also very important event takes place once a year. If something happens during this Yatra, possibility of its reaction is bound to be there throughout the country. What was the role of the centre in this Yatra? Had they done their job? Had the Home Minister or some one else visited and supervised the arrangements? The Yatra was to commence on 16th August. Whether Central Government took over same responsibility? During such events, Kumbh, Yatras etc. several arrangements are to be made, various centres and central rooms are set up. The Central room was in Srinagar. Whether any contact was established between the central room at Pahalgam with Delhi? Whether the Central room had some contact with State administration in Jammu and Srinagar? Had some monitoring arrangement made for this Yatra in the Ministry of Home Affairs, whereas the issue was very sensitive? I feel that the aspect of failure on the part of the administration has not found its place in the statement. We have no control over natural calamity. We have to bow and bear what has happened. But besides this aspect if we shall try to ignore the failure on the part of the administration then they will not do their party of duty in future also. I would like that the Governor should be asked to explain as to only was he camping in Delhi at such a time. It was said earlier that guilty officers would be punished but it appears from the statement that the Government is not inclined to do so and retracing this step. They want to shield them now. It will be a great injustice if such a decision is taken.

The hon'ble Home Minister has given some information today. He has confirmed that number of persons killed in the

incident can further rise. According to our information this number has already reached upto 234 and can go upto 400. He has said that search parties have already left for the job. Let them do their job expeditiously so that correct position is furnished to all concerned. There should not be any delay. In case you have found some loopholes, please let us know about them.

The hon'ble Prime Minister, while making a statement here, had said that the Home Minister has gone there on the spot and when he would come, we will have some additional information. We are very much disappointed after going through both the statements, because Home Minister has repeated the same thing which the Prime Minister had stated without visiting the spot. There is not significant addition which Home Minister might have seen there. I feel, it is not correct. It has been taken as the will of God. I do not know but it has been said that there was an alternative route from Pahalgam to Baltal. I want to know whether permission was given to the pilgrims to use that route and whether necessary facilities were available along that route had some tragedy occurred on that route. Atleast some arrangements must have been made, security personnel must have been deployed on the determined route. I want to know whether any such arrangements were made on the alternative route? On the pilgrims were allowed to go from any route and it was left to them. No body bothered whether some one has reached safe or not. It was not proper to allow the people like that.

Second thing is that it has been stated that 19 bodies were cremated because they could not be identified. I think, no effort was made to get them identified. Had you shown photographs of those bodies over television, some bodies might have been identified by the people. Some people might have reached there but no such effort was made. The Home Minister has said today that their photographs have been taken but if none of their hair would come forward, they will be cremated. I mean to say that why photographs are not shown on television. If some of them could be identified by their relatives they can go there and claim the bodies. But no such arrangements or efforts have been made. No announcement has been made that Government is in possession of photographs of certain people and if their relatives could identify them they can claim the bodies. I had suggested on the very first day that a team of opposition parties or all parties should visit the spot. Today our leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee alongwith our another colleague have gone there. On their return, the facts will be placed before the House.

Now, in my opinion, if any inquiry into this incident is to be conducted, it should be a judicial inquiry under the Commission of Inquiries Act otherwise people would not be satisfied and no body will believe it.

I would like to point out another thing. Some people might say such statements are politically motivated. An adjournment motion can be termed as politically motivated, but I want to

say that in so far as Kashmir is concerned, we have always treated it as a national issue and till date all the matters raised regarding Kashmir whether at international fora or in the House, all the parties have extended full cooperation to the Government. We have given our testimony, have conveyed this message to Pakistan and the world too that on the question of Jammu and Kashmir, the entire country stands united. But for the people who have sacrificed their lives, who have suffered and who have been struggling for it, if it is said that these things are being said to take any political advantage then it pinches. We do not want to take serious for such people who themselves play political games in every sphere and advise others not to make it a political issue. This is not proper.

I want to say that Amar Nath is a sacred place and is a resemblance of our national unity and integrity. The people came here to offer 'jal' from West upto Rameshwaram. The people from North, South, East and West go there and it is a resemblance not only of our national unity and integrity but of our cultural unity also. All the people cooperate in such things. Such insensibility with regard to these matters cannot be appreciated. In spite of challenge thrown by terrorists, people from all corners of the country reached there at the risk of their lives to take part in the Yatra. They could have been killed by terrorists also. The Government should not take it as an ordinary thing, it would not be proper. An inquiry must be held. We cannot term the errors committed as insignificant. This is not simple natural calamity, it is failure of the administration which cannot be excused. I thought the Government would express some sort of regret, pain or grief in the statement that they have been aggrieved, or they have been hurt, but not a single word has been mentioned in the statement made by them. So can I hope that our Prime Minister and Home Minister would inhesitatingly ask the nation to forgive them for the inadequacies during Amar Nath Yatra and in future foolproof arrangements would be made during such events. In case Government behaves like this, I think people would appreciate it but they cannot show that much magnanimity.

I feel even today that Government should think seriously. Amar Nath Yatra is not an insignificant event. These errors and inadequacies are not ordinary one. They are of criminal nature. If no action is taken against the guilty persons of the administration, then justice will not be done to the people. The Centre as well as the State administration must own their responsibilities. They should ask the nation to forgive them, earlier the better.

Inquiry must take place and guilty persons must be awarded punishment. Main thing is that in future such tragedies should not recur. Irrespective of bad weather proper arrangements should be made in all the camps, people should be given medical relief and other assistance they require during the Yatra. The number of pilgrims can increase further. The Government should not presume that because of this tragedy less people would come next year. There will be more

pilgrims next time. They will come with greater devotion. We should all sit together, irrespective of party affiliations and discuss the manner in which we can make best arrangements for the next occasion. It can be done only if we punish the guilty and remove the inadequacies. An inquiry must be held and Government should go to people's court and ask to be pardoned.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing what I must describe as a human tragedy of great proportions.

At the outset, I wish to convey my sincere sympathies to the members of the families of those who have lost their lives and also those who have suffered in the course of this Yatra.

Sir, I had earlier said that this is an issue which should not be politicised but which should not be ignored either. It is a tragic event. Any unnatural death of any citizen of this country has to be mourned and when so many people have died — they had assembled there not for any antinational activity, but they suffered — it is a matter obviously the House has to take note of seriously and try to find out how in future we could adopt measures so that it would not result in the repetition of such unfortunate events.

Sir, so far, I have been able to get information from the materials that have been made available to us. So far as Shri Sharmaji is concerned, he has not challenged the veracity of the statements made by the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister. What he has said is that it shows that there have been lacunae or there have been failures or proper attention has not been paid to certain aspects. But so far as the veracity of the statements is concerned that has not been challenged. Therefore, we have to participate in the discussion on the basis of the materials that have been given by the Government and are considered to be correct.

Sir, we all know that these are hazardous journeys. I had the occasion to go to Kedarnath and Badrinath some 34 years ago when there were no roads there. But people used to go in huge numbers. Obviously, people do take certain risks and, as it is, the older people who go on such journeys run a greater risk with lesser and lesser availability of oxygen in the high altitudes and narrow roads where it is difficult to negotiate for even one person in certain areas. But still there are people who are going there. I appreciate that. Some are going there for religious purposes, many others might be going there for participating in what is termed as a national event. I am prepared to accept it as an event of harmony and an event of national solidarity because scores of people from all over the country assemble together in one place. I remember, people make very good friends during these journeys which are spread over quite a few days.

Sir, the question that really arises in my mind is that if this tragedy would have happened without the fury of the

nature, this time it has been on account of nature's fury, then certainly I would have personally preferred that arrangements for this type of journeys should be done by some sort of a Trust or a body like what is there is Vaishno Devi, I am told. I do not know if there is any such organisation in Amarnath or not. There is one such organisation in Kedarnath and Badrinath which is tandem with the Government provide facilities and look after the pilgrims and even many of the *dharamsalas* are run and managed by them. But if there was no such deterioration in the weather conditions, would such a tragic event have happened? The point is that we cannot minimise the importance of the weather conditions — in case of a bad weather when there was non-stop rain in that terrain for two days resulting in landslides and making negotiation on whatever roads are there, if we could call them roads at all, impossible. Therefore, risk has to be taken. That does not mean that I am exonerating anybody. I am not exonerating anybody. Could we say that there had been negligence of some kind and there had been failures of some kind in taking appropriate steps? That we have not known. It is very easy to be wiser after such a tragic event.

In the earlier days, I think nobody could have imagined that the Home Minister of India, with the help of helicopter, could get down at Panchtarni itself. Nowadays even pilots can take that risk. Unfortunately, the situation that suddenly developed there made it very difficult to tackle things in the way one would have liked to. I am sure everybody in India would have liked to give all protection and all facilities to all the *'yatis'*. There is no doubt about it. The question that really has to be considered is, whether we should have some machinery to tackle such a crisis situation. What is the crisis management facility available with us? It is a crisis of great magnitude which came up suddenly. In such circumstances what sort of crisis management system do we have? There had been no proper appreciation of the worst that may happen when such pilgrimages are taking place in a difficult terrain.

Therefore, I must express my annoyance and criticise the absence of both the Governor and the Chief Secretary on the relevant date. Of course, they would not have gone personally and rescued the people but the presence of the head of the local or State Administration gives confidence to the people. He could direct or advise others. Both of them should have gone back immediately. I find fault with them on this score. Whatever urgent work they might have in Delhi, they should have rushed back even on 24th or 25th and should have personally tried to take part in the rescue or the relief operation.

Apart from this negligence on the part of the topmost officials of the local State Government, there has been contribution of the people who assembled, there in such a great number. It is very easy to be little do's and don'ts but they have some relevance. The Government is giving advance warnings to these people to keep in mind certain things which are the must. We necessarily take some risk in going to that area in such a situation. In one breath we say that the Government did not warn the people about the weather. I

would ask whether the instructions regarding do's and don'ts— whoever issues them — were followed seriously or not. It seems some sort of a feeling of participation, attachment to the objective, namely seeing the deity on a particular date, so far as Amarnath Yatra is concerned, is the uppermost in people's mind. Many of the warnings that are given rightly, duly and legitimately, like we must carry adequate blankets or adequate ordinary medicine, food, etc., are not being scrupulously complied with. Had they been complied with, many people would have been saved. We should create an atmosphere where everybody should be welcomed to go there.

Naturally, people would go there on their own. Nobody is compelling anybody to go there. But those who go there should be aware of certain uncertainties and certain risks. They should try to follow the suggested do's and don'ts, and they should try and cooperate with the Government.

I do not know if anybody has suggested that there should have been a control on the numbers. At one place in the statement of the hon. Home Minister, it was mentioned that at Jammu, a request was made by some authorities not to go beyond a certain area as it is risky. I do not know whether that was heeded to. The point is, how can you control the number of people going there? Can you stop people from going there? Apart from the facts that it is the fundamental right of a citizen of India to go anywhere he likes in India, these are occasions which attract people. Therefore, what is the good of saying "you should have anticipated 50 to 60 per cent sudden increase this year"? I do not wish to say that I am exonerating anybody who is responsible for taking the steps but the question is we must adopt a practical attitude and see whether what should have been done was done or not.

The hon. Prime Minister has said that the nature's fury was of unprecedented magnitude. In such an event, how to control the situation, whether adequate number of trains are provided or not, all such things have to be considered. Probably in future, they would be more wise and will take additional steps to cover the numbers that might be expected.

We must convey our sincere thanks to the local population in many of these places for extending a helping hand. I have read in the editorials of quite a few newspapers that probably the administration was more concerned with providing security to the pilgrims. It was said that probably because of the last year's warning, security was uppermost in their mind. It was their duty to see that not a single death occurs from any anti-national or terrorist activity. Probably that was the reason why so much emphasis was laid on the security aspect. May be it was felt that the *yatris* will look after themselves and the managers will take care of them. They had apparently not realised that a little better or improved security position there would attract more and more people.

Here the role of the local people has been enormous as I found from various people. It is good of the Prime Minister that he said:

"All the arrangements were further strengthened by the wholehearted cooperation of the local employees and participation by all sections of the local population who provided various services for the *yatra* which was a particularly heartening feature of this year's *yatra*."

From 16th it went on eventlessly until 21st of August when the tragedy stuck."

Sir, as I said, the terrain is very difficult in this area. There is a proposal for laying direct and better roads. The expertise of the Border Roads Organisation can be utilised for this purpose.

15.49 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA, *in the Chair*]

I do not know how long Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev remained the Tourism Minister. Once I invited him to Bolpur when he was the Tourism Minister. I had arranged for a good reception with garlands. But the day he was to go there, he suddenly became the Minister of Communications. I asked him, "What do you know of communications except that you are running the Government which specialises in non-functional telephones?" This is a good idea. He could not translate anything, any good thing. But at least sometimes he gives good ideas.

Madam, I am sure you have been there, in that area also. I might not have gone to Amarnath my wife criticizes me all the time. Now being an old doddering man, I cannot possibly venture to go there.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Do not try to go. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): No. (*Interruptions*) The question is that maybe we can utilize these areas for tourism purposes also. There can be improvement of the area; people will be attracted if more facility like road etc. is available; also places to stay to facilitate these *Yatris*. Therefore, this is a good suggestion. Of course, these are on long-term basis suggestions. What I respectfully submit is that I do not agree with what Swami Agnivesh has said. He has said certain things. I will not say on that. But we have seen in many of these religious places where pilgrims gather, such incidents of different magnitude have occurred. Recently in Haridwar it was there; in Ujjain it was there; (*Interruptions*) Sagar *mela*, Kumbh *mela* and some other *melas*; (*Interruptions*) Rath *Yatra*... (*Interruptions*) Why am I mentioning? I am not belittling. I fully respect the sentiments of people who gather in those places. The only thing is that sometimes situation becomes such that these types of tragedies have occurred. How to solve this? When I say do not politicize—I said

that these are matters which everybody should think together and give suggestion so that such events do not occur. It may be Haridwar or Ujjain or Amarnath or anywhere also. These are probably too frequent in our country. Religion unfortunately is used for political purposes. Religion has importance in the country. Nobody is denying it. Yes, we have seen that religion has importance so long as it is not used for politics. Therefore, these are matters which should be looked into for having a little long time solution.

Therefore, I submit that if this hon. House feels that there should be an inquiry to go into such an aspect, where still there are grey areas, well, we would not stand in the way of an inquiry. Let that inquiry take place. But the question is what sort of an inquiry. Let there be a consensus. I would request the hon. Speaker to call a meeting, if necessary. I am not insisting on any inquiry. If there is an inquiry we will not object to it.

But, Madam, kindly see at what depth human beings can also go. We are extolling the activities of some people, local people there who have extended help. In today's paper—it is very moving—some statements have appeared in the newspaper, I do not know if they are correct, they say about the warm reception they received. Even the houses of local people who were suspected to be militants have shown hospitality. Newspapers have said about how hospitable they were. Even the security people were finding, were apprehensive about what will happen to some of the pilgrims. But they took the risk. They accepted the invitation of the people. They went inside those houses; stayed overnight also. They received an excellent human behaviour; a great hospitality.

This is the aspect which we wish to cherish. But, at the same time, we find that there were people who were increasing the prices of goods by indulging in blackmarketing and other activities which were creating problems for the people. Naturally, the administration has to be very strict with regard to these activities which I call anti-national activities.

Madam, on behalf of my Comrades here and on my own behalf I again express my sincere sorrow. I hope that such occasions will not arise in future when this House has to discuss a national tragedy of this magnitude and that ways will be found out by having a dispassionate discussion of looking into this matter.

One problem I wish to mention, which Shri Dasmuni has also mentioned, is the telephone calls which are coming from different places enquiring about the whereabouts of people. We have also received several telephone calls. Two Members of Parliament belonging to our Party have also gone there. The West Bengal Government have sent an officer, and others also have sent their officers of the rank of DIG there. Although they have been given certain facilities yet it is obvious that they cannot go all the way to search them. So, some sort of better mechanism to inform the people as to who is traceable and who is not traceable should be there. I

know if suddenly something happens at one place where so many people are there, it is not easy to contact them. But we must understand the anxiety of the relatives, their friends and their families. When such tragedies strike, it becomes so acute that everybody starts making enquiries. So, if a better information system is developed in future, that will definitely allay the fears and misgivings of the people. Unfortunately, 194 people have lost their lives. I am sorry that the security people, poor porters and ponywallahs have also lost their lives. Even before the rain started, thirteen pilgrims had lost their lives. When the news of 160 deaths came, everybody started worrying.

So, I again suggest that, at least, in future a better information system should be developed whenever there are such congregations. We must also lay guidelines for dealing with crisis situation, and as to how to manage a crisis. We must learn from experience in order to perform better in future. Let us hope such occasions will not arise.

I again convey my deepest sympathies to everybody, to the members of the bereaved families, and also to those who have suffered a great deal. I hope out of this discussion something concrete will arise which will help in solving this problem.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): I thank you Madam, for giving me this opportunity to speak.

First of all, I extend my heartfelt sympathies to those *yatris*, ponywallahs and security people who met with accidental deaths, and I also extend my sympathies to those who are still lying in hospitals in an injured state.

When Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev was moving his Motion, he took it for granted, probably, that all Communists are atheists.

16.00 hrs.

Of course, I do not mind but for his information, let me tell him that it is not so. I know one of the most dedicated Communist leader sister who would not do anything before she could offer *puja*. But that would not deter her from being one of the most dedicated communists. I am saying that let us take it from any angle and not from that kind of angle. In his party also, I believe, there are atheists.

Here the question is not of religion. The question is, as I understand, of human problems that arose during this *yatra* because of this sudden and extremely inclement weather in a very difficult terrain.

I have been to Pahalgam but not to Amarnath. It is a difficult terrain and in such a situation surely, it is very difficulty to tackle. So, from that point of view, as things have appeared in the Press and just now have been referred to by my hon. colleague, Shri Somnath Chatterjee—I do not want to repeat them—there are stories of great sympathies of local

people as well as there are some stories of very bad behaviour. That is the human nature. We have to encourage the first and discourage the second in every possible way.

Here, I also feel that while this was a very unprecedented situation and it was very difficult to tackle, why the Governor and the Home Secretary could not rush. I am sure, the Government will inquire into it and such practice should surely be discouraged. I hope, proper explanation should be called from them. At the same time, those who rendered such great services should also be encouraged. We should not forget that compared to the huge crowd, the number of deaths could have been much more. Thank goodness, that it did not go to such an extent. But undoubtedly, this could not happen because they got help from various quarters including our JAWANS, the local people and the administration over there.

Now, I would also like to raise this point, as Shri Somnath Chatterjee has raised it, that undoubtedly these religious functions give rise to great emotions and all that. But now and then, through this way or that way, big accidents have taken place, such as, stampede in *Kumbh-mela* etc. The question is how really can we prevent these mishaps? Can we find certain methods by taking precautions, etc. whereby if we cannot stop, at least we can reduce the possibility of any such happening? This should be the duty of all, particularly those who are connected with religious functions, to take necessary steps in this regard. We should seriously think over as to what kind of machinery and organisation can be set up for them.

In that, the Administration should take part in it. The organisations who arrange these *yatras* and *melas* etc. should take part in it; the local population should take part in it and also others should take part in it. For example, the fact that there was some blackmarketing in that very sad atmosphere, is a very bad thing undoubtedly. Such kind of things should be taken not as an ordinary blackmarketing but far more seriously. This can happen if all of us together try and give our suggestions for future. I hope that we shall try to do that and I hope that all the *yatris* who are there can come back quickly and safely.

Lastly, I would like to also support the point that Shri Somnath Babu raised because we are also getting a lot of enquiries. For example, my younger colleague here said that from his constituency, Sivakasi, 32 people went and up-till now their whereabouts are not known. Similarly, I have also received information from West Bengal. About those people who went from West Bengal, up-till now their whereabouts are not known. Of course, it is not easy to locate everybody within such a vast crowd but I do hope that some steps would be taken urgently to communicate the situation about those who are still there and about their coming down so that the representatives of the different States who have been sent there, can get back the message of their well-being or whatever the situation may be, in their own States.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai): I am sorry for the interruption. About those people who have gone from Tamil Nadu, we have received a message that they are all safe. The Chief Minister has announced that.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: So far so good. It is good that they have got the information. They came yesterday. Up-till that, they were worried. Naturally many others are still remaining there. From those who are remaining there, if we can quickly get the information, it would be good.

As far as fixing the responsibility, etc. is concerned, I am sure the Government will do its best to find out how that can be done. It can be done in both the ways—encouraging and discouraging. In future, let us try in a way so that we can minimise all these kinds of incidents. If certain norms are observed, this can be minimised. This was a very special situation. It was due to sudden inclement weather. Earlier the weather was not a problem. At that time, control over the things was the problem. So how best we can control over the things in such a situation, that should be thought over.

Lastly, I would like to point out one thing. The huge increase of *yatris* shows one thing. Those countries which are thinking that our Kashmir is not safe for elections and those who are thinking that the Kashmir situation will not improve, the very fact that so many people, so many Hindus went and they were also given shelter my Muslims will show them that they are wrong. This has happened there. It has come out before the eyes of the people from a tragic incident like this that Hindus and Muslims over there are trying to help each other when they are in difficulty. That is one good feature that we should also take into account. That will also help in future in solving all these kinds of problems.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi): I would not repeat what has been stated by my distinguished colleagues here. I have a few points to make. Then I will come to the constructive suggestions that I think I have, because I have travelled in this area twice on foot, right from Pahalgam to the Cave. And I had certain suggestions with regard to what had to be done. I would like to share them with the House. But first I would like to ask a few questions.

One is that we know there is something called Disaster Relief or Disaster Management Units. The United Nations has been recommending to all the Member States that they must have Disaster Relief or Disaster Management Units and cells. Even some assistance is made available by U.N. Organisations. If, for example an earthquake occurs all of a sudden, how do you react to such a situation? When I was the Lt. Governor of Delhi we enacted an exercise. If there is a sudden earthquake in Delhi how will we react? When everything breaks down, no telecommunication, no man is available how to do deal? This is with disaster the first point. Has the Government of India a Disaster Management or Relief Unit? If it has not, why does it not have? If it is there, why did it not start functioning the moment it came to know that the

weather has turned so hostile? The calamity happened on the night of 21st itself and on 22nd. Anyone who has been there in the area, could see the nature of the cloud. It was said that some Porywala asked the people to go back as the weather was going to be bad. He did not have any instrument. He was saying so on the basis of his judgement. I have myself been there, I would know its weather. When the weather turns bad one can easily anticipate the shape of things to come. So I do not understand why there is gap between 21st night of 22nd night and 25th. I would leave it. If there is going to be an inquiry somebody would like into it.

The second important aspect is that the Government of India has an Intelligence Bureau. The State Governments have special branches. After all, all this necessary information would have made available to the State Government after people started moving from Delhi, from Bengal. I must say most of the pilgrims who go—a substantive number of them—are from Bengal because they hold Lord Shiva in great reverence and when I went there I saw a very large number of Bengalis travelling to the cave, even those who were 70 years old. I helped them in reaching the cave. There was some problem there. But the basic point is there are inner urges of various people to go there now. Everybody I see in Delhi, in Jammu and other State capitals, there is a large movement of people. The Government is supposed to have intelligence, supposed to have imagination and supposed to act on that information and make pre-planned arrangements. No, I do not know, They were not flying. Most of them were coming by buses. There is only one route. And those who had come to Srinagar and were going to Pahalgam, if the Government know that so many people were gathering at Pahalgam, and so many people were gathering there, they should have acted. I think there is a total lack of pre-planning so far as this Yatra is concerned. To what extent it was an act of God and to what extent it was a man-made tragedy nobody can say with any precision at the moment. But I have no doubt, because of my experience.

If you have any experience in this area, you can easily say—I can say with a fair degree of confidence—that the number of casualties could have been reduced substantially. There is a route which is from Sonamal, Baltal and to this *Gufa*. It is a route which was made by the Army. It is a jeepable route. I have travelled on it. It has, comparatively, an easy access. But it is not open to the people. It is not the traditional route, and people like to go *via* Pahalgam the traditional route. I will explain later as to why they go by the traditional route... (*Interruptions*) My point is slightly different, I quite agree with you. I want to say something else here. If there had been pre-planning, you could have repaired the Bal-Tak vati with very little effort. You could have kept—when you knew that so many people were coming—it read, you could have also a few lines of stops. Most of the people have died between the *Gufa* and at this Pushphar. At Panchtarni, when you go down, there is some descent and then you go down easily. The pilgrims were caught at that point. Those who had gone and were standing in the queue were affected. There were large number of people

who had gathered in that queue, who did not know how to move further or how to come back. I know of the case of three brothers. Two could return and one could not even return. Those of you who see television would have seen a person saying: 'My wife was left behind; I could not trace her'. It was because he could not go back. So many people were allowed to gather in that point. Most of the deaths have taken place here. I fail to understand why a responsible officer was not stationed at the crucial point.

Supposing I stand before the Cave—I have been there and I can tell you—if there is no movement, there will be stampede, there will be otherwise deaths and there is no way how to come back once you are caught in the melec. I do not know. People did not know how the movement could be controlled when there was no guidance what to do. If the route had been prepared, they could have at least been brought on the *pucca* road and so many deaths could have been avoided.

I am surprised. It has been said in a very general way that there was rain, heavy rain and heavy snowfall. Would any one tell me with precision as to what was the actual rainfall or snowfall? How many inches of snow fell on that day, on 22nd August? I had been in Kashmir for six years earlier. Can anybody say that there will be such a heavy snowfall that people will be buried underneath that snow? It is impossible. There may be half-an-inch of snowfall, one inch of snowfall or two inches of snowfall. It will vanish next day or a day after. How can people die of snow? They die of exposure. They die because of low temperature; they did not have anything to cover. They were drenched. There was no arrangements. There was no one to guide them. There was no one who could tell them that they could go by this or that route. Nothing was done. This was the state of affairs there.

Then it was said that tents were fixed. We are going by the number of tents, quarrelling about the number of tents. But nobody has asked what was the quality of the tents that were fixed. Somebody put two rods and some *chaddar* on it: they called it a tent! Such a tent will go away with your own breath. Did any one put plinth on this tent? You have to have brick plinth so that the water does not seep in. No, the plinth was not there. You go to any Army tent or the B.S.F. tent. They will have very high plinth so that the water does not seep in, if it rains. Otherwise no protection can be given. If you fix a tent on a *kuccha* road which will be all wet, you will yourself be caught in a tent of snow or water. You will be drenched; your clothes will be drenched and everything will be drenched. You have to stay like this throughout the night. What will happen? Such a tent does not give you any protection. This is, an important fact which has not been mentioned.

I do not want to be critical, only talking about the lapses and so on. Whenever an inquiry is held, these things will come out. But I feel about one aspect of the Indian situation. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is not here. He mentioned about

the Vaishno Devi temple. I can share with this House that in 1986 when there was a Governor's rule for a short time, I walked on this area. (Chandanwari-Cave) I prepared a scheme for it. There is, I can tell you, no more beautiful place in the world than this area. I had gone on the Ford Foundation Fellowship, when I was in service, practically all over the world, even Yugoslavia etc. There has been no more beautiful journey than the journey from Chandanwari to the *gufa*. The Shashnag area, the Panchtarni area and the area around Poshoha are just out of heaven. You cannot imagine how beautiful it is, how wheels revolve and flow, how little streams flow, how there are mountains, how there are hillocks, how there is greenery around and how there are rocks. Every sign post has a mythology. The Sheshnag to Panchtarni area is just rooted in Indian culture and religion. When people talk of Article 370, I am surprised, because the relationship of Kashmir with rest of India is mind and soul relationship which has existed for 5,000 years. If you travel from Chandanwari to the cave, you will see hundreds of signposts of Indian culture, Indian religion and Indian mythology. It is saturated with all the attributes. If you write a book, you can write 1,000 pages just on these sign posts, what are they and what tied behind them, what are the components and such other things.

Now, at all those beautiful points, shelter nests could be created. You can have a stone-cum-glass structure. The stone gives you the strength and on that you fix the glass. It can stay in minus nine or minus twenty degree temperature and it is beautiful. Supposing, I am an old man and going there, I feel tired, I will sit in that place and get one of the most beautiful views of the world. I can have some tea, coffee or anything else because arrangements can be made in the side room or in the basement. I can keep all the stores. For medicines, I can keep oxygen cylinders. If the old fellows require a little puffs you can give the same to them. You can give them even medicines, you can give them extra woollens if you find that they are sick. Doctors can be posted there in times of rush. All such arrangements can be made. We are living in a modern technological age. Could you not fix some diesel engine there for lighting? Could you not have 'night viewing system' which all our BSF units have got at borders? Night viewing system is there. At every such point, 20 or 30 shelter units could come up as 'nests'. If there is an inclement weather like this, they could serve as shelter unit for most of the people. If all these facilities are provided, you will get shelter cum rest unit at some of the most beautiful spots in the world.

In 1986 I went there – I have all the photographs and other things – with the architects and engineers – to prepare a plan. The limiting factor in this area is that the working season is only two to three months – a little bit of June, July and August. When you draw the plan, it can be executed in the next two or three seasons or years. It was done by me. Unfortunately, immediately after that, the Governor's rule ended and the State Cabinet came. I had sent note to the State Cabinet, giving all details of the proposal scheme and the areas, how they could be financed, how things can be done, where units should be fixed and all that. I pursued the matter with the Cabinet, but unfortunately, as you know, the

attitude which we generally have one of casualness and refusing to do anything beyond the beaten path. The things just languished till I was drawn out of the State.

There is a scheme available, there is a pattern available of Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. Very few people understand that when during the Governor's rule. I took over this Vaishno Devi Shrine, how much opposition I had to face from the vested interest. All my officers said

[Translation]

What are you doing. These people would kill you. The people of Jammu would make lot of hue and cry tomorrow.

[English]

But you have to take some courage, you have to take some action. Now I will tell you why I am referring to Vaishno Devi. It has not been taken over by the Government. I made a Board outside the Government, a statutory Board, a legislative Board outside the Government because during Governor's rule I had the legislative power and I enacted the ordinance which was later ratified.

Now, what are the advantages? It is not a religious place in that sense and that we have to provide for those who are going for religious purpose. It has an all round effect. I would request the hon. Home Minister to kindly consider this point. Why does it have an all round effect? Now, you see the *Vaishno Devi* shrine. It was a negative feature of the Indian economy and social life. All along the route of 13 kilometers from Katra to *Vaishno Devi*, you had thousands of beggars and insanitary conditions. People did not have a place to urinate. Everybody was indulging in black marketing and so on. After visiting it for the first time, I had recorded that if you want to see the material and moral de-generation of India, all that you have to do is to walk from Katra to *Vaishno Devi*. So bad were the conditions. The vested interests were taking money and all that ill-gotten money led to prostitution, litigation, troubles and so on. All social problems were there. Since begging paid, nobody sent anybody to school. The child was put on the road from the very first day because he would earn Rs. 25 to 30. That area had the highest illiteracy rate in India. No one was sent to the school. So I took some action. I was determined to do so and I removed all the beggars. I gave them work. I developed the area with the same money which was put to the *Vaishno Devi* shrine and not a single penny was taken out of the Government revenues. Now, every year seven crores of rupees of the *shradhalus* are put into the development of that area. This is the real service. You may call it religion; you may call it culture; or you may call it Vivekananda's views that 'Jeeva is Shiva'. You serve the poor and you serve the God. That is the highest service to the God. He has said, May I be born again and again to serve the only God I know, namely, the poor, the sick, the dying! That is the actual translation which you see there. With all

that money, environment has been improved, sanitation has been improved and all the cooking is done by modern machines. Now, no one falls sick. Otherwise, earlier everybody who went there was suffering with dysentery. Miserable conditions were there. Now, all these children are going to school and the schools have been set up with that money. Dispensaries have been set up with that money and 18 lakh trees have been planted with that money. All these people in that area who were indulging in crimes are now engaged in construction work. They have become productive units of the Indian society. Leave it at that and go to the economic aspect of it.

Earlier three to four lakh people used to go there every year because they had some sort of *mannat* or because their forefathers have said that you must go there. But they feel very upset when they went there. Now, 40 lakh *yatris* go there. They go there happily as the environment is good. Everybody even if he is a scientist or a person like my distinguished friend, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, will feel happy because the environment is good. My distinguished friend, Mr. Justice Krishna Iyer once went there. Some people get spiritual elevation by the atmosphere itself. You may not believe in the *murti* but you will have some inner satisfaction. It is this scientific attitude that matters. You are generating that temper in the nation and combining your spiritual energies (*shakti*) with our tradition, with our history, etc. My point is that, if you go to the Jammu, you will find what difference 40 lakh *yatris* have made to the Jammu economy. One hundred forty hotels have come up and transport has increased. It has a multiple effect. All those ladies who were doing nothing, I had put them in a unit for manufacturing *chunnis* because every *yatri* who goes there, buys *chunni*. They sell them and earn Rs. 600 to 700 a month.

Everybody is employed and the economy has changed. Even when I was the Governor, my friend Shri P.R. Dasmunsi was coming there and he was having free lunch at Raj Bhavan, no doubt. But while going back, he would buy a few *chunnis* for his daughter and friends. He would buy something which is special in Jammu. This way, the sales of the Jammu shopkeepers have gone up; the sales tax of the State has gone up and transport arrangements have gone up. Everything has multiplied. So, what I am saying is, what was an item of social regression, what was a monument of national shame, has now been converted into a resurgent unit of our social and cultural life and not a single penny has been taken from the Government. More than Rs. 80 crore has been invested in that area. Just imagine a poor area getting Rs. 80 crore. We can generally think of raising resources only by going to the International Monetary Fund and to the World Bank. If your mind is inventive, if you are prepared to leave the beaten track, you can always find resources in your hands and this is a typical example of that. You have generated resources, what were your liabilities you have converted into assets? So follow this pattern in Chandanvari—cave area. There are very many beautiful spots. There is no comparison between *Vaishno Devi* and this area. In fact, to meet the additional difficulty of funds, I had planned to link both the

Boards so that I could utilise the funds in this area because this area has yet to come up. There are innumerable sites which could be developed and people who are not even interested in religion or other things could go there. They would find some of the most beautiful spots. I am sure various trekkers and foreigners will go there and you can make various arrangements. I am no longer in a position of authority. But if the august House thinks that I can deliver some good, I would be very happy to lend my helping hand and I will help in making an institutional arrangement that would make this place one of the most beautiful places in the world, the most attractive places in the world, and it will give rise to forces which will create a renaissance in India. After all, we must understand our tradition. What were the inner forces that brought Vivekanandaji from Calcutta to Kanyakumari; and from Kanyakumari to Amarnath *Yatra*. Do you know what was his reaction? I have written some articles about it. I had produced what Vivekanandaji's impression was. You just cannot imagine how thrilled he was when he went to this shrine. What is the significance of this *Yatra*? I do not want to mention it hard for want of time But I have mentioned it in various newspaper articles some time back. If its significance is grasped our national reconstruction will take place, real integration will take place and people's minds will go up. Mention has been made — I would like to make that point also clear — that our Muslim friends were good enough to give shelter. This is a very good gesture that they have shown and that is a part of the Kashmiri tradition.

I would like to mention another point for your information. The Kashmiris are all very friendly and *Charar-e-Sharief's Saint Nund Rishi's* philosophy, is nothing but a type of Vedantic philosophy in Islamic terms. He also says that there is God in every blade of grass. So, it is, unfortunately narrow politics, which came after 1947, and that has fundamentalised Kashmiri Islam. But Kashmiri's hearts are of gold. They responded to me like anything during my first tenure. It is only Pakistan and our narrow political outlook in certain areas, our negative outlook, that has helped them or helped the major part of Kashmiri population to acquire fundamentalist outlook.

That is not there in them. If you go to any of their *khankhas*, you will find one thing. In fact, in Charar-e-Sharief, they even honoured me. I was the only Governor who was given the *distare bhandhi*, as they call it. Their heart is that of gold. It is our narrow politics that has made them do what they are doing at the behalf of Pakistan and other factors. In 1990, of course, it was a different situation to which I went. I think our people did not understand, did not support my right cause. Anyhow, that is a different aspect. So, I do not wish to take much of your time. You have been very kind and patient enough to me in hearing my long story. I do not want to say anything more. Of course, I have got a few more points. But the other friends have to speak. So, I would stop it.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah): Madam, at the outset, I would like to say that the Amarnath *Yatra*, as many of the hon. Members have already stated, is not merely a journey

but a significant moment and occasion for all the people of India to mark an occasion that projects the unity of the people every year centering around the *Yatra*. It is a *Yatra* which is performed in the Holy Cave mostly by the Hindus by their own religious faith supported by the Muslims in Kashmir on all the occasions. The unique concept of the unity of India's culture lies in the Amarnath *Yatra*. Therefore, the tragedy, when it came, is not merely a tragedy which came to one family, whether he is a Hindu or non-Hindu but it precisely hit the very journey for which people wait for the whole year and take the momentous journey on a particular occasion when the time comes.

I was really shocked about the whole arrangement and the manner in which, this time, the *Yatra* was taken care of. I am not here to pull up the Government. I am not here to take advantage of the Amarnath tragedy and to make any political issue. I am very much here to support the Government. Since I want to support the Government. I also want to alert the Government to avoid the mistakes, in future, that have already been committed. What are those mistakes? Some confusion has started.

The House may recall that the former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar once raised an issue concerning a few deaths of Ballia people in Kashmir. We hold the Home Minister in very high esteem. I have a personal regard for him, for his ability as a parliamentarian. I think he is a very genuine thinker for the people. Also, in the Administration, he is very outspoken. From that Bench, the hon. Home Minister made it abundantly clear in this House that special care would be taken for the Amarnath *Yatra*. At that time, there was a grave threat of the terrorists. Many other conspiracies were surmounting the Government in Kashmir. I shall not discuss the conspiracies at this moment which are hatched to destabilise India, to create more embarrassment for the Government and also to take advantage of the fact that election cannot be conducted peacefully. At that stage, while the Home Minister had stated that special efforts had been taken for the *Yatra*, I was confident that the Government was really making some special efforts in all the matters. Unfortunately, those special efforts have not been properly coordinated. Now I come to a specific point. When the Lok Sabha Bulletin was circulated first to us to identify which Minister will look after which Department, it was found that Jammu and Kashmir would be looked after by the Prime Minister exclusively. While it was stated that Jammu and Kashmir would be looked after by the Prime Minister exclusively, I thought of, as a Member, that matters pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir would first be handled by the PMO in close coordination with the Home Ministry and in between them, Jammu and Kashmir Government, now under President's Rule, shall have a regular liaison either with the PMO or with the Home Ministry and somebody will coordinate on their behalf.

Now the basic point starts about the weather.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this discussion was two hours. Shall we extend the time by another half an hour, if the House so permits?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: We can extend the time by one hour.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: One hour will be all right.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: We can go up to 6 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right.

You please continue, Dasmunsiji.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: In the statement of the Home Minister, it was stated and today also the Home Minister further clarified that the alarm about the weather report was given from the Avantipur Air Force station and based on that the Director of Tourism alerted *yatris*, on 22nd morning at 9 o'clock from Pahalgam, not to proceed further. This was stated by the Home Minister. In the first instance, I would like to know whether the alert was given from Avantipur Air Force Station on 20th or 21st. So far as my knowledge goes—I am not the Home Minister—the Avantipur Air Force station did alert about the weather condition on 20th and it took time to alert the *yatris*, on 22nd morning the alarm was given. Even on 22nd morning the alarm was so given when the Home Minister was very much in Kashmir. The question is whether the Home Minister knew about the alarm or not. If he did not know about it, then it is established that there was no serious coordination between the J & K Government and the Home Ministry. If there was a coordination, what steps did the Home Minister take on that day? My point is, Amarnath *Yatra* was not taken seriously. The terrorists could have hit people. What was the seriousness about the Amarnath *Yatra* this time? They knew that one lakh *yatris* would come. The Prime Minister in his statement had said that in 1994, the number of *yatris* was 40,000; in 1995, it was 70,000. That means, in 1995, the number of *yatris* was double than that of 1994 this time it crossed the one lakh number. It was said that they had made arrangement four times than that of last time. What is that four times arrangement? It was said that elaborate arrangements had been made for one lakh twenty thousand *yatris*. But only 14,500 blankets were arranged for the pilgrims to supplement the bedding needs. There is a peculiar thing in the statement. I do not know whether the Home Minister has observed the statement of the Prime Minister as also his own statement. The Home Minister says that on 22nd morning at 9 o'clock, an alarm was given to *yatris* not to proceed any further. And the Prime Minister in his statement said, 'on 21st August, when the weather took a bad turn, by that time, around 1.2 lakh pilgrims had left Jammu for Amarnath. And till then, *yatra* had been proceeding smoothly.' On 21-22nd August, weather took a turn and heavy rainfall started. Then on 23rd August, about 50,000 pilgrims had got stranded in three places at Panchtarni Upper Ridge. That means 52,000 *yatris* out of 1.25 lakh had reached Panchtarni Upper Ridge on 23rd morning leaving

Jammu on 21st. Is it possible? Shri Jag Mohan was the Governor there. I had the privilege of walking from Pahalgam to Chandanwari only. I did not go beyond that. Is it possible to reach Pahalgam on 23rd morning by leaving Jammu on 21st? And the statement of the Prime Minister says that the weather started taking a turn on the 22nd night. But the actual thing is that there was no coordination among the Prime Minister's Office, the Governor's administration and the Home Ministry between 22nd and 24th August as to what was happening in regard to Amarnath Yatra on the soil of Kashmir.

That is my precise point, I am sorry to say it.

Some statements had been made that the Home Secretary was working on 24th, the whole day. Very nice! On the 23rd morning, I was busy in a place when I got the first news that 20 young men of my constituency were untraceable, 10 people of Uluberia including the brother-in-law of our Party MLA, Shri Sanjeev Das, were untraceable and also 60 people of Bara Bazar were not traceable. Then I rang up Delhi, the Home Ministry but no response came. Then I sent the fax to the Governor and I was told "why are you sending the fax the Governor is in Delhi". But the Governor could not be contacted. Then I contacted the Chief Secretary. He was sleeping; at 10.30 he was sleeping. I got his telephone number, he was sleeping in Defence Colony. But when I contacted, he was not available. Then I sent my people with ticket, to go to Jammu and one group to Srinagar to contact and find out.

Till this morning, the gentleman who was in Jammu again rang me and said "This is my 10th visit to the Superintendent of Police and even now he could not tell me whether in the unidentified bodies, our relatives are there." Then he said, "Can you show me the photographs?" But he was replied that he could not bring the photographs. Then our gentleman said if he could be taken there. But it was also not done.

I am not blaming Shri Indrajit Gupta, the Home Minister, I am only talking that unfortunately, on 22nd, 23rd and 24th, there is no operational existence of the coordination machinery of Jammu and Kashmir Government and Delhi in so far as Amarnath Yatrics are concerned.

Madam, I entirely agree with Shri Jagmohanji. I am not going into the details as to how the pilgrims have died, but precisely the casualties at the higher range have been exposed. Precisely, it was an exposure due to shortage of blankets, for example. For everytime, the Prime Minister had said and the Prime Minister should have said rightly. Every Government should take credit as to how much they have done better than the previous Government, it is not a fault. If the present Government had done four times than the previous Government, at least yatrics had not gone four times. The yatrics had gone double. In their four times arrangement, 14,500 blankets cannot take care of the 52,000 people in that cold wave.

My submission to you, Madam and, through you, to the Home Minister is this. Please inquire and make special investigation by yourself. I am not using any political tune in it – may be, there is a deliberate attempt on the part of the bureaucracy even to let you down, Mr. Home Minister. Even there is a deliberate attempt by the bureaucrats of Kashmir to let down the Prime Minister. There is a definite attempt. When on 20th, Avantipur gave intimation from Air Force Station why did the alarm was given on 22nd morning? On 22nd morning you gave the alarm from Pahalgam. From Pahalgam to Chandanbari, in the walkie-talkie with the military wireless system, how much times does it take? As I understand, you had also taken a special care so that the yatrics are not intercepted by the terrorists. You might set a special attempt by the Intelligence Branch who have special type of wireless system to give them security support. Did those wireless system functions. How did they function from Chandanbari to other parts? The entire thing could not have been collapsed if you had proper arrangements. The death toll started from 22nd morning and the operational rescue had started – according to your statement – only from 24th. So, I request you to please investigate as to why it happened.

About the Governor, I feel very bad to accuse him because he was the General of our Army; he did a wonderful job in the Indian Army; he made a significant contribution for our country. But after having seen his role as a Governor, I personally feel – whenever we were in power, we were responsible for all these things, I admit – that there should be a policy, Mr. Home Minister that the glorious General of the Army, Air Force and Navy – such great people – should not be appointed any more as Governor for such ticklish job. Sometimes if they get people's criticisms and problems, their contribution in the Army, Air Force or Navy, whatever the case may be, becomes absolutely diluted and in the estimation of the people, their image gets shattered and I feel sad for them.

The General did a wonderful job for the Indian Defence and the job he did in Kashmir is very very sad, uncalled for and unfortunate.

On the Amarnath Yatra the final point that I would like to highlight is that the Government possibly took it casually. The Government possibly thought that everything would be taken care of. But I must say that the Government could have deputed their own Minister of State for Home, Shri Maqbool Dar, who is from Kashmir, to coordinate the entire affairs. He could have been stationed in Kashmir to look after the entire arrangements.

In Bengal always I see in Gangasagar Mela that the State Government deposes not one, but two-three Ministers not for one day, but for fifteen days. They stay there – I have seen Shri Subhash Chakraborty and others – till the last yatric departs and look after the arrangements. I am thankful to them for the *bandobast* that they make. Recently in this matter also that they have sent a team to Kashmir to find out about the people of West Bengal. Why did they not depute Ministers

in Kashmir when the Government knew the threat of terrorists, when the Government knew about three American agents, when the Government knew that all kinds of conspiracies are going on? Why did they take so lightly the Amarnath Yatra in the face of all these things and sit casually here and there and get busy in the election schedule? I take strong exception to this casualness. I am fully for the Government. I am not in a mood to encash this Amarnath imbroglio for political purposes. But there are people in this country who will misunderstand you. Therefore, please take a very firm line, very strong line. If you find Mr. Home Minister that the Air Force information was given long ago from Awantipur – the place that I remember very much because I heard the name of this place on 3rd December 1971 in Calcutta Maidan when Indiraji announced that.

[Translation]

A bomb has been dropped in Avantipur and Pakistan has started the war.

[English]

Because it is my information that you got the alarm signal on 20th, it took so much time for you to alert the *yatris* on 22nd because there was no Government worth the name functioning in Kashmir after 21st to give directions. All were busy here. Though that is not the reason for the tragedy, at least the post-tragedy operations or the operations to reach the place of the tragedy could have been handled in the manner it should have been handled.

I urge upon the Government to please reassure the pilgrims of India, the people of India that such things shall not be repeated. I am not talking of natural calamity but at least the *bandobast* can be handled better. Still people are untraceable. At least make some arrangements in this regard. Everyday TV announcements with photographs should be made about the unidentified bodies which have been cremated or buried, so that the relatives know that at least their relation is dead, they will not get him, the photograph being shown is his. They are stranded everywhere. Police cannot help them and nobody can help them. There are 68 people missing from my constituency and more than one hundred people from Barabazar. Shrimati Krishna Bose was telling that from Jadavpur constituency alone one travel agent took fifty people. How do you answer them? They say that you are so close to the Government in Delhi, at least ascertain this much information. They do not know anything; they want to know the truth, so that they can perform the rites.

I am not saying that Shri Indrajit Gupta will do everything. Please make one thing clear. The registered *yatris* are registered in a log book in Srinagar, Pathankot and Jammu. In the log book those who have been already identified, they have been reported also. But the people who are not traceable

either are dead or are unidentified. Somehow an intimation should be given to every police station, so that people who are going there can see from the catalogue that these are the total 1,20,000 people Statewise and these are the people dead; these are the people alive; these are the people unidentified; and these are the people cremated, so that at least those people can come back with some peace of mind. Otherwise all the MPs from different parts of India will be bothered everyday on this that this is how things are being managed.

With these words I conclude. I thank the Indian Army, the people of Kashmir, the Border Security Force and other people who did their best for the rescue operations. Though Indrajitbabu had gone there on 26th, he could have gone there a little earlier. But my only plea is – I hope that the Government will not take very rudely this comment of mine – that when such a grave calamity as this tragedy has happened, it would have been proper if, instead of the Home Minister, the Prime Minister had personally gone there, so that the message would have been loud and clear to the nation as to how seriously the Prime Minister took this tragedy.

MR. CHAIRMAN (PROF. RITA VERMA): Now we have roughly 45 minutes left for the discussion and there are seven speakers. Shall I request you to be brief and try to finish your speeches in five minutes? There is a limit to the time allotted.

Now Shri Virendra Kumar Singh.

[Translation]

Please try to finish within five minutes. The time for this discussion was upto 4.41 p.m. and it has been extended upto 5.41 p.m.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, several hon'ble Members have expressed their views on Amarnath Yatra tragedy and Shri Som Nath Chatterjee has also given many good suggestions. First of all I would like to express my heartfelt condolences for the tragic death of pilgrims of Amarnath yatra and send condolences to the bereaved families as well. This yatra concludes at the height of 13,500 feet and one has to trek a route of 46 kilometer. There is so much height and a passage of 6 kilometer remains covered with snow. The government has been issuing instructions that pilgrims should carry woollen clothes with them but nearly 1.25 lakh people went there and most of them were not wearing woollen clothes. They had neither blankets nor woollens. We should consider this aspect also that why people go at such a place without woollens. There are such terrains where snow falls are often and there is always possibility of inclement weather. Even then people go on such heights without woollens. Why it happens. Our people have nourished such a faith in Daharma that a person who visits religious places

after passing through innumerable difficulties in blessed
 17.00 hrs. more and he attains salvation. This is what they believe. I, therefore, suggest that when such people embark on such journeys, the government should either provide them woollens or stop them for going further. Second thing is that the Prime Minister has already said that the officials and other people who remained negligent in performing their duty would be punished. Besides, we should appreciate the services of the personnel of Air and Army who came to the rescue of the people in distress.

I would also like to suggest that at various places where snow falls so often and such incidence occur owing to rains, guest houses should be constructed in order to avoid recurrence of such tragedies during the yatras undertaken in rainy season.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman Sir, the pilgrims of Amarnath yatra had to face a lot of problems and many of them became victims of this tragedy. Our Home Minister has made a statement and prior to this hon'ble Prime Minister had also made a similar statement. The leader of the opposition Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee wanted to initiate a discussion on this tragedy and then our senior member of Parliament Shri Jaswant Singh also gave a notice of adjournment motion and now the matter is being discussed under Rule 193.

17.03 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha): It is not proper to indulge in talking. The matter is serious and you are talking like this. It is not good.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Had this discussing been taking place in the form of Adjournment Motion, hon'ble Member would have not been indulging in gossiping. We are discussing this matter under Rule 193. I want to know whether government would realise after this discussion that they had some responsibility for this tragedy. unfortunate aspect is this that this is third tragedy in two months in which pilgrims were involved. First tragedy had occurred in Ujjain. in that tragedy also, many people lost their lives because of laxity in making proper arrangements. Thereafter several pilgrims died in Haridwar because a bridge collapsed. The reason was some i.e. laxity on the part of officials managing the affair. During the reply to the demand of adjournment motion, the Prime Minister had observed that the Home Minister had gone to Kashmir and on his return, honourable Members would come to know facts of the incident. He will make a statement based on facts. But the statement made by the Home Minister has not revealed anything new. Several hon'ble Members have pointed out that indications of inclement weather were being received before August 22. The Home Minister has stated in

the statement that he had asked the State authorities that what precautionary measures were taken in the context of inclement weather but what he has stated in his reply, one could gather that the statement made by the Home Minister on Amarnath Yatra has been prepared at the instance of some official or some Advisor to the governor it is based on hearsay. It is strange that he come across only one pilgrim and none else to register his complaint even after occurrence of such a big tragedy.

Shri Chaman Lal Gupta M.P. is not present in the House today. He has perhaps, gone to Kashmir alongwith Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He had cautioned the Government much earlier that the number of pilgrims for Amar Nath Yatra may be more than the previous years and therefore elaborate arrangements should be made. But his suggestion was not taken seriously. Even after such a disaster, the Government is not taking it seriously. An hon'ble Member narrated Hindi version of that statement that some ordinary lapses can be seen in the arrangements keeping in view such a big number of pilgrims. It shows that even after this tragedy the Home Minister is not prepared to concede that there were serious lapses on the part of the administration.

Mr Deputy Speaker, one can easily gather from the statement that government is not serious in so far as this tragedy is concerned. It has been mentioned in the statement made by the Home Minister that 127 pilgrims have lost their lives. Later on it was stated that the actual number was 194. But the number of pilgrims died is more than 234. Some people say that number of dead is 400 approximately. An M.P. from Kashmir says that the number of persons who died was more than 500. There are several hundreds of people who are still missing and our government has no information about them. The Home Minister has stated in the statement that it was informed on 22nd that weather conditions are going bad. When this warning was issued them pilgrims had started for the next camp. It shows incapability of the government. Had this news reached the pilgrims in time, number of the deceased could have been much less.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people from all corners of our country join Amarnath Yatra. They come from all States from South to North, and join this Yatra. This Yatra looks like some national festival. The pilgrims come with great devotion. Before commencement of terrorism in Kashmir people of more that 50 years of age used to go on Amar Nath Yatra. When terrorists of Kashmir tried to prevent the Yatra and challenged the country, then youth of the country accepted the challenge. Thereafter young men also started coming in the Yatra. Now a good number of young people participate in the Yatra. Their number goes on multiplying every year. It is in reply to the challenge thrown by the terrorist. We must appreciate their courage. When number of pilgrims increases, responsibility of the government also enhances. But unfortunately the government has not shown that seriousness towards Amar Nath Yatra and everything left to the nature. This Yatra is an annual feature. Natural calamity can take

place any time. Had this yatra been successful, the government would have claimed the credit. But test of the government begins when natural calamity takes place and the government has to swing into actions and take steps to save the lives of the people who are stranded at various places and provide relief to the victims.

Today the matter is being discussed under Rule 193 I do not think anything will come out of this discussion. We should learn something from this discussion. The government should have express regret. Had they taken over the responsibility, number of the dead would not have been so high.

Had our Home Minister realised his responsibility, the method of probing the incident would have been different. He would have met the victims and not the State authorities. It was decided in the first instance that it is not the responsibility of the new government but that of nature. That is why the statement has been made on those lines. The facts may not be placed before the House but they cannot be concealed. The people who participated in the Yatra and suffered all sorts of problems but came safe will tell the true story. Of course, the dead will not speak. The pilgrims who have returned safe will tell every thing. I want to say that government should have taken the Yatra seriously and made foolproof arrangements but they have not played their role efficiently and that is why so many casualties have taken place. The devotees of Lord Shiva could not have his blessings and left the world and their family members are in distress. Our Prime Minister has announced a sum of Rs. 50,000 to be given to the family of deceased persons. I do not know when the amount would be disbursed to them, although we want that more relief should be given.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Rs. 2 lakh has been announced.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: All right, 2 lakh but the amount should be disbursed immediately. Some State government have also announced e.g. the government of Maharashtra have announced a relief of Rs. 25,000 for such families.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would be very brief because so many points have been made and I do not want to repeat those points. The agony has not been recognised by the Government. The largest number of pilgrims—more than 42,000—had gone from Gujarat. It is such an agony that it has spread to the whole State because no information is available. Even yesterday night, after ten o'clock, I received a telephone call from my constituency enquiring about ten people.

Now here, a case is being made that adequate arrangements were made. A total of 1,50,000—or even say,

two lakh—pilgrims had gone there. Is it not possible in today's age of computers to have two lakh names computerised and sent to each State? When the pilgrims were coming in advance, going to Jammu, taking buses, taking different ways, I think, it was very simple process. Not only that, I went through the list of those who had died. I found out that none of the names of the Gujaratis, who had died because of this calamity, could be traced properly. The names are absolutely faulty. You cannot make out what kind of a name it is. This kind of callous attitude cannot be tolerated. This is not the callous attitude of the hon. Home Minister or of the hon. Prime Minister. What hurts me most is, why we are apologetic towards the callousness of the administration.

Hon. Shri Jagmohan has narrated the instance of 'Jammu Devi'. There are such instances in Gujarat. Take the instance of 'Palitana' shrine which is one of the biggest Jain shrines. What kind of arrangements is the Trust making there? I fail to understand why a sovereign Government, having such a vast machinery with the State Government, cannot make such a beautiful arrangement. A private trust can make arrangements for thousands of pilgrims round the year. They make roads. They make all preparations. They supply food, etc., free of charge. I feel that the basic question is of attitude. It is called 'disaster preparedness'.

There are two aspects. One aspect is disaster preparedness. If you have a proper concept of the disaster preparedness, then the follow-up action becomes very easy. Here I think it was presumed that arrangements for Amarnath pilgrims had to be done by pilgrims themselves; that they had not to do any arrangements, and that they will go and they will come. That kind of attitude of the State Administration has created this situation. I feel that if somebody is feeling that the number of pilgrims will be less next year, they are mistaken. India is advancing more and more, and more facilities are created in our country. Even the other day, in the Himalayan rock climbing expedition, I met a young man and simultaneously a man of the age of 60 who is a professor in Surat. He was saying that he was going in that expedition. So, people from all over the country have started this kind of activities. At the same time, such a huge Government is not able to give proper names of the people who have died. What expectation can we have further from the Government?

The second point which I want to make is about the inquiry. The approach of inquiry in the House is of two types. One approach is, out of the judicial inquiry or whatever type of inquiry you want to have, you want to punish somebody. If that is the type of inquiry, then, I think nothing will come out of it. It is because in all these inquiries, even if it is done under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, my personal experience is that big people go out of the inquiry and small people here and there are punished. That is not the purpose of the inquiry. The purpose of the inquiry should be on two things. One is to find out where the State Administration has failed. Second is, what comprehensive measures can be taken. A type of blue or red book can be permanently prepared

for the Amarnath Yatra so that, in future, calamity can be avoided.

The third point that I want to make is this. The people who came back right after going up to the Shrine gave a number of press interviews. In Gujarat, I have read so many people giving their experiences. One thing is common, that is, no pilgrim had any complaint against Army men. They have all praised the work of the Army. It means that when we talk of the callous attitude or the failure, let us be very clear in our mind that there was no failure on the part of the Indian Army which was helping the pilgrims. If you come to that conclusion, then automatically you come to the second conclusion that the failure was of the State Administration. I do not know why we should hesitate in finding out the failures of the State Administration. Can we imagine a situation that a Relief Commissioner from the Gujarat Government reaches earlier than some of the senior officials of the Government of India? I cannot imagine that. Press people came to know about the calamity; they were in different parts of the country. My own friend who is a journalist is there long back to find out what has happened there. The question is of the will. Sometimes, when somebody talks about the *prakop* of Indra, I feel that the *prakop* of Indra has defeated Mr. Indrajit. That is the tragedy of this House. I hope that Mr. Indrajit will see that in the next Amarnath Yatra, if there is a *prakop* of Indra he cannot win over Indra but at least he will find ways and means to face it. These are some of my suggestions which I have made. Let us hope to have a very clear concept about this. I leave it to the Government. Mr. Indrajit Gupta has agreed that there will be an inquiry. I request that it should be a comprehensive inquiry going into the failures as well as the steps that can be taken in future. It can also include some of the parameters which were suggested by Mr. Jagmohan. It is the history of the country which he has narrated.

Tirupati is not only making money but also abolishing the evils around religious places and developing the surrounding area. The second incident is there about Jammu Devi and the third incident is there in Palitana. So, let us take lessons from the effort of the people.

Sometimes the efforts of the people yield greater result than the efforts of the Government. It is unfortunate that we leave everything to the Government. I hope that next time or whenever such *yatras* are organised, there would, at least, be some coordination between the States from where the pilgrims are going in large numbers.

Shri Indrajit Guptaji told me that the Government had issued many instructions to the States but the States are not abiding by those instructions of the Central Government. The question that arises is that if the hon. Prime Minister had said that whatever had happened in the Amarnath Yatra accidentally, intentionally or unintentionally—the Governor was here, the Chief Secretary was not looking after it—he disapproves of it then that would have sent a great message to the concerned Administration. We shirked that responsibility. If the Governor fails, we do not speak; if the

Administration fails, we do not speak and we find out some small people to punish under the name of an enquiry and this deterioration continues. I hope this kind of a tragedy would be treated as a national tragedy and it would be viewed as a national problem and ultimately it would be transformed into a national pride in future. With these words, I appeal to Shri Indrajit Guptaji to take lessons from this and have a comprehensive enquiry done into the matter.

Sir, I would also like to remind Shri Jagmohanji that the conference on International Disaster Preparedness was held in Delhi. Many senior officers of the Government were present. I was also one of the delegates in that conference. They are having a full-fledged plan for volcanic areas and earthquake prone areas. The State of Gujarat has set an example in this regard. When there was an earthquake in Bihar, people from the State of Gujarat went there and organised relief operations. Why are we not taking such initiatives when there is an occurrence of such worst natural calamities? We only have piecemeal information. I collected information about the names by consulting three newspapers and tried to find out the names but I could not make out any name and find out whether the persons was he or she or whether he was a Gujarati or a Punjabi. I could not make out anything.

Let us try to understand the agony of the people. 40,000 people went from one State and scores of other people went from different parts of the country. If their relatives are not able to get any information about whether the pilgrims are alive or not then it creates a very very bad impression about Government. Let us at least care for the image and the ability of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Thank you. I have just come from Srinagar at 4.30 p.m. I was in Srinagar for 3 days from the 26th August. I have arrived here, half an hour ago. I came to know that a discussion is taking place on the tragedy occurred during Amar Nath Yatra and I requested you to give me time for a couple of minutes to speak. This is a national tragedy. All the States are very much anxious to know about the pilgrims of Amar Nath Yatra. The people, whose relatives had gone to participate in the Yatra, are worried very much as they want to know whether their relatives are dead or alive, if dead, whether they have been cremated or not and how many persons have died. I have been there for 3 days to see all this. We learnt on 25th that thousands of pilgrims have been buried because of heavy rainfall and snowfall on 22nd August between Panchtarini and Sheshnag. The Government of Gujarat sent Relief Commissioner of Government of Gujarat and myself as a representative of the Government to Srinagar. We reached Srinagar by helicopter. We stayed there for three days. Besides, Shri Lahiri also arrived on 27th August from West Bengal, Earlier Shri Mohammad Saleem had also arrived from West Bengal on 26th August. I am sorry to say that there was no administration worth the name.

[English]

There is a total failure of the administration.

[Translation]

There are more than 200 bodies still lying between Panchtarini and Sheshnag even today. I went there by helicopter with permission of Gujarat Government but Shri Lahiri and Shri Mohammed reached there by car. The people told us that many people have died because of heavy rainfall and snowfall from 22nd to 24th August. It is very tragic but I do not want to go into details nor I want to make it a political issue. I stayed there for three days and left the Relief Commissioner there. We could not get the list of the dead so far.

[English]

No body knows how many persons have died. No body knows whether they have been cremated or not.....
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Please let me speak, I am just coming from that place. Sometime they say that number of dead is 130 but after 2 hours they say 140, sometime they say 205 and then announce 300—A list of dead persons has not reached Srinagar so far.

[English]

I was in the headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

They say that it is likely to be received from Pahalgam but others say it will come from Sheshnag. There are no photographs of the dead available, their names are not known. Telephone calls from hundreds of people are being received from all the States of our country but there is no one in Srinagar, Jammu or Pahalgam to reply to their queries.

I may submit that lives of the pilgrims who are still alive, are in danger. National Highway is still blocked. According to Government figures, there were 12 thousand people in Pahalgam till yesterday noon, prior to this their number was 70 thousand and now they are proceeding slowly towards Jammu. This Yatra has not taken place for the first time—

[English]

but no precautionary measures were taken.

[Translation]

Anantnag is situated at a distance of 240 kilometer from Jammu and from there Pahalgam in 43 kilometer and

Sheshnag is 26 kilometer from Pahalgam and Panchtarini is at a distance of 13 kilometer from Sheshnag and total distance of Amar Nath Yatra is 325 kilometer. This Yatra commenced on 16th August and every one know that lakhs of people will be coming for this Yatra but no arrangements were made anywhere. Even tents could not be opened, everywhere there were complaints of

[English]

inadequate facilities—There was no communication system to give information about the pilgrims. There was no control room. This was the condition in Srinagar and on the route as well. I demand that inquiry should be held as no communication facility was provided. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has proved to be a complete failure. Even after three days we were unable to contact any officer. Although we went there on behalf of Gujarat Government by Helicopter worth Rs. 22 crore, we had medicines with us to help the people in distress not only people from Gujarat but for the people of the country as a whole. Our helicopter was at the air strip for three days. We told the authorities to make use of the helicopter to carry the sick people to proper place for treatment

[English]

but no body listened us. I could not contact any responsible officer there, though I was myself in Srinagar.

[Translation]

It is very state of affairs. The telephone of the Rest House, in which I was staying, was cut off on the plea that Government has not paid the Bill. We wanted to talk to Tourism Commissioner and we carried an Ham Radio from Gujarat—we put its one set in our room and the other in Gandhi Nagar. It was very difficult to talk to any officer in Srinagar. First I had to talk to the people in Gandhi Nagar on Ham Radio and then Srinagar was contacted from Gandhi Nagar and then I could talk to the authorities. The Home Minister should take the incidents seriously and detailed inquiry should be held. I have 2-3 demands. A list of those persons has not been made whose bodies have been cremated. I have just now received a telephone call to know about the fate of Nagdan Bhai who is very famous in Saurashtra. I came across one Ramesh Thakur. His 40 year old father is missing. He told me that it has been announced on T.V. that he is dead but he asks where is body of his father. No one knows this thing. The Government is not aware whether dead body has been cremated or it is being preserved. This is the story of thousands of people. Therefore I demand that correct figures of the dead persons should be supplied to us.

Secondly, whether cremation of the dead persons has taken place or not. In case it has been done then whether their identification was made or not? I may tell you that 19 persons died on 21st August. Bodies of there 19 persons were cremated without taking any photograph or any identification. Everyone is working in arbitrary manner. When I contacted the authorities, they said that they were sending the pilgrims to Jammu free of charge on the evening of 27th, when the

road was opened we contacted the authorities that how there 50 thousand people would go. They are penniless. When we visited 92 Base Army Hospital on the night of 26th August at 8.00 pm. there were 140 persons. All were penniless. There were 80 thousand people in Pahalgam. When I contacted the authorities they replied that the Government have buses for this purpose. There are private buses as well as government buses and they will carry all of them to Jammu. Rs 300 per pilgrim were demanded but how many of them could afford to pay. The people having money paid them. It was noon on 27th August. The people sat in the buses after paying Rs 300/-. The capacity of the bus was 50. The conductor announced that people having Rs. 500/- can board the bus.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Were they Government buses?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Yes, they were government buses.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They were private buses.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : They were not private buses.

[English]

I was told by the Secretary there.

[Translation]

I was there at Pahalgam. There was acrimonious discussion in my presence. It was said on the night of 27th August that—

[English]

Today is the last day.

[Translation]

It was announced on 27th in Pahalgam that 140 Government buses have come from Srinagar. Today is the last day.

[English]

You have to leave Pahalgam at any cost before 7 o'clock in the morning, otherwise the government will not provide any security.

[Translation]

It was announced at 8.00 p.m. There was total confusion as 50 thousand people started moving restlessly. They reached the bus terminal which was at a distance of 1½ kilometer from the camp. There were 50 buses. I am talking of private buses. I don't mind if crew of private buses behave like this. Free kitchens were closed on 27th August. We need not talk of all the incidents. We are so sad and moreover my other friends would also like to speak. There is no question of criticism. This is not the way of running an administration.

I am in politics for the last 27 years. I was chairman of the corporation also and I am here for the last three terms. This is a government which has no responsibility whatsoever and people have died. Even after 8 days, no one knows whether his father, sister or brother is alive or dead. In case he/she is dead, where his/her body is lying. Even the authorities sitting in Srinagar cannot furnish this information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir there are our sentiments. I may tell the hon'ble Home Minister that I was there 2 hours before his arrival on the same day when he visited that place. But he came back very soon. Had he stayed there and made enquiries, he could know the facts. I can say that you will not be in a position to tell the House even tomorrow that how many deaths have taken place, how many person have been cremated and how many bodies are still lying.

Mr. Chairman, the government should have express concern on such a big tragedy I reprove this government severely. This Yatra is an annual feature. The government should have taken precautionary measures in advance. A telephone booth should have been set at a distance of every 10 kilometer when a person like me can bring a radio station from Gujarat and can communicate with the people of seven districts of Gujarat while sitting in a guest House in Pahalgam, can't this Government of India manage together and send information. Can't they find out as to what is happening in Pahalgam, Chandanvadi, Sheshnag or Panchtarini and inform the citizens of our country?

Madam, it is not the question of individual or State. Two members are sitting on the other side and I am on this side, who have visited the spot and know the actual position. I demand that high level inquiry should be held and details of the people who are still stranded should be made known to the public. How many people and the places where they are stranded. This information should be made public. I had given a ring to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): I have mentioned your name.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: In the context of Railways I would like to tell Shri Paswan that the pilgrims do not have money.

They are hungry for the last 4 days. They do not have cloth to cover the dead body. I have seen 18 bodies. They had Banian and Nicker only. They did not have proper clothes in such conditions when these was snowfall and heavy rainfall. Thousands of pilgrim are penniless standeñ in Jammu. The Government should arrange to send them home. They belong to different States of India. The Government should arrange to send them to their destination free of charge.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): They have gone to this spot. I think that he and the other two hon. Members—

whatever they have said—should put up in writing and give it to him. (*Interruptions*) Because some of the things he can check up and take appropriate action. It will be very good because on the spot visit will give more information. He is getting a fresh information from the second source.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): First of all I would like to express my condolences for the tragic death of pilgrims to the families whose near and dear ones lost their lives and at the same time thank the people of Kashmir and other friends who saved the lives of Amarnath pilgrims and rendered them all assistance. I have heard Shri Pathak with rapt attention. I associate myself with the views expressed by him and constrained to reprimand the State Government as well as Central Government because the State is under President's Rule and Central Government is directly responsible for any act of omission on Commissions there. The Prime Minister is holding charge of Kashmir affairs and he should be held responsible for the negligence. The Governor and the Chief Secretary of the State should be replaced.

The hon'ble Home Minister had pointed out on the day before yesterday that leader of the opposition has not visited the State but two hon'ble Members from that side and one from this side have visited the spot. The version given by these hon'ble Members and that given in the statements made by the Prime Minister and Home Minister are quite different. This is great injustice. The Government does not explain the real or factual position in the Parliament also. This great fraud with the people. I hold the Central Government responsible for this situation. Many people of Haryana have been felled. I had talked to the Home Secretary on telephone. At least you should provide us a list of persons who have died, who are alive and who are stranded on the way and also where they are stranded. The people of Haryana can reach Pahalgam by car but officials of Kashmir sitting in Srinagar cannot go beyond Pahalgam. It is shameful.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in the event of such a big tragedy our Prime Minister was busy in political engagements and preparation of elections. The Home Minister remained sitting here. The Governor has also been camping here. He said that he has come to see the Prime Minister. Such Governor should be replaced. There is no need for every inquiry. The officials who have not performed their duty or who have been careless should be suspended forthwith irrespective of their rank or position. The Chief Secretary and Governor should be replaced and the inquiry should be held.

Some hon'ble Members have expressed their view that if inquiry is held, only employees of lower rank would be brought to look. That is true. I would suggest that first of all the Governor and Chief Secretary and/or any other officer handling the task should be transferred from Jammu and Kashmir. Then a Commission should be constituted to hold an enquiry. Secondly a team comprising Members of opposition should be sent to the State so that we may present true picture of the

whole affair. Our senior parliamentarians often say that we should not bring politics in such situations. I do not understand this. All of us have come here to solve the problems politically we have not come here to boost fanaticism. But they say that we take some political advantage. We have not come here for the purpose I have come in this House to represent 11 lakh people. We being a Member of opposition party have same responsibility. We have to tell the Government that they should not betray the people. We have to serve as watchdog.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Members of other parties were discussing that a list has not been made available. No body known that who has died, whose bodies have been created and who arranged medical assistance. When Government of Gujarat and Haryana can provide medical assistance, why Central Government could not make any arrangement for this purpose. This is very shameful.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Bombay-South): A Minister of Maharashtra has also visit Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: The private buses have charged fare upto Rs. 500. The Government should have exercised control over every thing whether it is Government, semi-Government or private. It is the responsibility of the Government. If some shopkeeper charges Rs. 50 for an article work Rs. 5/ will the shop Inspector not stop him? Why a private bus operator charged Rs. 500/- from the persons were in distress. Therefore maximum responsibility is that of Government. The burden of expenditure on parliament and the Cabinet lies on the people. So is it not your duty to visit that place and bring the situation under control. A vast confluence (Mela) takes place in Kurukshetra in Haryana. All of you know that more than 10 lakh people participate in that confluence. Our Government makes all arrangements in advance. There are control rooms, dispensaries, telephone booths and close circuit Television. I agree that in the case route is very wrong—i.e. about 250 kilometer but India has a vast communication system. Telephone booths should have been set up there, team of doctors should have been deployed at various points. Hon'ble Prime Minister says that number of people was more than expected. I want ask one thing. If number of representatives would increase, is it not the duty of the Government to make arrangements for their sitting, working etc. It is the responsibility of the Government. How can Government say that number was more and blankets could not be arranged? The number of blankets was 14½ thousand but (*Interruptions*) number of people was 1.25 lakh. If Government wanted to arrange blankets, they could arrange in three hours. If they could not reach by road, they could use helicopters, aeroplanes, Army and Airforce. It was the responsibility of the Government.

Recently Haryana was in the grip of floods. The area to which I belong, was under water for 7 days but the Government did not provide a single helicopter. It is very sad

that lakhs of people are stranded there and they are penniless. I agree that there was snowfall and heavy rainfall and some people might have died because of natural calamity but then what Government have done. Responsibility should be fixed for the loss of life. Now so many people are in distress stranded in Jammu.

I would like to say one thing to the Minister of Railways also. You are leader of the House. Arrangements should be made to set up more hotels and two Ministers should be deployed there to ensure that edible things are not sold at exorbitant rates. The people from all regions of the country are stranded there. What impression will they gather that what arrangement has been made by the Government. If the Government does not work for welfare of the people we will strongly oppose such Government. I held the Government responsible for the tragedy. The Prime Minister should suspend the officers found guilty of dereliction of duty and after than a Commission of inquiry should be constituted to probe the whole affair.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have recently returned for Srinagar. I want to Pahalgam also. I stayed in Srinagar for 2 days. I express my deep sorrow and offer condolences to the pilgrims killed there.

[English]

The main problem there was that there was no coordination, particularly, between civil and army authorities. Two parallel authorities, were running there.

[Translation]

Version of civil and army authorities were quite different. We wanted to go to Pahalgam but we were not allowed by the authorities. They said that the road is closed. But the pilgrims who returned in the night told that the road was open. Had they allowed to go to Pahalgam, the pilgrims could have some satisfaction.

[English]

As my colleague has already told that he had lots of medicines. He could not reach Pahalgam with these medicines. I have seen that also.

[Translation]

We could reach Pahalgam yesterday and we saw

[English]

60 per cent of the passengers have already been evacuated from Pahalgam. But the main problem was lack of coordination.

[Translation]

I talked to the S.P. of that area. He said that all pilgrims would be sent to Jammu by bus free of charge. Even then

tickets were being sold at local State Transport Corporation. I saw those ticket with the many pilgrims. The State Government had requisitioned many private buses but they had not issued any instructions to them not to charge any fare from the passengers. There was so much rush that people would think that the three buses which reached Pahalgam were the last ones and they may not reach Jammu. Therefore

[English]

they were really rushing towards, the bus.

[Translation]

I observed that condition of the road was also very bad. Moreover passengers were sitting on roof of the buses also.

[English]

They were coming in a very dangerous manner

[Translation]

such was the condition. We contacted the S.P. and officers of traffic Police also and requested them to deploy more buses otherwise

[English]

they are really panic stricken

[Translation]

because it was announced by the administration for the first time that

[English]

after 28th, we will not be responsible for taking the security charges

[Translation]

but after our discussion with the S.P. we were told that

[English]

till the last Yatri leaves Pahalgam, I will be here. He assured us and I saw thereafter that many trucks and buses were proceeding towards Pahalgam. One thing I want to tell here that

[English]

there was a lack of Communication.

[Translation]

There were 70,000 people in Pahalgam from 23rd and 24th August, they were unable to communicate with their native place and therefore there was lot of anxiety among the people. It was not very difficult for the administration to install a radio station there. Temporary telephone booths could have been installed there but there was no such arrangement.

[English]

even in Srinagar, there was no communication with Delhi. That was the main problem there.

[Translation]

Therefore I want to say that whenever and wherever such event takes place and where local as well as army administration—both are functioning, there must be coordination among them. The Central Government has to discharge their responsibility to build up coordination otherwise there will be chances like the present one.

I want to say one thing to the Minister of Railways also. He has made certain arrangements in Jammu. There are camps in Jammu but I have come to know that the main problem is that

[English]

really the Yatris are penniless.

[Translation]

Therefore they should be allowed to travel free of charge

[English]

so that they can return at least to their State Capital.

[Translation]

Some trains should run from Jammu for this purpose. I have seen condition of the 'Yatris' there. I had observed that if proper arrangements are made with regard to trucks and buses, Jammu will be free of 'Yatris' upto tomorrow.

[English]

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

18.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Please let us know about tickets in the train.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Paswan has already told

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Coaches are attached. Actually you start a train for Delhi but 20 thousand people have gone from Gujarat and Maharashtra also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We are facing this problem that passengers are not available for even regular trains.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The people have not reached on yet, they will start reaching from tomorrow.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: One train carrying 1400 passengers has already started. We have arranged nine special trains in addition to 11 regular trains. When regular trains will be filled then special train will run.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: There should be no ticket because they do not have any money. Private vehicles could go from Pahalgam to Chandanvadi. Thereafter one has to go for Sheshnag to Panchtarini and then people keep their luggage at Chandanvadi before proceeding for Amarnath. They keep with them only some amount and rest leave at Chandanvadi. Therefore they do not have money and should be allowed to travel free.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: An announcement to this effect should be made before allowing people to sit in the train. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir it is about 6 O'clock. Upto what time proceedings will continue?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It will continue upto 9-10 O'clock. Arrangement for the dinner has also been made.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will it continue upto 10 O'clock?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Discussion on this issue will be over now. But proceeding of the House can continue even beyond 10 O'clock.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given to me to express my views regarding this tragic incident. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: For this item extension was taken for one hour. After that the discussion on the Budget has to start. That was the decision of the Business Advisory Committee.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): The speeches may be limited to ten minutes for each Member.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let it be extended by one hour. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon'ble Members who have visited this spot have been given more time. Remaining Members will conclude within five minutes each.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: I will finish in two minutes.

18.04 hrs.

(SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*)

We are on a very important discussion regarding a tragic incident on the way towards Amarnath. Our hon. friends Shri Harin Pathak and our hon. friend Shri Samil Lahiri and hon. friend Mohammad Saleem from Rajya Sabha, all of them visited different places that have been affected and they have given a very painful description of the situation prevailing in that area as a result of this tragic incident. We share their agony and their emotions as expressed by them in this House.

They have also submitted a report to the Hon. Home Minister and to the Government. I would appeal to the Government to examine this report immediately.

Loss of human life can never be compensated with money or with any soft words chosen from the dictionary.

It is a matter of great tragedy in the contemporary history of India. We all feel for those who lost their lives on their way to the Amarnath Cave. We express our deep sorrow and our feelings and sympathy for the members of the bereaved families who have lost their dear ones in this great tragedy. I also offer my thanks and gratitude to the Kashmiri porters and villagers and the local people who gave shelter to the pilgrims, who gave hospitality to the pilgrims and who saved many valuable lives of the pilgrims by their experiences at their level. At the same time I would appeal to the hon. Home Minister and to the Government to utilise the natural calamity fund for the recovery of this loss and also give incentive to the measures for the development of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir area.

The sincere attempts made by the hon. Home Minister and by the Central Government in this respect may be justified by some obvious reasons. But the failure of the State bureaucracy of Jammu and Kashmir can never be forgiven. They could avoid the situation had they been alert earlier. They could play their role to adopt the preventive measures for combating the harsh weather and other situations leading to such a disaster. But they could not do so. It is very unfortunate. I have gone through the report submitted by the hon. Home Minister. He is our beloved Home Minister. I have the highest regard for him. ...(*Interruptions*) He is always beloved.

I am sorry to find out that the report has been drafted by the bureaucracy to cover up the failures and lapses. It cannot be accepted that they could not foresee, they could not collect the weather forecast beforehand. It cannot be believable to ourselves. We are living in an age of highly sophisticated science and technology. The sophisticated technology is there

which can give us the necessary information, which can give us the forecast of weather to take adequate measures for combating any kind of harsh weather and harsh natural calamity. But they could not do so. This is an administrative report only. This is a simple administrative report drafted by the persons concerned with administration and this administrative report deals only with natural calamities, harsh weather, landslides, torrential rains, snowfall etc. We know all these things. We did not expect such things. We expected something more from our hon. Home Minister and still we expect that adequate attention should be given by the hon. Home Minister and by the Central Government to this problem so that we can recover the loss and we can expedite and double up and gear up the relief and rescue measures immediately for those persons who are affected and for the relatives who have lost their lives and for those persons who are detained there. We are not in a position to bring back the lives. But we should give proper relief and attention to those who are affected there.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a special request to make to you. The hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji has gone to Srinagar today in the afternoon. He might be returning today late evening or tomorrow morning. He has gone there to personally visit the place and see the whole affected area and to meet the people. My humble request is that when he comes back from the visit, we may hear him and, therefore, my request is that the hon. Home Minister can reply tomorrow and till then this discussion may be stopped here. ...(*Interruptions*) Let him give his own submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In the B.A.C. It was decided that.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDKAR (Mumbai-North-West) : Sir, we also support that point. Let us have a complete version of the picture. The Home Minister has seen the place and he has submitted his point in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will be giving his own details of the visit.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : My humble request is that the Home Minister should reply tomorrow. (*Interruptions*). At least, he is the Leader of the Opposition. The sky will not fall. ...(*Interruptions*) Let him have his say. ...(*Interruptions*) He has gone today to Srinagar only for this purpose. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Let the discussion be completed today and Government can give their reply tomorrow and if the House agrees, I would request that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee will return by tomorrow noon and after allowing him for a couple of minutes you can give your reply.

[English]

The sky will not fall. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Business Advisory Committee has decided that discussion on the Budget would start after reply has been given the present discussion.

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The situation is different. Atalji was to go yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : With your permission Shri Panigrahi, I would submit that—we have no right—this is not a right that we are exercising. We are only making a request. The Leader of the Opposition after all has gone himself; he has not gone there for holidays. All that we are requesting is that the House benefits from the reply of the Hon. Home Minister after whatever few observations the Leader of the Opposition makes. All that we are requesting is let this debate be concluded, let the Home Minister and all of us benefit from what the Leader of Opposition is saying tomorrow and let the hon. Home Minister reply come tomorrow. That is all we are asking. Immediately after everyone has finished, the discussion on the Budget (General) can commence and the Budget can conclude today. The reply of the Home Minister can come tomorrow like the reply of the Finance Minister will come tomorrow. This is a request. Certainly, we cannot demand it. This is a discussion under Rule 193. Very often the discussions under Rule 193. Very often the discussions under Rule 193 spread over to another day. I appeal both to the hon. Home Minister and to Shri Paswan and of course, you also, to please consider it. We cannot dictate this. We can only request. This is not an unreasonable request. The House will benefit and we all will also benefit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, this is not an unreasonable request. The leader of the Opposition himself cooperated with the House because he was insisting on the Adjournment Motion and he accepted discussion under Rule 193. Since they are making this request, what is wrong if Vajpayeeji makes some observations tomorrow?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : At what time?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, it is being decided that the Finance Minister will reply the General Budget discussions tomorrow. Tomorrow is the day for private Members business also. I have no objection. You fix up the time when he will speak. I have requested our hon. Speaker—though originally it was decided that tomorrow nobody will speak and only the reply of the Finance Minister will be there—that our Leader has decided to participate in the Budget. So, he will speak at one o'clock. You do not know that

Mr. Speaker has agreed to it. So, any time before 1 o'clock can be give to Vajpayeeji. We have no objection since he has gone there. But at the same time, we have to give time for its reply also. Kindly fix up time. There should not be Zero Hour tomorrow and then all parties should agree. Let Mr. Vajpayee speak before one o'clock and let the Minister reply. The whole purpose will be served ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me find out from the Leader of the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, because he is asking about time ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We can decide it later. Let us have the views of the Leader of the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : If the budget is to be finished before one o'clock, it is fine. The Union Home Minister may take it up after the private Members business is over, after six o'clock. We do not mind. The budget is a priority.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Let them do the adjustment.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We have no objection. The Prime Minister had to go to Lucknow to lay a foundation stone at 3 o'clock today but that programme has been shifted to 11 o'clock because of this discussion. We had learnt that discussion will commence after Question Hour and over by 4.00 p.m. Therefore we reached here before 4.00 p.m. and the Prime Minister cancelled all his other engagements. He is in his office. Earlier it was told that the Home Minister will give reply at 5.45 p.m. We informed the Prime Minister accordingly. Sometime during the discussion on delicate issues, demand is made that the Prime Minister should be present in the House, where is he? We have no objection. The leader of the opposition has gone to visit Jammu and Kashmir today. We accord due importance to him. On return he will give us same more information, but let me check up the programme of the Prime Minister for tomorrow and if there is any programme, then his name will not be enlisted ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will discussion on the Budget not take place?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : That is for today.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Let the discussion be completed by 1 o'clock.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : How can it be completed by 1 o'clock tomorrow?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Let the hon'ble Members speak today and the Finance Minister may give his reply tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : You are desiring your Leader to be present to speak on that. They have expressed their desire that their Leader will speak tomorrow on Budget. So, that also has to be accommodated. What our normal practice is, we should move a resolution that the Question Hour be suspended. Otherwise, you cannot accommodate because tomorrow there is Friday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This decision has already been taken by the Business Advisory Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : But you have to keep in mind that tomorrow is Friday and when we meet after lunch on Friday there are some interruptions and disturbances also....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, let us continue, Mr. Panigrahi. They will ascertain the position within five minutes and tell us.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say one thing only. You can arrange the timing as you like. But little while ago—unless I was mistaken—one of the suggestions I heard from that side was that my reply, if necessary, could be even after a Private Members Business. I am afraid, I am not in a position to meet this request because I have some other engagement. So, I cannot wait till the Private Members Business is over.

MR. CHAIRMAN : After the Question Hour we have only one hour. If at all we dispense with the Zero Hour, one hour would be there.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the real problem is though you have one hour between 12 o'clock and 1 o'clock, you cannot get away without lunch break tomorrow due to Friday. Then two ex-Prime Ministers will be speaking. Then the reply will be given. So, it is impossible to finish all this within one hour.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : If you do not have a Zero Hour, then between 12 o'clock and 1 o'clock, we have one hour. I do not think that he will take much time. He is not going to make any major intervention. He will perhaps speak, at the most, for five or ten minutes. Thereafter, between 12 and 1 o'clock, he can speak and the hon. Home Minister's reply can come. Then at 2 o'clock, you take the Budget. You have one and a half hours.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He will take one hour.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : He will take not more than five or ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They are ascertaining within five minutes. They will let us know. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, you may continue and conclude within five minutes.

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) : Tomorrow when the Budget is discussed, will everybody get time?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Today we have the discussion on the Budget and tomorrow the Finance Minister will reply. The discussion will conclude tonight. Only three more speakers are there. After that, there are two other speakers and then we will decide whether Home Minister's reply would be tomorrow or today. We are ascertaining within five or ten minutes.

18.22 hours

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Mr. Chairman, I shall be brief as directed by you as all aspects of this Amarnath *yatra* tragedy have been adequately covered by now.

I had the impression that after the visit of the hon. Home Minister to the spot and thereafter the Prime Minister's statement and some announcement also made by the hon. Railway Minister, normalcy would be restored very fast. But rather, with a heavy heart, I would observe, after we heard hon. Members of the House who visited the spot yesterday and today—they went up to Pahalgam and on return they had narrated their experiences—now it is for the whole House, for you and for all those who have heard, to decide what type of normalcy has been restored by now. This is a matter of concern.

These *yatras*, *melas* and festivals are part of our tradition. We are, as you know, a secular country. We have different religions practised in India and people of different religious faiths observe and participate in different festivals and this Amarnath *yatra* is one such very famous *yatra*.

What has happened should be a eye-opener for the Government of India, particularly for the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the future.

Recently, two or three months before, some tragedy also took place at Haridwar *Chota Kumbha Mela* or something like that. Again, at Ujjain also, some *mela* was there and some people died there also.

Before that also, on one occasion, at the time of *Navakalivar* in Puri temple, some deaths took place. But this time, 1.5 million pilgrims congregated there and that passed

off very peacefully. What I mean to say is that, again in the face of threats from terrorists, there was an impression that this *yatra* was losing attraction. But that was not so. In the face of such threat also, about 75,000 people had gone for the *yatra* and participated last year and naturally the Prime Minister that day said that it was beyond any expectation that the participation in this year's *yatra* had more than 1,20,000 pilgrims. It is a good sign for the country and for the society. On the one hand, the misdeeds, crimes and corruption are on the increase and on the other hand, religious festivals, *yatras* and *melas* are taking place where large crowds congregate. This is a welcome feature. The State Government authorities concerned should make all sorts of preparations to meet the situation. When people came to know that Parliamentary elections could take place peacefully in Jammu and Kashmir and the elections to the State Assembly are due one month after, naturally, thinking that the situation is much better, a large number of pilgrims came there. The point is that nobody should politicise the human tragedy. But, at the same time, this human tragedy should not also be undermined, should not be pushed under the carpet. As I said earlier, we should analyse this and draw lessons for the future.

Sir, I would say that one thing is very very disturbing, rather shocking us. The Home Minister by now might have changed his impression. I do not know about it. I am telling you about the human tragedy. If you stick to your point, if you are, still for it, I have nothing to say. You please go ahead with our impression. I would say that he has stated that the natural calamity together with the human failure is responsible for this type of a tragedy. There was such a high loss of lives etc. It was stated that the toll was about 200. I think it would go much beyond the number of 200 or 300. Many people are still missing now. They are untraceable. According to Government rules, unless the dead bodies are recovered or located or identified, the Government do not recognise, do not take cognisance that they are dead. There are the Revenue Department rules like the famine code etc. how to declare somebody dead on account of famine and other things. Even if people are missing for years, even if there is no hope of their coming back and even if different agencies say that those people are dead, the Government do not take cognisance of them. So, similarly, due to these missing people and all those things, this death toll will go further high. At the same time, I would say that nobody has control over weather etc. Of course, in this modern society when technological developments and advancements are very much there, we can be careful about such things. We have the weather officers. We get warnings etc. Probably, it was not properly transmitted to the stations located at higher altitudes well in time. It is certain that had the authorities of the Jammu and Kashmir Government taken proper steps, this could have been averted to some extent. We do not blame Shri Indrajit Gupta personally. We do not blame Shri Deve Gowda, the hon. Prime Minister personally nor the Central Government. It is mainly the concern of the State Government. But since the State Government is under President's Rule, that is why we are

discussing this in detail here. Naturally they should not take it that way. But what is more painful is that after the Home Minister's visit such lapses are there. We have to believe him. Harin Pathakji, at the same time, can we disbelieve the other friend who also came from there? Naturally, the face of these things, to give a clean chit to the State Administration is very painful. I take objection to this. At the same time, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House one thing. Mr. Home Minister, I draw your attention to yesterday's 9.30 and ten o'clock of the television news. At 9.30 it was the news given by *Aaj tak* and at ten o'clock, it was news given by 'Tonight' ... (*Interruptions*) Let him check up the news. There is one thing. It had been stated that 35,000 people were still there at Pahalgam yesterday and not a loudspeaker was working there to announce the information. If it is incorrect, I will be very happy. But it was the last night television news. If I am wrong, please correct me.

I have not gone there. One thing is, there is absolutely no toilet facility available at Pahalgam because it is a small place. What is the capacity it can handle and for how many days? No arrangement has been made when people have been there for so many days. Immediately after the departure of the hon. Home Minister from Pahalgam, his senior officers also left for Srinagar. Not a single officer was available there to give a proper guidance, to monitor the arrangement and to look to all these things. I have heard myself about these things yesterday in the electronic media. And those who have come back from there, have also confirmed this.

The hon. Prime Minister said that there would be an enquiry; and the nature and level of that enquiry would be decided later on by the Government. I think, this was also the assurance given here by Shri Indrajit Gupta. That day, I insisted on judicial inquiry. I again say that there is absolutely no politics in this human tragedy. But the question is, who will enquire? There are instances of such tragedies and everywhere there has been some sort of an enquiry whether it was at Kumbh Mela at Hardwar, Jagannath Temple at Puri or elsewhere. At some place, there was a judicial inquiry and in some other, it was an administrative inquiry. Here, the roles of the Governor and the Chief Secretary have come under fire or criticism. I need not repeat it because you have already asked me to conclude my speech. But since the Governor is involved and the Chief Secretary is involved, I would like you to tell me what sort of an enquiry will be appropriate or what sort of an enquiry will suffice. Can a District Magistrate or a Commissioner enquire into the conduct of a Governor or a Chief Secretary? In view of all this, what is appropriate is a judicial inquiry. I still insist on that. I do not find fault with the Ministers here. Naturally the senior officers of the State Government are at fault. They have taken it very leisurely and casually. Shockingly, the lack of imagination on their part has led to such a tragedy. Otherwise, it could have been contained, it could have been minimised. Of course, snow-fall and heavy rainfall could not have been averted. But the tragedy part, loss of life part could have been reduced. I say that let it be an eye-opener. Let us draw a lesson from this. A

large number of people congregate in all these religious festivals. We have to rise to the occasion. We cannot be callous like this. That is why, I emphatically demand that nothing short of a judicial inquiry will meet the requirement. The Government is sincere. Therefore, anything less than a judicial inquiry will not meet the requirement.

With these words, I thank you again and take my seat.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : The tragedy occurred during Amar Nath Yatra was really serious one. The House has already expressed condolences and I myself express my condolences for the same.

Many hon'ble Members have given their suggestions. I know that Amarnath Yatra is most arduous and hazardous one. There are difficult terrains, height and the vagaries of weather. It is therefore not possible to overcome all the problems completely.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Now-a-days every thing is possible.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : I do not want to challenge hon'ble body Member in this regard. But accidents of aeroplanes of fully developed countries like America also take place. Most tragic accidents took place in Francisco, Japan, accidents do take place everywhere. Sometime natural calamity is such that it is beyond the control of man or Government. It is true that we should be cautious and make proper arrangements. But as stated by the Home Minister and Prime Minister and all the Members have been convinced that whether from 20th or 22nd August—say between 22nd and 24th August all of a sudden weather become unfavourable. It was so bad that even helicopters and aeroplanes could not be used and all the arrangements went to the winds and most of those people died who were trapped on the way. In fact information could not reach certain camps also. No doubt, Government should have paid special attention on two aspects. When the Government admits that they were expecting about one lakh pilgrims, they should have arranged tents, medical facilities etc. accordingly. They should have used electronic media to tell the people that they must carry such and such articles. The Government should have made foolproof arrangements to meet all eventualities. There should have been some monitoring system to see whether number of pilgrims is increasing or decreasing. If the number was increasing, the Government should have stopped them. The army and the local people given all help to the pilgrims in distress. But the facts stated by our hon'ble Members, who visited the spot, are really painful and disgraceful. It is not during this tragedy of Amarnath Yatra but whenever some big tragedy occurs, some people indulge in nefarious activities. They try to take advantage of the situation and resort to inhuman behaviour. Local administration cannot be absolved of their responsibilities in such a situation. If bus operators or drivers were charging fare from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per passenger or pilgrims were made to pay exorbitant rates for a

cup of tea etc., stringent action should have been taken against such people. I agree with this view that people came in large number to our holy places, religious functions and other such events and we should be very cautious and careful in making elaborate arrangements. If we are successful in making such arrangements, it is appreciated and a correct message goes to the people that this government is capable of discharging its responsibility. But it is a matter of satisfaction that the Home Minister of Central Government visited the spot in very adverse circumstances and made enquiries about various activities. But he himself has admitted in his statement that these were certain inadequacies but no one should doubt intention of the Government. In case some responsible officers or other officials of the local administration have not discharged their duty, our Government is prepared to hold an inquiry. We shall learn something from the outcome of the inquiry and will remain more vigilant on similar occasions.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Chairman, I speak only for three minutes. Otherwise we keep on repeating and hammering the same points.

I must say that it is a big tragedy in the annals of the history that has hit the entire nation. People who had gone to have the *darshan* of Lord Shiva happened to meet with the natural calamity and died.

Yesterday the hon. Home Minister gave a clear cut report about the events and circumstances under which the tragedy took place. Similarly our friends—Shri Pathak and others—who have visited the place personally and come back today have given us a totally different picture. So, there is a lack of communication and there is a misunderstanding about the events. Therefore there is a confusion in the minds of the people as to where actually the suffering has taken place. But this is not the time to blame each other. This is the time when we have to find a solution for the future also. Nevertheless we have to know whether anybody is at fault intentionally or accidentally; due to circumstances beyond their control or by mischief or negligence.

18.41 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Secondly, in future if suddenly the climate changes like this, how should the Government take precaution? We have been hearing that there are no facilities there, there is no proper road etc. The Government of India must spend more money because when people go to see such a great temple to have *darshan* of Lord Shiva, they must go on a *pucca* road. They must also have some more facilities on the way.

Some friends are asking for a judicial enquiry while some others are asking for an administrative enquiry. But let us have an impartial enquiry which will be able to get at the facts.

After the facts come out, the Government should be determined to take action irrespective of any other consideration. Let us not politicalise such situations. The entire House and the entire nation have been feeling sad about this. But I find that there is some political tone in what the Members are speaking. On the one hand they keep on trying to hammer the Government. But on the other hand they say there is not much fault. There is a difference in the tones of different people. That means there is a political feeling. But my submission is, let us not politicalise the situation. Let us be united. Let us see that such tragedies do not take place. In future the Government should see that perfect arrangements are made. If anybody has played any mischief, if anybody is negligent in performing his duty, he should be immediately punished after the enquiry report comes. Till such time, let us not have any apprehension or misgiving in our mind.

Lastly, I fully believe our hon. Home Minister who has got a good image. What I have been hearing about him is that he has always been a selfless personality. He had gone there and got some information. Of course, our other friends have also got some information. But there cannot be such a vast difference between the two. Therefore, the Home Minister must ponder over this to see where is the difference, why there is such a big communication gap in understanding the situation between the two parties. Then only will the truth come out.

I request the Home Minister to bear in mind all the points raised by every member and give a reply.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk - Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a great tragedy has occurred during the Amarnath Yatra. Thousands of people had gone from Delhi to participate in this yatra. Those people, who have returned, say that they went to see the temple of Amarnath but they saw the scene of death. The people of all the families were upset because of fatal cases. We have religious bent of mind. Amarnath Yatra takes place every year. The Government should make a note of the inadequacies found in the arrangements during the cause of journey. For example lack of telephone facility, no arrangement to stay, exorbitant rates of fare charged from the pilgrims and harassment to them. They found a lot of difficulty for coming to Pahalgam from Sheshnag. Government had not made any arrangement. Ours is a religious country. People have religious bent of mind and they have faith in their religion. I hope that the Government will provide all facilities in future so that pilgrims may not face any difficulty during their journey.

Another good thing has come to light and it has been published in the press also that local Muslim families helped a lot. They provided food, tea and shelter to stay. I wish similar sentiments will continue to exist in this country and people will cooperate with one another. There may be *yatra* of any

community but if we continue to cooperate with one another, there will be no difficulty. The Government may hold inquiry or not but I would like to point out one thing that many religious institutions have sent appeal to the Government to allot land to them to enable them to construct Yatra Dham or some buildings where from some facilities could be provided to pilgrims. As a result of this, pilgrims undertaking *yatra* would not find any difficulty in staying or keeping luggage there and complete their *yatra* without any difficulty.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Well, on the request of the hon. Member, Shri Jaswant Singh to postpone the reply of the Minister of Home Affairs on this issue till tomorrow, with the Congress having no objection, there was a discussion with the Leader of the House and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. They have agreed that this matter could be taken up tomorrow immediately after the Question Hour. There would be no Zero Hour tomorrow.

Shri Vajpayee, the Leader of the Opposition has gone to Jammu and Kashmir. If he returns, he would speak for fifteen minutes, after which the Minister of Home Affairs would reply. If, for any reason, Shri Vajpayee is not able to return, then, the Minister of Home Affairs would straightaway reply to the debate at twelve o'clock tomorrow. This is the consensus that has been reached.

On the debate on the General Budget, well, we thought that it could be concluded today. But I think that there is a request from the Congress side that one more Member might be allowed to speak before the reply of the Minister of Finance. My request to the rest of the Members is that if we could conclude it today by taking very little time, it would be very good. However, I would leave it to the House to decide by what time it should be concluded. Tentatively, the idea is that it should be concluded. Tentatively, the idea is that it should be concluded by ten o'clock tonight.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : As long as you are in the Chair. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am told that dinner is also available. So, we shall now resume the General Discussion on the General Budget.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : How many Members are still there to speak?

MR. SPEAKER : They are quite large in number, but I think that if the parties can restrict the list to a lesser number, it would be very good.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Just like the last time, if the time is restricted to five to ten minutes for each Member,

all of them can be accommodated. We can sit up to ten o'clock. It is not that everybody should speak ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : It is more applicable to the major parties.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I have got a request to make. I request that Shrimati Krishna Bose may be called to speak first because her husband is not well and she has to catch a flight ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That is all the more valid reason for her to speak as briefly as possible.

18.49 hrs.

THE GENERAL BUDGET, 1996-97

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been in mind tuned with the issue relating to the unfortunate pilgrims of Amarnath for the last four hours that I find it very difficult to come back to the cold statistics and economics, but I shall try my best. I also know about the constraint of time. So, I shall be very brief also.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened to the Budget speech made by our Minister of Finance, Shri Chidambaram with great interest.

18.50 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

While listening to his speech and to the variety of poetry in multiple languages that he delivered in his Budget speech. I was reminded of the rather sober lines of our Bengali poet, Shukanto:

"Kabita tomaya Dilum Ajke Chhuti,
Khudha Rajye Prithvi Godaya moy
Purnima Chand Jeno Jhalsano Reeti."

When translated it would be like this : 'Poetry, today I give you leave to go. The rule of hunger has turned the world into prose where the full Moon appears to be a warm piece of bread'. Well, indeed, when we turn to the cold prose of the Finance Minister's speech, shorn of all its poetic flourishes what do we find?

I confess that I am somewhat disappointed. I find that the Government has fallen short of what it might have achieved. Many people are happy and some people are not so happy that this year's Government's Budget has kept to the road to the economic reforms which was started by the last Congress Government

Now, with the pragmatic record of our Prime Minister in Karnataka and the record of Shri Chidambaram as a very progressive Minister in the previous Ministry, did we really export anything else? It is true that the reversal of that policy would have meant that India could not have taken its place into the front rank of the growing economies in the foreseeable future. However, we are not surprised that they have kept to the road that was shown by the previous Congress Government. To be brief, I shall not go into the details of the budget and I shall not take up itemwise as some hon. Members did.

I shall keep myself to the two major planks of the Budget. As we all know, the two major planks of the Budget are Revenue side and the Expenditure side. Now, the Finance Minister spoke in ringing tones about more reforms, more compassion, more revenue and more courage. I do not remember the many other 'more' that he spoke. Now, it does take a lot of political courage to take more revenue from the rich and to give more compassion to the poor and to the under privileged. Well, as we all know, our tax base itself is very narrow which means that very few people are in the category of tax payers. Now, if we want to raise the revenue, we cannot go on burdening the same people again and again. So, we must find a way to widen our tax base. How can we do that? Now, to my mind, our tax principles should be very fair and simple. Anybody who earns anything over the exemption line should be made to contribute to the national coffer, notwithstanding from where his income came. I find that there is one sphere which this Government and also the previous Government never touched.

I wonder why we do not tax or we do exempt from taxing the rural rich. I have wondered about it very much. Now, it is true that agriculture is the backbone of our country. It is also true that our present Prime Minister prides himself as a farmer Prime Minister. For the first time, we have a farmer as the Prime Minister.

But even so, I see no reason why the rural rich should not be taxed. That is a sphere where we could have tapped for more revenue.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Madam, it is very obvious. Tax on agricultural income is Entry 46 in List 2. The Central Government or the Parliament does not have the power to tax agricultural income.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Is it so? Do you not have the power at all to tax?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No, Not the agricultural income.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Anyway, then at least one thing you can do — stop perhaps the given subsidies. I find that all the benefits of expenditure go to them, and so, they are all a very happy people. All the subsidies on fertiliser,

power, tiller, tractor, etc., are given to them. I do not have a grudge against them. I know that investment in agriculture is very important. But what you know and I know is that these subsidies get siphoned off somewhere else and do not reach the poor farmers. That is my point.

About the expenditure, I find that the Budget could have been more adequate in social sector, meaning, mostly education and health. Now, we all know that the previous Congress Government first tried to free the economy from the stifles of control which was there for many years. Now, they succeeded to some extent, but then come the more important phase, the phase where you must have an infrastructure where the crucial social sector needs to be invested in a massive manner. Otherwise, we cannot have economic progress. What is the point of having economic reform, if we do not have an educated and a healthy population? Most of the Asian countries who have registered good economic growth have an educated and a healthy population.

One point has been made by all my predecessors and so, I do not want to go into it. But I would like to mention in passing that a myth has been created as if this Government has done something for the poor, under-privileged in excess of what any other Government might have done. What we have seen and many of my predecessor-speakers have shown is that many of the allocations for schemes had already been done by Mr. Manmohan Singh in his Budget of February 1996. I would not like to go into it because many people have already spoken about it. But just to give one or two examples, I would say this. The Finance Minister claimed in his Budget speech that the plan allocation for the Department of Education has been increased substantially from Rs. 1825 crore to Rs. 3388 crore. But we find that Mr. Manmohan Singh had already increased the allocation to Rs. 3383 crore for education in his February Budget itself. As a matter of fact, in health, it has declined a little—it was Rs. 815 crore and now, it is Rs. 792 crore. I do not grudge a mere one crore of rupees here and there and I do not mind that. I am trying to make the point that if India wants economic progress, massive investment must be made in education and health and other crucial social sectors.

Our Finance Minister had declared that he wishes to take India to the frontline of the nations in the world. If he really wishes that, he has to match his cheerful promise with appropriate allocations. We compare ourselves with the Asian countries. I am not speaking about the East Asian tigers like Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, etc. I am only comparing ourselves with our brothers or neighbours like Thailand and Malaysia. What do we find there? We find that they have progressed very much and we are lagging behind. The reason behind it is this that Malaysia and Thailand have invested a lot on education.

19.00 hrs.

The World Development Report of 1995 shows that Malaysia's *per capita* GNP is more than ten times that of

India and Thailand's more than seven times. Now out of 132 countries, Malaysia's rank by GNP *per capita* is 40th, Thailand's 55th and India's, a dismal 112th. What is the secret? Why are they going ahead and why are we lagging behind? The Human Development Indicators also show that out of 174 countries, Malaysia is 59th, Thailand is 58th and India—it is a sad story—a crushing 134th out of 174 countries.

All over in the world, we have seen that economic progress is linked with educational achievement. That is the point which I am trying to make. If you look at our literacy, you will see what I mean. Our adult literacy is very poor. We are behind even Sub-Saharan Africa. I will not go into the general thing. The condition of women literacy is even worse than that.

The Common Minimum Programme had promised universal education by 2000. It is a sad story. It is not the fault of only this Government. We have been promising universal education ever since we started after independence. We are pushing that date back. Now, we have come to 2000. I do not know how we are going to do that in the course of next four years or so.

The failure to spend public spending appropriately should be mended. That is the point I am trying to make. You know that in Development Report, 1995, we saw that India spent only 2.2 per cent of its total public expenditure on education. I know that it has gone up in this Budget. But most of it, as we all know, has come because of the Mid-Day Meal Project. It should be mentioned Half of it goes to primary education and half only to higher education. This has to be mended in some way. Thailand and Malaysia spend 20 per cent of their public expenditure on education.

It is bit of a paradox that we have a number of highly educated people. The result perhaps is of neglecting basic elementary education and looking to higher education more. But one of our very well known international economists, a Bengali gentleman, had said that even if India took over the entire world's computer software industry, the lives of the poor and illiterate masses would remain untouched. Well, that is a very sad thing to say.

I am coming to the end. Now India's economic policy failure was in two things. Before the Government intervened in spheres where it need not have intervened. And it did not do enough in spheres which it should have done much more. That is basically the fault. Now, the previous Congress Government did try to bring back a balance. They did it in the face of a crisis. I know it. I must congratulate Shri Manmohan Singh. He was very brave because he did it also in the face of hysterical opposition from many quarters, some of whom have already swallowed their word and are now supporting the United Front Budget.

This Government has inherited a better economy with seven per cent growth and all that. We had expected from

them some dramatic revolution something more—because our expectations were very high from them reading all the Common Minimum Programmes which they had given to us before. That is why I am somewhat disappointed.

Anyway, this has been the Finance Minister's maiden effort at Budget-making. I would like to conclude by wishing him well for the future. But I would urge him to show real courage by expanding the tax base if he can and also show true compassion to the people by investing in basic health and education.

There is one more point before I conclude and that is about Defence. I know that Defence is very important for us but I would ask the Finance Minister to be careful about the jingoistic postures about Defence which emanates from certain quarters now and then. I would like to remind him as to what is the best Defence of a country? The best Defence of a country is a healthy and educated population.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I have finished now. Thank you so much.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukottai): Sir, I wish to recollect the moments of my presence in this august House on the 22nd July of this year when the Budget was presented. I must say that I felt as if I was in an Economics class in a university.

The Budget left no one uncared: It touched almost everyone—the agriculturists, the poor, the middle class, the income payers, the small, middle and large scale industry and everybody. There was an apprehension before the Budget was presented among many people and the interpretation due to that was that this Budget may not be of much use to the public and that it may not reach up to the mark. But the presentation of the Budget made almost everyone in the country to praise it. People who had that apprehension and who interpreted in that way told that too many cooks were preparing this Budget. But they failed to understand one thing. Only different flowers from different plants from different soils make one garland and that gives a beautiful sight. Likewise, various political parties of different ideologies in one single thread, that is, the secular mentality, made one garland which is adorning the shoulders of Mother India or what you people call *Bharat Mata*.

This Budget, as the Finance Minister has well said, is a historic document. The CMP laid the foundation and set the agenda for this Budget. The Opposition parties described it as VIBGYOR or rather a rainbow and that it is only an illusion of colours. But they refused to see it from another angle, that is, a candle in a dark room. They could have seen it in that manner. I could not understand why they have got that mentality. As the Communist manifesto issued by Marx and Engels is for the Communists and as the resolutions passed in the 1929 Self-Respect Conference in Chengalpat is for the

Dravidian Movement, this historic document is going to be for the future generations. I am sure about it.

The Finance Minister has very clearly indicated at every step that growth without touching larger sections of people is meaningless. Jobless growth is unless. It is growth with social justice that he has emphasised. The other day, the learned Member, Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi initiated the discussion on the Budget. We respect him more. He is not present now. I expected him to be here. I expected that he will appreciate the Budget at least at one time or the other but he never intended to do so.

What appeared to me was this, and I wish to say it in their own language, Mahabharat, that is, Lord Krishna once asked Duriyodhan and Dharma to go round the city and to come back in the evening after having a detailed list of good and bad people. Both of them returned in the evening. Dharma said, "There is not even one bad person in the city except myself. Everyone is good I am bad because I went in search of bad people among the good ones." Duriyodhan said, "There is not a single good person in city except myself. It seems that I am the best persons." Lord Krishna said, "You both went to the same city and saw the same people but you are giving different opinions. Do you know why? Though you saw the same people, your views were different. Dharma searched for good and he saw only the good but Duriyodhan searched for bad and thus he saw only bad." So are these people looking only at the darker side of the Budget. They are not prepared to appreciate good things in it. What a strenuous job has this Finance Minister taken in the interest of this Government! And the interest of this Government is vested upon the poor and the middle class people.

Sir, I would like to make use of this opportunity to make a submission to the Finance Minister. He has mentioned about growth with social justice. He is from the State of Tamil Nadu. We have been insisting upon reservation for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the backward class and the most backward class communities. We have already made reservation of 69 per cent which the Supreme Court is often blocking showing the basic structure of the Constitution. I would like to say that uniformity could not be maintained in this way. In Nagaland and Manipur there are only tribals and there 50 per cent reservation for other communities is not useful. It is useless. The requirement varies from State to State. So, the Constitution should be amended in such a manner that this discretion could be given to the States. I think, this is the better time or the most apt time to bring in such a revolutionary and useful thing which the country needs.

Sir, I would like to say that we have identified and integrated ourselves with the global economy to make our economy open and competitive. We have never lost our identity though we are in association with GATT. We have allocated subsidies to the agriculturists for fertilisers and agricultural implements. So, whenever we are, we never forget where we are and who we are. Sir, I would like to make a very important point at this time. Bank loans are denied to the unemployed and to persons from the weaker sections of the soci-

ety, even after observing a lot of formalities; the Government sanctions the loan but the banks are refusing to give loans. Our Finance Minister in a public meeting at Chennai and after that in a private television has said that whenever persons are affected, they might immediately inform the Finance Minister and actions would be taken, I wish and expect the Finance Minister to give the same assurance in this august House which would have more value than it would have had on the screen of a private television or from a public stage.

Sir, the amount of public money which should have been spent for the public has not been spent so far due to many reasons. It is very well known that in Tamil Nadu ex-Ministers plundered money. Those money were converted into Bungalows, gardens, groves and things like that. The money was converted into jewels. They adopted a mysterious technique which nobody could understand. In Tamil Nadu such a technique adopted to swindle money is called the 'Jaya technique'!

Sir, the *Jeevan Suraksha* and the *Jeevan Arogya* are the two best schemes announced by our Finance Minister. These schemes were dedicated to the nation by our Prime Minister at Chennai. In that function, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and our leader, Dr. Kalaignar insisted that the IDFC—the Infrastructural Development Financial Corporation, may be headquartered at Chennai since all the financial institutions are centered in and around Mumbai and Calcutta only. So also, when the private persons and individuals are allowed to run the banks, the States must be given some powers to run the banks. While responding to this request the hon. Prime Minister said that it was not in his hands, the Finance Minister has the power to do it. So, I would like to request the Finance Minister as the Bill is in his court and I expect that he, hailing from the State of Tamil Nadu, would put it right into the goal.

Sir, the very launching of the schemes of residential primary schools and old age home shows that how far you are interested about the affected people in our society—those who suffer and those who lack attention. I think, this must not have come from the mind alone of either you or the hon. Prime Minister, but it must have come from the bottom of your heart. Only those who could realise, understand and feel the sufferings of others alone could announce such schemes. But what I wish to say here in this regard is that the funds that have been allocated for this purpose is inadequate. You may kindly increase it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have said that this is an initial allocation. After the Budget is passed and when the State Governments would take up the schemes, if more money is required, both for the old age homes and the residential primary schools, more money would be allocated. The Budget speech says 'initial' that is in order to kick-start the programme.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, the State Governments does not have that much of money.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Kindly read the Budget speech. I have said that it should be done through the State Governments or through the NGOs. When the NGOs or the State Governments come forward with applications, more money would be given to these two schemes. Let the Budget be passed and then we would announce the details of the schemes and then people will apply. I just wanted to show that we are committed to setting up old age homes and residential primary schools in every district of the country.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Thank you, Sir. Involvement of charitable institutions for contribution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Being a young Member of the House, I request you to have some soft corner for me.

The charitable institutions and temples which have got huge money can be encouraged and involved for such a thing. You have given relaxation in income tax. You have given an extra exemption of Rs. 3000 for women. But whomever I met outside— as always women are intenders and not contenders—has said that they want more. As always, we give say to their request. People outside the world say that women are expecting equal rights but actually they are enjoying more rights. In spite of that you have given Rs. 3000 more income tax relaxation to them. Still they say, it is insufficient. As everybody say, we have a generous mind towards women folk. I think it could be relaxed further, if at all it is possible.

The foremost thing which I wish to suggest is about the mushroom growth of non-banking financial institutions all over the State. You assured about it as you are also concerned about it. You have received many reports about that. In Tamil Nadu people are running from here to there after every financial institution, like Sneham and Darshna. Those people have fled. In fact the innocent employees are harassed for no reason. They announced tempting rewards to the people who subscribe to them and they have looted all the money. What I wish to suggest is, barring them is not enough. The Government should take effective steps to eradicate these unscrupulous people who are looting the hard earned money of the public. If situation and time permit, you can even bring a Bill to control and maintain these people within a sphere. I would say this is a better time rather an apt time.

The East Coast Road, which has been a long stretched, long felt need of the Tamil Nadu people, is much slow in progress. During your regime it could be expedited. You have also assured that the Tuticorin and Cochin Ports will be enhanced. What I wish to suggest is, Sir, the Tuticorin and Cochin Ports can be linked by road as it will earn us more revenue as also Tamil Nadu could come up in a big way. There is another long stressed project, Setu Canal Project.

"SINGALA THEEVINIRKKU ORU PAALAM AMAIPPOM
SETHUMAI MEEDURATHI VEEDHI AMAIPPOM"

The national poet Bharatiyar says:

You are not able to lay a road across Setu. At least you can deepen the canal.

All the ships go around Colombo and the revenue which goes there can be diverted to Tamil Nadu if Setu Canal Project is implemented. By this you can save fuel and time consumption, I am saying this because you are the Finance Minister now. You have announced, you are establishing in the world, that a strong foothold alone can give power to the hands which raze war. Your approach has shown that you do not want to be one among others. You want to be different. Just because I am wearing a costly dress, just saying that I am educated, does not mean that I am a matured or a civilized man. I must feed my mother. Many people think that we have developed scientifically, that we are advancing but they forget the basic needs of our people which you have realised, which this Government has realised. Your intention is that and you have announced it also. That is why I am saying, during your period when you are the Finance Minister, the existing political brain of the Dravidian Movement, our Industry Minister Mr. Murasoli Maron is here, the pioneer of social justice, the Railway Minister Mr. Paswan is here and the man who is having interest in the interest of the States is now the Prime Minister of our nation, it is the best occasion to bring forth to bring into effect what all we have dreamt in the past.

Regarding linking of rivers, the hon. Prime Minister has promised that he wishes to do it to save the country from floods and drought. If that is done, India could have a remarkable place in the world sphere.

The views I am expressing here are the feelings of a young man who walks on the platform along with other young people and who realise their problems. I have been expressing my views, my expectations and my dreams on the public platform. Now I have got this opportunity to present them in this august House where these things could be given a shape to. If these things are given a shape to our expectations of a better future, bring tomorrow, and the best India can be achieved at the earliest.

Whatever name you may call a rose with, it remains a rose. So, let people say whatever they wish to say, this Budget is going to bring real prosperity to the nation. I would like to say to the Finance Minister, what we often used to say.

POTRUVAR POTRATUM PUZHUDHIVAARI THOOTRUVAR
THOOTRATTUM ETRATHORU KARUTHAI ENATHULLAM
ENDRAL EDU-THURAIPPAEN; NILLAEN; EVAR VARINUM
ANJAEN

Whoever may praise, let them praise; whoever may abuse, let them abuse. If my conscience says that something is right, I will say that. Let anybody come, I will stand against him. I will not be afraid. I will go on my own path.

That is what I wish to say. Whenever you are on a noble cause, you will face some criticism. I have said in my speech on the Railway Budget that dreams do come true. Only those who have dreamt of things have brought things into reality. The freedom of this nation was once a dream in the mind of Gandhiji. To be the best democratic country in the world was the dream of Panditji for India once. To have a casteless society was once a dream in the mind of Periyar. We are heading towards a country where there is no unemployment where there is prosperity, and where the culture is at its best. I think and I hope that under this regime we will reach that goal. We the youngsters of the nation rely upon this Government, and we are sure that we are going to have a better future and this Budget will bring it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Bombay South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Finance Minister because in spite of 13 parties in the United Front Government, getting all of them together, not standing with difference among them, has presented this budget following the policies of Shri Manmohan Singh. Sometime I feel that this budget has been presented to approve the policies of Congress party and United Front Government in trying to assure people of development of the country on the same basis. But it seems that this budget is directionless because it has no balance sheet i.e. the details of receipts and expenditure. No indications have been given to uplift the economic growth. This budget does not set any guidelines by which economy will look up. No doubt, this budget has been presented with great shrewdness. The poor people will feel a bit happy but they will feel the pinch when they will have to bear the brunt of inflation. There is no doubt about it.

Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister have evaluated the health of our economy. In this connection I may submit that cars are manufactured in our country every year. We get so many luxury goods in the market. People have grown richer to great extent. If budget is examined on these lines, it will not be true picture of our economy. This budget also lacks the glimpse of social justice that we expected of the hon'ble Finance Minister.

Agriculture is the biggest industry of our country. But right direction has not been given to it for the last 4-5 years. The rate of growth of industry was less in the budget of previous years also. The rate of agricultural growth has been fixed as 2.4 per cent while that of industry has been fixed at 12 per cent. I want to say to the hon'ble Minister that certain economists has oflate been asserting that economy of the country is now based on industry. But it is not a fact and we cannot deny that even now economy of our country is based on agriculture. Therefore in my opinion we should pay more attention towards agriculture. In my view, it is correct and necessary also.

The Prime Minister of our country is son of a farmer. We were therefore, expecting that more attention would be paid towards agriculture. But the way Government want to benefit the farmers, it looks that the budget is not meant for small and marginal farmers. In this manner only big farmers would be benefited. For example provision has been made for NABARD. The Government will contribute Rs. 100 crore for this purpose and Rs. 400 crore will be given to farmers from the Reserve Bank. In this manner we shall arrange to repay the loan with Rs. 500 crore. We can gather this view from the budget speech of the hon'ble Finance Minister and the budget itself. In 1991, NABARD had suggested that we shall do it on fifty-fifty basis. Reserve Bank would contribute the same amount which will be provided by NABARD. The Finance Minister has tried to hardwork the farmers by mentioning Rs. 500 crore and created a confusion. It will not benefit poor farmers.

The former Governments of our country treated the farmers as vote bank. They used to say that if they want loan, it would be given on lower rate, if they need power, that will be supplied on cheaper rate and subsidy would be given on fertiliser. But all these things were said keeping in view that farmers are their vote bank. But nothing has been done for their upliftment. The condition of the farmers can improve only when they are given reasonable and remunerative price of their produce. Therefore I would request the hon'ble Finance Minister to provide for scientific godowns for farmers to store their produce. They should not be compelled to sell their produce until they are given remunerative prices. In this manner they will earn more and industry will also develop. It will generate employment also in the rural areas.

In 1995-96 budget, the Government had provided Rs. 4771 crore for the development of villages but this year the amount has been reduced by 2 per cent. On the one hand announcements are made and slogans are raised about development but then how far it is justified to make deduction in this budget. I doubt whether you will be able to do good to the farmers in this manner.

There is great importance of cottage industries in our country. Employment opportunities increase through cottage industry. We concede that cottage industries play important role in exports but I am astonished to note that the hon'ble Finance Minister, who belong to Tamil Nadu, has nowhere mentioned cottage industries. I want to tell him that women play important part in Cottage industries. Women, in large number, work in these industries in rural areas. Now they want to make modern articles instead of pickles, spices and papad. We should take steps to set up different types of women polytechnics and provide training to them to enable them to come forward in competitive and electronic industries. Had the Finance Minister provided large amount for development of cottage industry, I would have appreciated and felt that the Finance Minister is prudent but unfortunately he has not paid any attention towards this aspect.

The hon'ble Finance Minister has provided Rs. 9 crore less than the last year for rural development and small

industries. On the one side you talk of globalisation and on the other hand you talk of development of small scale industries. It is necessary to show some equation. The Government should publish a White Paper so that people may know as to what they intend to do with regard to rural development and small scale industries. Only then people of the country would be able to assess the situation. I would urge that Government should pay more attention towards these industries.

Shrimati Krishna Bose was speaking in Defence. Defence Ministry is an important Ministry. I want that hon'ble Finance Minister should have made special effort to provide a large amount for Defence Ministry. Even all the more necessary as Pakistan is getting arms from America. Had he provided more funds for Defence Minister, I would have realised that the Finance Minister is concerned about defence of our country.

The prices of petroleum products has been increased manifold but even then salaries of our jawans has not been increased. In order to strengthen the force, increase in their emoluments is necessary. He has not done because of lack of resources, this is very unfortunate.

Many hon'ble Members have expressed their views on social sector. I would like to say that the hon'ble Finance Minister has provided Rs. 10 crore for distressed women, Rs. 5 crore for labourer women workers, Rs. 5 crore for residential schools for poor children and in this manner completed the formality for social welfare by providing Rs. 5-10 crores here and there. I want to say that out of a population of 100 crore, fifty per cent would be women. There should have been a plan of Rs. 1000 crore for welfare of the women but if you cannot do so than you should have provided Rs. 100 crore for their development and welfare but you have completed a formality of providing Rs. 10 crore for the purpose. I would like to say that sufficient attention has not been paid towards education. Unfortunately, number of poor people is very large in our country and a provision of Rs. 1245 crore has been made for maintaining the health of 100 crore population. I want to know that if this amount is distributed among 100 crore people then how much many each person would get for medical facilities, this is a matter of concern.

Mr. Chairman, important thing is this that provision for Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been reduced as compared to the last year. Keeping in view the rising population the amount provided is quite insufficient. I have doubt in mind that they will not be able to do justice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken 13 minutes. You should cooperate. Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Chairman, I shall cooperate. I shall conclude after making a couple of points. There is sufficient time in the name of my party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has been allotted to your colleagues and major speakers are from your party.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : The people of India have more faith in Ayurveda. Only Rs. 23.09 crore have been provided for Ayurveda system of medicine. You should have increased by atleast 10 per cent, but it has not been done.

It has been started in the Report of Planning Commission that 30-40 per cent of the people are below the poverty line whereas it has been started in the Report of United Nations that if we analyse with a point of view of education, nutrition and health more than 60 per cent people live below the poverty line. The Government has not drafted any welfare scheme for Handloom industry, Bidi industry and for the people residing in slums and in coastal areas. There is frustration among the people of middle class. In so far as the decision of income tax of 15-20 per cent for the people having income between Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 60,000 is concerned, it is very shrewd decision but you know that report of the Pay Commission is expected in September and its recommendation will be implemented and sufficient amount will be received back in the exchequer. Therefore there will be no relief for the middle class. I may state that women play important role in economy of the country. The women save money and reduce their personal expenditure. They save money through L.I.C. policies and other saving schemes for their children and family members. Therefore I say, you should have paid more attention towards development of women and improved their lot.

Mr. Chairman, government have set up Committees to curtail expenditure. Prior to this Mishra Committee was set up, Manmohan Singh Committee was also set up but their recommendations have not been utilised to curtail the expenditure. I want to know whether recommendations of the committees set up by you recently would be implemented to curtail the expenditure. I shall be convinced that it is right step if hon'ble Minister assures us to this effect.

Mr. Chairman, my last point is that burden of debt has very much increased in our country. It amounts to four lakh crore rupees. There is foreign debt of nearly 3½ lakh crore. You have allocated a sum of Rs. 60 crore in the budget for this purpose. But if you think about the interest rate of one lakh eighty thousand is too much. It will reduce this income of government by 2 thousand crore rupees. This is very serious matter. Interest rate is very high. However, we have to repay the debt. Ofcourse it has very heavy burden on our economy. Hon'ble Finance Minister should keep it in mind.

This budget has upset the calculation of family budget of income in lakhs. The rate of gas cylinder has been increased by 25 rupees. The wife of the hon'ble Finance Minister must be realising more difficulty than her husband. I feel that

determination of every Indian citizen to repay this debt is the only way out to live with self respect.

While concluding I may say that you have increased taxes by 40.7 per cent in the budget and with prebudget increase in petroleum prices you have increased 71.3 per cent. As a result of this budget prices would increase by 12 to 13 per cent. Therefore, I would request the hon'ble Finance Minister to give some relief to the people while implementing various provisions of this budget.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the provisions of this budget. The common man feels disappointed. The hon'ble Finance Minister has attempted to link economic reforms of Shri Manmohan Singh with Common Minimum Programme and growth with social justice but it could not be done because Multinational companies have been given free hand and all promises of social justice, removal of poverty and making the country self-reliant have not been fulfilled in the budget. Wherever Multinational companies have gone, the people of that country have not been benefited. One cannot do social justice by putting burden on common man. How can poverty be removed through this method. What the government has given to the country in the name of economic reforms? Some important economists conducted a survey in this respect which prove that poverty has increased. In 1991, it was 30.4 per cent which has increased to 37.53 per cent. All India survey shows it increased upto 34 per cent in 1995. In the same manner, they have proposed food subsidy, it is 47 per cent of Gross Domestic Product which was .51 per cent in 1995. So how can the poverty be removed in this manner?

Another aspect is that of unemployment, which is linked with social justice. Multinational Companies are capital oriented and not labour oriented. Therefore, unemployment would increase in the country. As it is clear from the previous figures. There was an increase in employment of 4.5 lakh in 1989 and it was 1.58 lakh in 1992 and it would be negative in the private sector. S.A.P. cannot be employment friendly but market friendly and it will not be useful for providing employment to the people. Banks do not achieve target of providing employment from the money provided under Prime Minister Employment Scheme for providing employment and nothing has been contemplated to utilise money given by Khadi and Village Industry to the unemployed. No mention has been made in the budget that how employment would be provided. There is an economist Dr. David Carton who is a Professor of Business in Howard. He has written that fifty thousand big industries corporations run 25 per cent economy of the world whereas they provide .05 per cent employment. So how multinational companies would provide employment, this is the anxiety of the poor people. This budget gives free hand to the Multinational companies and it will result in more unemployment. Similarly expenditure in I.R.D.P. was .06 per cent of G.D.P. last year and in the existing proposal it is 0.5 per cent, here development of common man would take place. Expenditure on rural employment has also been reduced. It

was .49 per cent of G.D.P. which has now been reduced to 0.31 per cent. So rural unemployed should also not expect anything.

Secondly, 70 per cent people of our country depend on agriculture and 30 per cent of G.D.P. comes from agricultural sector. No measures have been taken for agricultural sector. The farmers have been demanding remunerative prices for a long time but it is observed that no measures have been taken to correlate the prices of foodgrains with price index. Agricultural sector is affected by natural calamity also. The Government have not announced any crop insurance scheme or announced any incentive. It is very sad that agricultural growth is also going down. It is down as compare to the neighbouring countries. Agricultural growth of Pakistan is 4.9 whereas ours is 2.9 and that Iran 4.7. No agricultural University has made any research, no new variety has been developed and emphasis is laid on pesticides. The pesticides which has not been utilised, is being spread. There is adulteration in it. Pesticides and fertilizers are very important for Agricultural sector. I feel that the hon'ble Finance Minister would do something. Though no provision has been made for this purpose. There is economic blockade in force in Agricultural sector. Foodgrains produced in our country... (Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, please give me some more time. I represent a State which contributes maximum 60 per cent foodgrains.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your party has been allotted 6 minutes. You can yourself see that how much time you have taken.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Please give me five minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude soon.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : I was telling that great loss is being incurred because of economic blockade in agricultural sector. You take the case of rice. The farmer got Rs. 228 per quintal for rice in Indian market in 1986 whereas the farmers got Rs. 327 per quintal in international market. There was total production of 62-64 million tone of rice according to which the Indian farmer suffered a loss of Rs. 6,187 crore. Something applies to wheat. The farmer get Rs. 174 per quintal for wheat in Indian market where as he got Rs. 261 per quintal in the international market according to which Indian farmers suffered a loss of Rs. 4,184 crore. Same is the case with cotton.

Our farmers are not benefited from the subsidy given on fertilizer by the Government on the other industrialists are benefited. The price of certain commodity is fixed keeping in view the subsidy given the Government as a result of which the farmer does not get any benefit. That is why Indian farmer always remains under debt and getting poorer day by day. In olden times cultivation was considered best profession and not it is worst. The main reasons for this situation is that we have adopted policy of liberalisation in other fields but we

have not provided matching facilities in respect of agriculture so that our vegetables and fruits could be exported, plants for food processing could be installed and the farmer may get remunerative prices for their produce. Hon'ble Finance Minister has not formulated any scheme for this purpose. I would submit that some method should be adopted in the budget proposals so that we may achieve maximum success in the agricultural sector.

Now I want to draw your attention towards a very important point towards which Finance Minister has also given indication. There are 1045 companies in our country which earn 70 per cent profit from exports. Their total profit comes to 14,040 crore rupees. The Finance Minister has proposed minimum alternative tax should be imposed on them. But one day I read a statement made by the Finance Minister that profit earning multinational companies will be given incentive but no incentive is proposed for poor professionals. I am unable to follow this. I want that tax should be imposed on them. The rate of corporate tax, which is to be imposed on them, can be reduced for 40 per cent to 20 per cent.

Similarly tax used to be imposed on ex-factory price of steel but now it is imposed on Yard. It has not made any difference in so far as price is concerned because it involves transportation price... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Then income tax is paid mostly by salaried class. I demand that the exemption limit of income tax should be increased.

The hosiery units of Ludhiana earn foreign exchange through exports but they face power shortage. They do not have infrastructure and they are not exempted from sales tax, I request the Finance Minister to allocate more funds for basic minimum services like the Primary Health Centres, Labour Welfare, Primary Education and safe drinking water. The government should provide funds for pending projects especially in irrigation sector.

There is Thein Dam in Punjab, initial cost of which was 85 crore but it has increased to 2650 crore rupees. The Central Government is not providing funds for this purpose. We face power shortages. There are 231 pending proposals. Not even 47 pending projects would be completed. These pending projects should be completed.

The Government should frame some policy in respect of sick units. The previous Congress Government sold our sugar mills to their kith and kin after declaring them sick. Therefore some policy should be drafted for sick units. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : Hon. Members, dinner is arranged for Members and friends from Press in

Room number 70, upto 10 o'clock. You can go and have the dinner and come back.

For the members of staff, the dinner is arranged in Room number 73 upto 10 o'clock.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, first of all I want to make a comment congratulating our hon. Finance Minister that maybe it is the first time that I have noticed a Budget that is so much debated and discussed throughout the country, not only in the columns of the newspapers but wherever we go, we hear about it. Some of the newspapers have gone from point of analysis to writing and making the editorials the poems. We know it is a difficult exercise. It is not a one-party Government. It is a coalition Government. I will make my point very short and very brief without quoting any figures. All the parties in the Government and also the parties participating from outside have their own manifestoes, have their own approach to problems, have their own directions, but when they come together to form a Government, to run a Government—we all know how this Government came into existence and I do not want to go into the history of that—there are constraints. I do not say it is a balancing act, it is an act of some sort of better understanding, more understanding, further understanding to see how the Government can function with the cooperation of everybody and at the same time respecting the various views. Some of the parties will have to say our minimum programme is not the programme of the Government. The common minimum accepted programme is the programme of the government.

20.00 hrs.

So, this Government is running within the parameters of Common Minimum Programme. Recently, I read one of the interviews of our hon. Finance Minister. He himself aired his views. I do not want to quote it verbatim. When somebody asked him, how it would have been if he was running a single party Government. He gave the answer. That in this Budget, he tried to combine social justice, he tried to combine Centre-State relations—an issue which was raising a controversy for the last so many years. I think it is a special debating point because we have to pay much heed to that. There are problems which now seem unsolvable. I do not want to go into that. The Common Minimum Programme—I do not want to read the whole thing as everybody has it—discusses Central-State relations, economic policies in relation to industry, corporate, small and cottage industries, agriculture, education and social benefits. These issues are being discussed. After carefully going through the Budget, I find that our hon. Finance Minister has not only understood the mind of the Prime Minister and the Government but also the mind of the ruling combination. He has digested the whole and has presented a good Budget. Probably, it might have been one of the most difficult exercises that he had to do in his life and he has done it well. It is not merely a matter of diplomacy. It is a statement of facts. A budget is not a statement of income and expenditure. For that, Finance

Minister is not necessary. Somebody else could do it. It must reflect the vision of the Government, it must have a directive and we must know where the nation is going. So, the budget have a philosophy. It is not a mere jumble of statistics and economics, what we call the economic jargon. Only that much I want to say about it because there is no time. So, it is a Budget with vision.

Some persons say, maybe with sarcasm and maybe some say it with real intention—with a very good intention, of course—that our Prime Minister is the son of the soil. Yes, he is the son the soil. I am a farmer myself. Somebody has said that this Budget has subjugated itself to the dictates of the IMF and the World Bank. But had the IMF or the World Bank or any other institution ever said, 'give subsidy'? Now, what subsidy every farmer of this country is getting? If my figure—which is computed by the World Bank—is not wrong, our agricultural income it must be 65 billion dollars. The man who goes to buy 100 kilograms of fertilizer knows what he has got out of the Budget. The man who sits in the university is an academician and he can just discuss about the statistics. Does he understand how it affects the son of the soil? So, it is a farmers' Budget and it is being felt in the villages irrespective of the parties. I want to say only that much about that.

Somebody told me that by the end of this century, 50 per cent of the world global illiteracy would be in India. When I went to Seoul to attend a Conference of the IPA meeting, I have heard Mr. Baker, the former Foreign Secretary of America saying that "Why should anybody pay for anybody? If you want education, you have your education. Who is bothered about it?" Of course, Mr. Baker did not say in that strain. Here Rs. 3,888 crore is now allotted for primary education and in one of the interviews, our Finance Minister said that "We will present the next Budget also" because somebody was sceptical when he asked him "Will you be presenting the next Budget?". The Finance Minister said "Yes. I will present the next Budget." The Finance Minister will not only be presenting the next Budget but he will be presenting the Budget for all the five years, if the Government is going to last.

I can, therefore, say that some stress is given for primary education. An amount is apportioned to the mid-day meals also. So, the figure reached by the World Bank or IMF or by anybody for that matter, that out of the world illiteracy, 50 per cent would be in India, is denied by this Budget. This Budget gives thrust to industrial, agricultural and social sectors and to health care and self-reliance. There was a time when Prime Minister dismissed Chief Ministers. Now there is a change. The Chief Ministers assemble together and they all decide who should be their Prime Minister. I do not say that it is federalism, as such. But there is a process of decentralisation. There is a process where decision is not imposed by some one and somebody is commanded to obey. That past has gone. Of course, it is an evolution. It will take its own time.

One hon. Member said this Budget is a part of globalisation scheme. Of course, globalisation is going on. I do not say anything about globalisation and all that. But I have got the latest report. This is the document of the World Bank, India Country Economic Memorandum. I do not know how much of it will be agreeable to the hon. Finance Minister. But anyway whatever apprehensions I have and what the Finance Minister said in the CMP, I will say in a few words. It is said in this—it is the latest which has come out—that the recent liberalisation of pharmaceuticals and in part, coal or steel reserve for the public sector are insurance and railways. This progress notwithstanding, the remaining licensing restrictions mainly to protect small scale industry including agro industry have considerable negative repercussions.

Here I want to cite the Common Minimum Programme:

"If this is what the World Bank's assessment is on small scale, big scale industries and all that, the balance among large, medium and small and cottage industries will be restored. Small and cottage industries have the potential of creating much job opportunities. They are also moral and elastic in responding."

This is how it is said.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Please give me two or three minutes more. I will not take much time. You know of it. I always keep my word though, sometimes, I forget the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You better mention only a few points.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : My memory is a little bit short. When it comes to CMP, I am bringing it to the notice of the Finance Minister this : "Are potato chips more important than the computer chips?" This is a study done by *"The Wall Street Journal"*. They say that one per cent of the cereals are made in India. McKinsey & Company have started one in Pune and they are exporting much of the mushrooms. It has been stated and I quote:

"Franklin Farms opted for a partnership with India's Weikfield Agro Products Limited."

They say that they are now exporting more mushroom to America. It has further been stated:

"Kito de Boer, a principal at McKinsey, turning a common argument in favour of high tech on its head, counters that "potato chips are more important than computer chips."

I do not think that potato chips will be ever more important than computer chips. It is totally a different thing. They

have talked about Brazil. I am concluding now. I do not want to quote the big people. But I only want to quote the Brazilian farmer. The recent publication has come out with the information. I do not want to give the details of the author etc. because it will take time. It is said:

"Free trade and a level playing field are illusions. If I told you the details of social and environmental policies in Brazil, I would make you weep. Suffice it to say that they consist mainly of bullets, bulldozers and boxes of matches. Farmers in the UK can never hope to compete with that and I don't advise them to try."

It is not only that. About the CTBT, this Government could stand so strong and firm. Everybody says that it is a fragile Government, a weak Government and a coalition Government which cannot take a decision before the mighty America and before the other mighty countries. But we stood up and said that we are not agreeable to what all they dictate. If we have the courage to say that in respect of CTBT, we have the courage to say many things also. Parallels need not be drawn to us by anybody. The CMP has seen to it. I just want to quote one thing which is:

"The parallel was borne out by the 1984-85 Ethiopian famine, which killed a million people, but did not interrupt the export of green beans to England, as well as by the civil war and famine in Somalia in 1992-93. Somalia is a clear marker of the new times. The first famine broadcast live on satellite TV, it was as well a tale of trade—the arms trade, the oil trade (four oil companies have leased drilling rights to two-thirds of Somali territory), and the sea-food trade. Even at the height of the UN-US joint pacification and relief operation, Operation Restore Hope, fleets of fishing trawlers (Taiwanese, Korean, Spanish, Greek and Italian) were working the undefended Somali fishing grounds, removing far more protein than was entering the country in aid".

This is now happening right throughout the coast of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : I will take one more minute and not much. I am concluding now.

The CMP very clearly says that we do not want to throw the poor together with the rich; the weak together with the strong, in one fantastic, chaotic, unregulated, planetary market place. There is one more thing.

Again it is said and I quote:

"It is a world in which capital is free to roam the planet in search of investment opportunities in which goods are free to travel in search of better markets and higher prices in which only labour is enjoined by law and fortified frontier, against easy mobility."

Ms. Carla Hills, President Bush's Chief Trade Negotiator said and I quote:

"We want to abolish the right of nations to impose health and safety standards more stringent than a minimal uniform world standard."

We do not want to accept it. And the CMP has definitely said, we will never accept it and we do not want anybody to determine policies for us, any country. We do not want our sovereignty to be questioned by any power, however, mighty they might be, and we do not want to be dictated in terms for what to do and what not to do. I think the CMP is very clear. Of course, there are some relaxations. It is necessary, but not to the detrimental of the existence of the nation. I am happy and I congratulate our hon. Finance Minister for giving attention to all these facts.

The last point, it is not a complaint but a feeling because you are very near to me and you can understand it better. I congratulate you because you have got a high opinion about Kerala. You have given some duty reductions. We bank much on rubber. Of course, it is elastic, but still it is rubber. The rubber industry will be destroyed. What is going to happen to the rubber industry now? I am talking for the Speaker also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am very elastic for you.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : I know that. But what about coconut? If we are going to import more vegetable oil from outside, the entire economy of Kerala will crumble. We are crumbling. That is our economy. Of course, we do make a few dollars because our people go out and make it.

With these words, I humbly request our Finance Minister to consider Kerala's economy also and see that some exemptions are given. As a newspaper man, you have levied five per cent tax on advertisement. It is on commercial operation. But commercial operation is necessary for newspaper industry's existence. A delegation have met you. I request you to do the needful. With these words, once again, I congratulate our Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram and also our Prime Minister and I support this Budget.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the budget presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister looks attractive in so far terminology and construction of sentences is concerned but you can see the reality after going through it.

He has made various promises with regard to eradication of poverty, slums, providing opportunities for employment or giving financial assistance to States, all these things look to be feasible but how will he fulfil them. This budget can be termed as eye wash, that is why some people might have appreciated it especially those, who are benefited but poor

and middle class people, unemployed or people living in slums will not appreciate it of course chamber of Industry has appreciated it because they have been given relief but others have not done so.

The hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that inflation would be brought down but Governor of Reserve Bank says that rate of inflation which is 6.5 per cent at present, can reach double digit in future. Some other persons have also expressed this fear. You will not be able to curb inflation with the help of this budget. You should pay more attention towards this aspect.

Your Government has repeatedly claimed that they give great importance to agriculture and in this regard, a mention about launching of various schemes for the benefit of farmers has been made. I have got a report with me which indicates that the funds allocated for rural development which was Rs. 6094.75 crore in 1995-96 has come down to Rs. 5394.18 crore. Similarly the budgetary allocation for agriculture and other connected works has also come down. The allocation in the field of education has also been reduced.

It has been stated that Report of Fifth Pay Commission is likely to be submitted soon and the employees will be benefited. I believe all the things said by the hon'ble Finance Minister and hope that the aforesaid Report will be submitted by the end of September and employees would be benefited

It has been indicated in the budget that total expenditure is two lakh one thousand crore which has now increased to two lakh four thousand crore. A mention has been made about financial assistance to the States but backward States where poor people live, have been neglected whereas they should be given more assistance. Take the example of Madhya Pradesh. There in same areas like Bastar and Jhabua population of tribals and SCs/STs is 33 per cent of the total population. There is no mention of any assistance to them.

It has been stated that funds are being provided for power projects. I do not want to go into jugglery of figures nor I want to waste time of the House by quoting figures. The gas pipeline which starts from Bombay High goes upto 500 Kilometers in Madhya Pradesh. In case you want to make a State prosperous it should be given more assistance and power projects should also be set up there. A gas plant was proposed to set up in Bhandar near Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh but no provision has been made in the budget.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister pleads for disinvestment and says that Public Sector Undertakings running at loss should be closed down. But Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Shri Dandvate says that Public Sector Undertakings have their own utility and stens should be taken to strengthen them. These are contradictory statements. I think steps should be taken to end this controversy.

There are several irrigation and power projects and some of them inter-State projects are lying pending for years for

want of Central assistance. They may concern Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan but there are many such projects. I had made submission earlier also that a project should be prepared to link Narvada Khipra from Chambal which will be very useful to irrigate plateau of Malwa and some areas of Central India but no attention is being paid towards that proposal and neither any funds are being made available. So much so that then assurance to the effect is not being given.

The Government talks of free trade. They are in favour of multinational companies, they want their investment but what multinational companies are doing? They are promoting consumerism here. They are manufacturing such items which common man is unable to purchase. They do not have resources to buy them. Such items are being marketed and people are being allowed by reducing taxes on them. The result is that our import is increasing and export is decreasing. The fact has been conceded in your economic survey. I am not saying it on my own. Foreign exchange reserve has also been reduced. It has been stated in the Economic Survey that foreign exchange reserve was nearly 20 billion dollar in 1995 which has been reduced to 17 billion dollar in 1996. Similarly export has also been reduced. It has been stated in Economic Survey, 1995-96 that progress of import and export remained slow in April-May 1996. It has further been stated therein that in the first quarter of 1996-97 inflow of foreign investments of foreign institutional investors remained affected by more than one billion dollar. It remained 17 billion dollar upto the end of March 1996 and it is expected that foreign exchange would be increased to 17.5 billion dollar by 1997. But it shows that foreign exchange reserve has also steadily come down.

Similarly in the field of agricultural production you have been claiming several achievements as a result of your economic policy and that you have captured good market as a result thereof and that you have maintained balance of trade but the fact remains that average increase in agricultural production was 4 per cent which has now been reduced to 0.9 per cent. The growth remained 4 per cent during 1992-94. I am quoting this from page 5 of the Economic Survey. The growth of Agricultural production has been reduced to 0.9 per cent and it has further been reduced. No doubt, you are giving importance to agricultural sector but I do not think that you will achieve the target of production with the money allocated for this purpose.

I would also like to point out that balance of payment position is also unstable. I am quoting from p 14 of Economic Survey. There was unprecedented increase in foreign exchange reserve in 1991 but it was reduced to 17.7 billion dollar in 12 July, 1996. I want the hon'ble Finance Minister to let us know the factual position. It has also been stated that Rs. 250 crore have been allocated for slum clearance. At present slum clusters are everywhere and with this provision of plan expenditure of Rs. 250 crores nothing would be achieved. Therefore this amount should be incurred. It has also been stated that assistance will be given to National Highway Authority to improve the condition of National Highways.

In fact there is need to improve road transport system. National Highway Authority will not be able to improve the National Highways.

Of late, Government have increased the prices of petroleum products. This increase amounted to Rs. 9,000 crores which was in respect of diesel, LPG, petrol etc. I want to ask the hon'ble Finance Minister as to how many thousand crores Government have with them out of the import pool. According to my information nearly Rs. 20,000 to 30,000 crore are lying in the Government exchequer. In case this amount was there, then what was the necessity of the Rs. 9,000 crores? Please clarify. In case my information is wrong, please tell me but according to my information, it is correct. You have not provided funds out of this pool to those companies, whether it is Hindustan Petroleum or Bharat Petroleum, had you given them assistance which produce petroleum products, we could import less oil. We are told that we want to produce maximum petroleum product and oil, then why it is not becoming a reality? Why are we logging behind in achieving the target of production of petroleum, gas and oil and what was the necessity of importing them from abroad after signing a treaty? When we have sufficient quantity of crude oil and we can increase it further? We have funds also but we utilize them elsewhere. I request the hon'ble Finance Minister to clarify this point.

Sir, while concluding I may submit that you have stated that provision is being made to fight cancer, leprosy, Malaria and Kalazar. I would request you to make available sufficient funds to provide these services relating to medical and health. As stated by Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta, sufficient funds should be provided for Ayurvedic, Unani systems of medicine and Nature cure also.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make my submission not only on behalf of my Party but also on behalf of all the smaller Parties—the one Member Parties and two Member Parties—whose Members are not present here. So, I hope that I would be given more time taking into account the time allotted to the smaller parties.

At the outset, I would like to say that this Finance Minister has achieved a unique position compared to many of his predecessors. He has already got the kudos and congratulations not only from one section but from all sections of this House. In all the Budgets presented before this House, I could see a clear distinction between the two sections: one section which stands for the reforms in the economy has been congratulating the former Minister of Finance and the other section has been opposing him but my dear friend, Shri Chidambaram, has the unique distinction of having compliments so far from both sections: those who are opposing the reforms as well as those who are supporting it. I am happy that those Parties which were opposing the Budget all the

time—like the Left Parties—have changed their attitude and are supporting the Budget proposals.

As my friend Shri Veerendra Kumar has mentioned, it is a combination of many of the views enshrined in the Common Minimum Programme, which has already been adopted by the Government. Our Minister of Finance is in a better position now. In 1991, the economy was in a crisis and the balance of payment was in a very difficult position and the foreign exchange reserves had dwindled. The initiation of the economic reforms by the previous Government has given the opportunity to the present Government to present the Budget in such a stable economic position. The continuity of the economic reforms is the best bet for this Government.

When the Budget was presented in 1990-91, the economy was under an unprecedented crisis; the Budget presented in the year 1992-93 initiated the process of liberalisation and tax reforms; the 1993-94 Budget gave a fresh impetus to the structural reforms programme and economic liberalisation; the 1994-95 Budget was formulated against the backdrop of a slippage in the fiscal deficit because not much of a target was achieved; the 1995-96 Budget was a further consolidation of the fiscal balance and tax reforms. This Budget is really something new, something very much commendable and forthwith I also pay my compliment to the hon. Minister of Finance.

The Budget makes an attempt to raise the revenue without putting any burden upon the poor and to allocate large resources for agriculture, irrigation, social sector and to provide funds for the basic minimal services. It tries to give some tax relief to the salaried sections and attempts to promote savings on investment. I am not elaborating everything due to paucity of time. I would like to bring one or two matters to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister. The Central plan outlay has been increased by 16.70 per cent. Sixty two per cent of the plan outlay will be financed by internal and extra budgetary resources. Thirty two per cent of the funds will be provided by the budgetary support. We have a history which will show that we could not achieve our target in the previous year. I would like to bring this matter to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister. In 1996-97, the internal and extra budgetary Finances is 62 per cent of the plan outlay. And the performance of the IEFR in the previous years also is not very much encouraging. While the IEFR has become crucial to achieve the plan outlay, the Budget has over estimated its contribution. So, I have my own doubt whether the Government will be able to achieve this 62 per cent as mentioned because in actual terms, comparing previous year it is only ten per cent of the previous years.

I hope the Finance Minister would have gone through these matters also. Infrastructure, of course, would strengthen the capital base in the national highways and in other sectors. This is really a matter where the Government deserves to be congratulated. The development of our national highway is not very encouraging. Recently, I had an occasion to

have a discussion with an official of the giant motor company in a foreign country. He asked, 'why are you just starting automobile companies when you do not have sufficient roads?'. It is really a shame if we compare the development of our national highways with that of the developed and the Western countries. Even after fifty years of our Independence, we could not develop in that way. This is really very much encouraging that the Government have taken this task of starting a Finance Corporation with an authorised capital of Rs. 5,000 crore. It is a welcome measure.

Coming to farming sector, it contributes thirty two per cent of the GDP. But unfortunately, various Budget provisions meant for the farming sector is only targeted for the rich farmers and not for the small and the marginal farmers. I hope the Finance Minister would explain in his reply as to how he would be able to help the small and marginal farmers by providing this fund. It is not providing anything to small and the marginal farmers.

Social sector is another area which I would like to discuss. The Budget provides enhanced outlay for Centrally-sponsored schemes and schemes in State plan have significantly increased the availability of the funds for minimum needs programmes. There is a massive step up of nearly forty per cent in the Central allocation. I may mention one or two points only. I am not giving any details.

The next item I would like to point out is non-plan expenditure. Interest payment, Defence expenditure and subsidies constitute seventy per cent of the total non-plan outlay. This is very much alarming. The share of Interest payment has increased from twenty per cent in 1980-81 to forty per cent in 1996-97.

The share of Defence has declined from 28 per cent to 19 per cent. Anyway, it is up to the Finance Minister to see whether he can just consider such a reduction in the allocation for Defence, taking into consideration the views of some of the neighbouring countries which are amassing their armies and armaments which may definitely target us. When we give more money to the social sector, it may be necessary. But again, I would request him to rethink about it.

Interest payments, which constitute 46 per cent of revenue receipts and 40 per cent of non-plan expenditure, can be reduced only if the Government can implement a programme of phased reduction in the total borrowings. This may also be given due consideration. Plan expenditure which constitutes 37 per cent of total expenditure has come down to 27 per cent while non-plan expenditure has gone up from 63 per cent in 1986-87 to 73 per cent in 1996-97. This is a matter of concern to all of us. I hope the Government will give due consideration.

With regard to MAT, I would like to just take one minute and say something. The Indian corporate sector has been given a large number of incentives and concessions since the inception of the structural reforms by the Government.

But now the industrial sector is growing at the rate of 12 per cent. This is the time when the corporate sector should come forward to help the Government. One study conducted by CMIE reveals the following and I may be allowed to quote it. It reveals that profit after tax (PAT) of corporate sector has registered an annual rate of increase of 34 per cent. While PAT increased by a sharp 66 per cent in 1993-94 and 57 per cent in 1994-95, the growth in corporate tax was not in commensurate with the growth in profits. In 1986-87 it was 39 per cent which figure followed in the next year also. But in 1991—93, that was reduced to 30 per cent and again in 1994-95, it was 16 per cent. So, when the corporate sector is assuming importance and always going up, the tax which should accrue to the State exchequer is coming down. Therefore, MAT is really a welcome measure and at the very same time, I would like to say this. I have just gone through some reports that have appeared in some financial newspapers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I will take only one minute. I am not quoting anything.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken two minutes like this.

SHRI E. AHAMED. Since the hon. Minister is giving some concession to the corporate sector, I would like to say this. If it is an industry which has gone to BIFR or an industry which is trying to have a revival scheme, of course, it may be given due consideration. But this is the only sector which will be able to support the Government. I do not want to take much time of this House. But I would like to say that the distribution of the sectoral allocation as per the exercise which I have made on my own, though it is subject to correction, is as follows. The agricultural allocation is lower than what it has been in 1994-95 or in 1995-96. In 1994-95, it was given 4.2 per cent; in 1995-96, it was 3.8 per cent and I find that in 1996-97, it is only 3.3 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you will have to conclude. I will call the next speaker now.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I am coming to a very important point. To the rural development sector, the allocation in 1994-95 and in 1995-96 was 8.3 per cent, but in 1996-97, it is 6.2 per cent. Again for science and technology, the allocation was 2.1 per cent both in 1994-95 and in 1995-96; but in 1996-97, it is 1.9 per cent only whereas the transport and other sectors have got much more than the others.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please give your last sentence now.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I will make only one point.

My friend from the DMK party has mentioned a very valid point here. That is with regard to reservation to the backward

classes which deserve a due representation in the Government.

I would say that the minority communities in this country have a right to be represented in the Government. Even under the Constitution, adequate representation should be given to all sections of the people. I do not say it on the basis of religion. But one set of the people, namely Muslims who happen to belong to a particular community in the religious terms, are backward and not represented adequately but abysmally represented. Is it not a duty of the Government to consider under the provisions of the Constitution to give them adequate representation? I say it not on the basis of religion but on the basis of backwardness of a section of the people. They should be given special consideration of reservation. I hope the Government will give due consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you, Mr. Ahamed. Now you conclude.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Our coconut may be saved. Our coconut shall not be affected by any of the scheme of things that the present Government has made.

With these few words, I once again congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for this workable and the best Budget.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to participate in the general discussion of the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister for the year 1996-97. The Budget proposals are a reflection of the Government policies of the present-day Government. The Common Minimum Programme has been enumerated and has been chalked out in a very nice manner. In the Chief Ministers' meeting, where the Chief Ministers irrespective of their parties had participated, have drawn up this Common Minimum Programme. Naturally, it will be the responsibility of all the Chief Ministers of respective States to implement this Programme.

The hundred per cent coverage of the provision of safe drinking water, coverage of primary health centres, universal primary education, public housing, assistance to all shelterless poor families, extension of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, road connectivity to all villages and habitations, streamlining the public distribution system to targeted families below the poverty line, all these are in line with the previous Congress Government's policies and programmes. That is why I have no hesitation to support these policies.

I am not sure whether he will be able to achieve the results he wants to with the budgetary allocation made here. At the same time, I fully appreciate that the Budget proposals are not the wonderful magic lamp of Aladin. Whatever the kitty permits, the job of the Finance Minister is to allocate it according to the priority. In our country, wherever you go, everywhere the priorities are there. But within his wisdom, he has tried to do something.

Many speakers, irrespective of their party affiliations, are stating that there should not be any multinational company in the agro-industries. It should be reserved only for the indigenous industry. What I feel is that with the passage of time, with these policies and programmes, if there is an accelerated agricultural production, if there is high rate of agricultural production, you need marketing. And for marketing purposes, until and unless you are competitive and qualitative, you will not get the market. But by GATT agreement, you can have 124 countries as your market.

But if you want to sell these agricultural products in the international market, you must have quality, good will and competitiveness. Until and unless you have these things, you will not get the market. I would like to cite one example. Mohan Meakins is producing what we know as cornflakes and in India, it is supposed to be good but those who are using Kellogs product will not buy it from Mohan Meakins. If it is so, then you have to see from where the buyers are interested to buy. Until and unless you go through this market study, you cannot sell your products. Simply on an emotional basis, if you think that these areas should be untouched and should remain only for the Indian indigenous industry, it will not hold good. You have to see whether they can really explore the market and can really produce quality items or not. Otherwise, we will be in half way, *i.e.*, we will neither be in the line of the liberalisation programme nor will we be in the conservativeness of our policy. That is why, I think these areas should be looked into.

Again, the policies and programmes during the last five years which have resulted in high growth even in the GDP and also in other industrial production, satisfactory nature of foreign exchange reserves, etc. have assisted the Finance Minister to present this Budget. That is how he could provide this Budget in such a smooth manner.

I would like to state only one thing which is not in the Budget. Perhaps, you thought that all business people and tax evaders in India have become *sadhus* or Brahmaputra Yudhisthir. You have not issued any kind of warning to the hoarders, blackmarketeers and people who are tax evaders. I think time has come when you have to give certain relaxations and benefits also but simultaneously go through this matter and issue stern warnings to all the concerned people so that they will think that Government will not sit idle if they are not dutiful to the Government programmes and policies.

At the same time, I would like to say a few things about the Union Territories. Sir, yourself and myself come from Union Territory. I am happy that, at least, for the first time the Finance Minister has mentioned regarding Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, the two distant, isolated, backward and remote Union Territories. He has also assured for the constitution of Island Development Authority. I do not know when will it come into operation. He has also mentioned a very important thing. He is going to have separate norms for Island Territories where everything cannot be got like others

parts of the country. I think this is a very laudable announcement that he has made. I would like to congratulate him. I would also like to say that he should not sway it by official dictation. He should himself try to understand the difficulties. I would like to cite one example as to why I am saying this. Regarding development schemes, the Planning Commission discusses with all the technical departments. They agree to them. Then the Planning Commission agrees and finance is allocated. Thereafter, once it is allocated in the Annual Plan, posts are to be created. Now these powers have been withdrawn. Earlier, this power was with the Administrator but now this has been withdrawn.

They have to send the proposals to the concerned Ministries and the Ministries, in turn, would keep them pending for a long time, for one year or, maybe, for two years. By the time the sanction comes, we are not in a position to spend the entire Plan money allocated to us and we are also not in a position to do real justice to the developmental activities in the remote and far-flung areas of the Island territory. The Government has authorised the Union Territory of Pondicherry and delegated powers to them to create Plan posts. When you delegated powers to them, why can you not delegate this authority to the Administrations of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep? This is a very essential requirement for the implementation of our Plan projects.

Sir, I am really happy to note that the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort has announced the creation of the State of Uttarakhand. While declaring this, I think, he also had in his mind the idea of providing an Assembly with Council of Ministers for the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. It is because the people of these Islands have also been asking for this. They say that as citizens of this country they also have the same right as others as has been guaranteed under the Constitution of India. Why should we be treated as second class citizens of this country? Why should there be only one-man to deal with the Administration? Is that our fate? Are the hopes and aspirations of the people of this Island territory to be looked after by this one-man? Can we not decide for ourselves? Why should all our decisions be taken by an appointee of the Government who goes from here to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and to the Lakshadweep? They would only decide our fate and we have no say in that. Under such humiliating conditions only, we have time and again been pressing for an Assembly with council of Ministers but nothing has been done so far.

Sir, I would like to mention one thing here. A message has gone across the country and the message is that only if some agitation takes place and properties are destroyed and damaged, then only the Government comes forward for a discussion with the agitationists and the modalities of settlement are discussed. We are peace-loving people. All the time we come with requests and representations but we are not heard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhakta, I have an unpleasant duty to perform and that is to remind you about the time.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, you yourself know very well that this Parliament is my Assembly as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhakta, that is right. But let me be impartial also.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, you kindly allow me some more time.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly consider this aspect. It is because we could not function under an one-man administration any more.

Shipping is the lifeline of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Without shipping we cannot do anything. Allocation for shipping in this year's Budget has been reduced. The allocation in respect of agriculture and allied activities has also been reduced in this year's Budget. There has been a reduced allocation in the rural development sector also. Apparently, of course, it would show an increased allocation. It is because the Panchayati Raj Institutions have come into being and the grants allocated to these institutions have got added up in the rural development sector. The allocation in respect of transport, which is again shipping, has also been reduced. In respect of housing, there has been a marginal increase. But considering the remoteness of the area, some more considerations should have been shown.

Sir, 86 per cent of our land area is covered by forests. This is one exemplary place where you could find more forests. So, when we are providing this, we need some more funds for the forest sector but this has not been provided for in the Budget. I have only enumerated some of our requirements and would, therefore, like to submit that additional funds to the tune of Rs. 60 crore would be required during the year 1996-97.

21.00 hrs.

The break-up is as follows: Agriculture, Rs. 7 crore, Rural Development, Rs. 15 crore, Transport, Rs. 20 crore, Housing, Rs. 5 crore, Ports, Rs. 3 crore, Education, Rs. 5 crore and Energy, Rs. 5 crore. There is another point. This year you have given us Rs. 215 crore. Though you have made a marginal increase in the non-plan expenditure but the total allocation is of the order of Rs. 215 crore. It is same as that of the last year. If you take inflation into account, we are supposed to get about Rs. 40 crore more. I do not want to take much of your time. I would like to say that the Union Territories are the babies of the Central Government; so you have to take care of us. You have to look after us. Until and unless the Central Government is sympathetic towards us we cannot develop. All our development work will stop.

Another point that I would like to mention is, the Government has decided to stop collection of sand and stone

in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They are asking us to collect it from the mainland, like Madras, Visakhapatnam or Calcutta. This means that a truck load of sand will cost us Rs. 20,000. That being the position, how can the Andaman and Nicobar Islands develop? This is the kind of unimaginable condition that has been created by this step of the Government. I do not know what to do. The Finance Minister should help us in this regard.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Who has done it?

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I think, the Ministry of Environment and Forest is involved in it. I think, we are the only people who are to be thrown in the sea!

There are some very very small industries in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands but unless and until you grant the transport subsidy, which was there earlier, they will not be able to flourish. This subsidy will help us in the upkeep of this industry. When no big industry is there, whatever small industries are there they should remain viable. This is my request to you.

You have created a Finance Commission for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. That Commission is sitting at Delhi. They are calling the officers from the Island to depose before them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is this Commission only for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I do not know whether Lakshadweep is connected or not. I would suggest, if three Members are there in that Commission, we should make it a one Member Commission so that he can sit there and do the work. Why so much of money should be spent on the transport charges of the officers who are asked to come to Delhi to depose before the Commission? This has to be looked into.

Since the Chair has already warned me, I do not want to embarrass him any more. I would like to thank him for giving me the time. I request the hon. Finance Minister to give a sympathetic view to my request.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to know the sense of the House. I think we should adjourn now and the Minister can give reply tomorrow. The list of speakers that I have before me, if we call everybody, it may take very long.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): When will the Finance Minister give the reply?

MR. CHAIRMAN: As soon as the Members finish their speeches, he will give reply.

21.04 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: SURRENDER OF MEMBER
IN THE COURT

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that the following fax message dated 29th August, 1996, has been received today from the Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration) Patna, Bihar:

"I have the honour to inform you that Mohammad Shahabuddin, Member of Lok Sabha, had surrendered in the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Siwan, Bihar, today

i.e., the 29th August, 1996 in (1) case crime No. 32/96, Police Station Ander; (2) case crime No. 99/96, Police Station Hussain Ganj; (3) case crime No. 7/95, Police Station Pachrukhi and (4) case crime No. 8/95, Police Station Pachrukhi. He is presently lodged in the Divisional Jail."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

21.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on
Friday, August 30, 1996/Bhadra 8, 1918 (Saka)*

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