

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Third Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)**



(Vol. VII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 30, 1985/Sravana 8,
1907 (SAKA)

Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Joint venture proposal by Pepsi Cola
International and Agro Products
Exports India Ltd.

+

*101. SHRI V. SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO :
DR. G. S. RAJHANS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pepsi Cola International a
division of Pepsi Co., Inc. of USA, has
submitted a joint venture proposal associat-
ing itself with the Agro Products Exports
India Ltd. (APEI) of the Duncan Group for
clearance;

(b) if so, the lines of activity indicated
by the joint venture; and

(c) when the decision will be taken in
the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS
AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI
VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c). M/s.
Agro Products Exports India Private Limited
had submitted a proposal for approval to
the manufacture of fruit juice and processed
agro-based products in financial and technical
collaboration with M/s. Pepsi Co. Incorpora-

ted of USA on the basis of 100 per cent export.
This proposal has, however, been rejected as
this involved import of Pepsi concentrate and
supply of the same to beverage manufacturers
for sale under the Pepsi trade mark, both of
which are not in line with our policies in
this regard.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO : Sir, it is good that the Government has
rejected this proposal. At the same time I
would like to bring to the notice of the Hon.
Minister that because of uneconomic cultiva-
tion several lakhs of acres of land are now
converted into mango plantation in the
country, particularly in the State of Andhra
Pradesh. Therefore, the possibility of produc-
tion of fruit juices and processed agro-based
products has increased manifold. Our
country can export a lot and earn the valuable
foreign exchange. So, Government should
make all efforts to catch the foreign markets
especially the Gulf market. I would like to
know what steps have been taken in this
regard ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : A large
quantity of fruit and vegetable products are
being exported to Middle East and other
countries. Mango is the major item with an
export quantum of 10,000 tonnes. Our main
market is Middle East. We are also export-
ing some quantity to U.K., West Europe and
Far East also.

Similarly with regard to vegetables also
we are exporting 40,000 tonnes valued at
Rs. 34 crores. We are exporting vegetables
to Middle East and other countries and our
export is growing. So far as mango juice is
concerned its export is also growing. What-
ever fruits and vegetables are being grown
here they are being exported and the export
is on the high side and it is increasing every
year.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO : From the Government side what
steps have been taken to encourage these
exports ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Government is encouraging the export, that is why export is taking place and a lot of foreign exchange is being earned. If the Hon. Members have got any suggestions to make they can make and Government will certainly consider them.

MR. SPEAKER : Not only in mango but huge plantations of citrus fruit are coming up in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. They need a lot of encouragement and specific procedures for bottling, canning and concentrating them. I think in that respect you have to take serious note of the situation otherwise you are going to face a problem of surplus.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, I entirely agree that fruit, fruit juices and also vegetables are being grown in large quantities and they have to be exported not only in the interest of growers but also in the interest of the nation because we will be earning a lot of foreign exchange. The Ministry of Agriculture is concerned with that. Certainly I will pass on this information to the Ministry of Agriculture and I will impress upon them that these agro-based industries will be encouraged and a lot of export will have to be encouraged.

MR. SPEAKER : Not only you will have to impress upon them but you will have to see that their needs are met.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I will have a discussion on this with the Ministry of Agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER : Call me also in the discussion.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Sir, in the Festival of India which is now held in Paris, there is a great demand for tender coconut water. I would request the Hon. Minister kindly to take this aspect also into consideration for export to foreign countries.

MR. SPEAKER : We can definitely consider anything which is exportable.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister if there is any specific proposal of setting up a fruit-based particularly mango-based industry in North Bihar, particularly in Mithila region.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : If a proposal comes, certainly we will consider, whether it is in Bihar or in any part of the country. It is for the entrepreneur to come forward with a specific proposal utilising whatever material is available in that part. If it is for export purposes, he can come with a more concrete proposal so that we can take action on that.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take initiative on those proposals.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : In the North-Eastern States, seven of them, the local people happen to be mostly tribal people and they are unable to mobilise necessary capital and also knowhow. Therefore, would the Government consider helping them in co-operation with the State Government by raising the necessary manufacturing units there in order to make use of their fruit surplus so that they can increase their income ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : So far as the fruit processing and fruit canning industries are concerned, it is not necessary that they should come in public sector or the State sector. It is the local entrepreneur who has to invest the money and develop the industry.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : But they are tribal people and they have no money and capital to invest in this.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : If the local entrepreneurs take the initiative we can consider helping them.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : It is for the local Government and the Central Government who should take initiative and help them.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Every State has got an organisation which is under the State Industrial Development Corporation for encouraging such units.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : You should take the initiative and also encourage them and help them wherever technology is necessary.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister

whether efforts have been made to export potato on the lines of export of vegetables and fruits and if so, what are the details thereof ?

MR. SPEAKER : No, not yet. It is not like hitting sixers. It needs consideration.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : While supporting your question, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to set up fruit and vegetable processing industries in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in view of the large scale production of fruits and vegetables there ; and if so, the names of the persons who have submitted proposals in this regard ?

MR. SPEAKER : The programmes should be export-oriented.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : It is for the people of the concerned State to think where fruit canning and agro industries can be set up. On our part, we shall consider the proposals whenever they are submitted to us. It is for the Agriculture Ministry to see how this industry can be developed and so far as the question of giving incentives for export is concerned, it is for the Commerce Ministry to see. However, as a matter of principle we shall endeavour to export as much as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : Even the export oriented technology, if needed, may be utilised.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : We should do so if needed.

[English]

Restructuring of Maruti Udyog Limited

*102. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to restructure the Maruti Udyog Limited, its capital holdings and convert the Company into a board-managed one; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b) . Maruti Udyog Limited have submitted a proposal to reduce the Government's equity to 40 per cent. As this involves basic policy issues, the proposal is being looked into.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Maruti Udyog Ltd., which is a Public Sector Undertaking, Government's equity is 74 per cent whereas that of Japan is 26 per cent.

I want to know from the Hon. Minister under what circumstances the Maruti Udyog Ltd. which was in the private sector in 1983 was brought under the public sector and what are the compelling circumstances now for bringing it in the joint sector ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Ask something new.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : We want to know the circumstances under which this proposal for joint sector has come ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, Maruti Ltd. was nationalised in 1980 and now Government's equity in it is 74 per cent and that of the foreign collaborator 26 per cent. As per the agreement, they can have 40 per cent equity if they so decide. The company has now suggested that the Government's equity in it should be reduced to 40 per cent. The management is of the view that it cannot enjoy the advantages of a commercial private company if it continued to be a Government company. Automobile Industry has become very competitive, especially after liberalization of restrictions. Maruti Udyog has to follow the guidelines laid down by Bureau of Public Enterprises and as such it has many restrictions on it. It has to submit a proposal to the Government and seek approval even for making payment of wages or for undertaking some new work. Private Automobile Industry has 5 per cent management quota and the management of Maruti Udyog also wanted to manage the 5 per cent quota, but the Supreme Court has given stay in

this matter. The Supreme Court is of the view that since Government have 76 per cent equity share in it, it is not a private company, it is a Government company. Therefore, the management is of the view that if they reduce the equity share of the Government, this company can also enjoy the advantages. Government do not want to allot the equity shares so reduced to others. Instead, they want to give these shares to the financial institutions so that they may have their control on it. The management of the company has submitted this proposal to us to by-pass the legal restrictions. But the Government cannot consider it in isolation, because it is a nationalised industry and it is a general policy matter. That is why I have said that we have not taken any decision in this regard.

[English]

This is not a matter which can be considered in isolation because it involves a larger policy questions. Government has not taken any decision.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : What was the share capital of Maruti Udyog when it was nationalised and what is its capital now and how much profit has it earned ?

[English]

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I have the figures about the capital expenditure. The total project investment as planned was as under :

1982-83	Rs. 32.719 crores
1983-84	Rs. 71.836 „
1984-85	Rs. 50.919 „
1985-86	Rs. 59.56 „

The total investment is going to be Rs. 268.835 crores by the end of 1987-88.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : The Hon. Minister has said that the proposal has been received from the Company for reducing the equity shares of the Government. They have also suggested that the share of the Japanese Government should be raised to 40 per cent. The reason adduced, as I understood it, is that it will

provide for operational flexibilities in this matter, to be able to compete with the private companies which are manufacturing automobile units. May I know Sir, whether this proposal by the Maruti Management was made under pressure from the Japanese, who have said that if the changes are not brought about and their share of equity is not raised, then there would be delay in the transfer of technology and that the indigenisation programme would also be delayed and also there would be delay in the expansion project for raising the capacity from 50,000 to one lakh cars ? This is what the Japanese told the Maruti Udyog and therefore due to pressure from them; they made this proposal. Is that so ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : It is not correct to say that the Company has made this proposal under the pressure of the collaborators. So far as the equity of the collaborators is concerned, it is already agreed in the beginning that they can go upto 40 per cent within a period of five years and they have to take a decision whether they will be satisfied with the existing 26 per cent. If they want to go, they can go upto 40 per cent. They cannot go beyond 40 per cent. I can make it categorically clear that it is not at all under the pressure of the collaborators.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : You have said that it involves policy matter. How long are you going to take to decide this matter regarding reducing the share of the Government's equity ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I made it very clear that this is only a proposal. Government has not taken any decision.

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. It has been explained.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : In today's *Indian Express*, it has been stated that "Maruti takes them for a ride". Under this heading, there is a news item, in which it has been stated that the state-owned Maruti Udyog collected about Rs. 9 crores from thousands of aspirants for Maruti deluxe cars. But so far they have not delivered the cars. From March onwards, the deposits are with the Maruti Udyog Limited. No interest has been paid to those who have deposited, nor was delivery of the

cars made to them. I think there is mismanagement in Maruti Udyog Limited. That is why the delivery is not being done properly. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether such deluxe cars or ordinary cars would be delivered to the aspirants who have already deposited their money with the Maruti Udyog Limited ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Recently, there has been some difficulty in the production and delivery of cars. But so far as the programme of producing deluxe cars is concerned, I must compliment the Company because they have already exceeded the target. In the year 1984-85, the target was 4,000 deluxe cars out of 20,000 vehicles. Against a target of 4,000, they have produced about 5,400 cars. In 1985-86, that is the current year, the target is 6,000 and they expect that the production may go upto 9,000. Recently, there has been difficulty because they are not getting air-conditioners. There is only one supplier who is manufacturing these air-conditioners, and for manufacturing car air-conditioners, he has to import parts like compressors and other components from other countries. The parts are coming and they are lying at Bombay, but because of some transport bottlenecks, they are not coming upto Faridabad, where they have got their unit. Therefore, there has been some delay in getting these air-conditioners. We are sorting it out and we will see that so far as the Deluxe Cars are concerned, against all those bookings, delivery is made as early as possible.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I do not follow the logic of the Hon. Minister in off-loading the shares for the Maruti. He says that these shares are supposed to be transferred not to the individuals but to the financial institutions, just to see that this is not a Government company. But I would like to point out that even if the shares are transferred to the public financial institutions, it will remain a Government company. In view of this, and in view of the fact that Maruti Company is making profits and that Cars are selling at a profit—and with a high premium—would the Minister consider outright rejecting this proposal ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is under consideration. They have done nothing.

Vibration Tests Conducted by ONGC in and Around Calcutta

*104. **SHRI R. P. DAS :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any vibration test has been conducted by the ONGC in and around Calcutta;

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

(c) the names of those areas where such test has already been conducted and names of those areas where such test is to be conducted;

(d) whether Government have received any report of such test; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The surveys have commenced since 1982-83 and the party has acquired 933 SLK of data till June, 1985.

(c) The surveys have already been conducted in Bandel, Lakshmi-Kantapur, Calcutta and Ghatakpukur. The surveys are likely to be conducted in Chinsura, Pandua and Kalna.

(d) and (e). The results of these surveys are to be evaluated by ONGC only, which they are doing.

SHRI R. P. DAS : The reply of the Minister is very short and brief, and I am not at all satisfied with the reply.

> In view of the fact that Bangladesh has already struck oil in the Gangetic valley a few years back, and that Bangladesh is trying to sell the commodity to India also, and since Calcutta, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly and other parts of West Bengal are on the same sub-Himalayan structure as that of Bangladesh, there is every possibility that there is oil in this part of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Everyone wishes that.

SHRI R. P. DAS : I mean hydrocarbon, gas etc. In this context, I would

like to know from the Minister whether ONGC along with some other foreign parties, or separately, has conducted drilling operations in these areas, viz. Calcutta or around Calcutta or other parts of the 24-parganas, Nadia and Hooghly; whether foreign parties participated in the exploratory operations and whether Government have received reports from these foreign parties so far; or whether Government is at all aware of the results of these operations. If so, some salient features of these results that the Government might have received in the matter, may be given.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is true that this area is contiguous to the Bangladesh area. It is also true that we expect the presence of hydro-carbon in this area also. But it has yet to be established. We are doing this. For this purpose, an exploratory well has been drilled, but the commercial viability is yet to be proved.

The Hon. Member has put a question with regard to Calcutta and adjoining areas. He now wants to cover a wide range which includes the whole of the Bengal basin.

SHRI R. P. DAS : I asked about the Gangetic basin.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Since the question has not been put with regard to the Bengal basin, I would not be able to say much. But so far as area in and around Calcutta are concerned, a survey has been done, and a vibration survey test is being done in Calcutta. A well has already been drilled in this area, but it is an exploratory well. So far as collaboration with foreign parties is concerned, we are having collaboration with the Soviet in this area, and we expect the results to come in.

MR. SPEAKER : At least you can agree with him that we also wish oil to them.

SHRI R. P. DAS : The Soviet party had their drilling operation, I think, two years back. In the meantime, government might have received results from the party, but the Hon. Minister has not divulged those results here. Are the government planning any joint venture approach with the world's largest drilling contractor in the exploration of oil in the east coast, and whether any such joint venture has been planned for West

Bengal and for off-shore operation in the Bay of Bengal in the 7th Plan ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Noted, Sir.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : There is an oil exploration programme. Sometimes the conflicting views by the experts of the ONGC appear and that create confusion. During the Fifth Lok Sabha, from that part of the bench, the late Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu had raised a question on the exploration of oil in Gadra, etc. The government used to answer regularly nothing is there, nothing is there. Very recently, another group found a well of the gas there. It has been reported. Is it a fact that Soviet experts having conflicting views with the ONGC experts and that they made it abundantly clear to your Department that there is huge storage and deposit of gas not only in Calcutta but also in the adjoining areas, but the ONGC people and their experts are not admitting that fact and delaying the progress of the exploration ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The remarks of the Hon. Member are general in nature. It is not true that the ONGC people do not agree with the views of the Soviet people. (*Interruptions*) In fact, whatever data is available, that data is processed and after due processing, exploratory drilling takes place; and after exploratory drilling takes place, we have to have a developmental drilling, and after developmental drilling, if the presence of the oil is proved then and then only we go in for commercial drilling. In view of this, there is no conflict. The Soviet are aiding and helping us in analysing the data and we are at it.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Many a time this question has been raised on the Floor of this House. Is the Minister aware that during 1970 one Soviet ship had done seismic survey of all the old geological formation of our country, and they have delineated the zone of hydro carbon ? After that, the Carnivell Shelve Co. Ltd. had done production-cum-exploratory drilling in the off-shore area of 4000 sq. metres in the Bay of Bengal, nearly 36 kms from Paradip, and they had given detailed remarks that this type of ships are available in the country now; it is there in their comments; and they are not amenable to sustain more than 300

pounds of pressure. Has the Ministry taken cognizance of this fact and consulted the NSRA to again delineate the zone of formation with the collaboration of the Soviet experts by which we are now producing Bombay High oil, and at the same time, will the Minister collaborate with NSRA, ONGC and Soviet experts in the matter to know this know-how, and through this know-how the country will know whether both on-shore and off-shore Bay of Bengal will be exploited ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The question put by the Hon. Member is not covered by this Question. However, to the best of my information, it is true that M/s. Carlsburg Ltd., did do some survey and on the basis of that survey report the ONGC is likely to drill some wells.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banwari Lal Bairwa.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How has this question become a starred question ? It should have been an unstarred question.

MR. SPEAKER : When there is no other priority, we have to do something.

Petrol Pumps/Diesel Pumps on National Highways

*105. **SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps/diesel pumps on the national highways which are passing through Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of petrol pumps/diesel pumps on these national highways in Seventh Five Year Plan, particularly in Tonk district of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the criteria of setting up new petrol pumps/diesel pumps and criteria of their allotment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Presently 155 retail outlets are in operation on National Highways passing through Rajasthan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Oil Industry develops retail outlets for petrol and diesel based on the demand potential in the area and economic viability, taking into account data relating to volumes and distances.

The criteria of allotment of dealerships are the eligibility and suitability of the candidates which are assessed through the procedure of advertisement and of selection by the Oil Selection Boards.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Hon. Speaker, Sir through you, I want to know how many of these 155 retail outlets have been allotted to Harijans and Adivasis. Secondly, the main occupation in Rajasthan is Agriculture. The length of roads in the state being comparatively more, these 155 retail outlets appear to be less. As per the existing rules, a dealership is given there at a distance of every 12 kilometres. In view of the length of the roads and the difficult terrain there, is there any proposal to reduce this distance of 12 kilometres ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy has rightly said that it should have been an unstarred question.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Sir, so far as the number of retail outlets given to Harijans and Adivasis out of these 155 retail outlets is concerned, I do not have this figure with me at the moment. However, I shall send it to the Hon. Member. The reservation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is 25 per cent and, I think, this reservation must have been followed strictly. So far as the question of long roads in Rajasthan is concerned, the criterion has been changed in principle from 15 kilometres to 12 kilometres, but this criterion cannot be taken as a hard and fast rule and followed strictly. It is economically viable and there is demand in the area, allotment of dealership of petrol or diesel pumps cannot be denied on the basis of this criterion of distance. But, it depends on demand and economic viability and it is on this ground that 29 such retail outlets are proposed to be opened on national highways in Rajasthan.

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Sir, it was announced in the last Lok Sabha that

one fourth of the diesel and petrol pumps would be allotted to Adivasis. Besides, it was also said...

MR. SPEAKER : The position as existed in the last Lok Sabha continues to be there even now.

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Besides, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was also made clear that since Harijans and Adivasis are poor, they find it difficult to accept the dealership of these diesel and petrol pumps and it is because of this that the then Petroleum Minister had made a provision that they would be given cent per cent loan for this purpose. Therefore, I want to know from the Hon. Minister the number of petrol and diesel pumps proposed to be allotted to Adivasis and Harijans under that scheme on cent per cent loan basis, as also the number of such pumps given so far ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The scheme is for giving 25 per cent, but there was a general complaint that Harijans and Adivasis did not have sufficient money and hence *benami* transactions took place. With a view to removing this complaint, it was decided that at least 75 per cent, if not cent per cent, loan would be arranged for them from the banks and I hope the banks provide them the required assistance wherever such applications are received in the banks.

[English]

Questionnaire on Poll Reforms

+

*106. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA
MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sent a questionnaire on poll reforms to the leaders of the political parties in the country; and

(b) if so, the names of such political parties and their reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) and (b). Government has not sent any questionnaire to political parties. It may, however, be mentioned that the Election Commission has by its letter dated the 18th June, 1985 sought

the view of all recognised National parties and recognised State parties on the recommendations made by the Commission in its Second Annual Report presented to Parliament in May, 1985, particularly on the recommendations as to elimination of non-serious candidates, bar on contesting elections from more than two constituencies, disqualification of persons with criminal record, punitive measures to check disturbances at election meetings, fraudulent filing of nomination papers and booth-capturing.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : I asked the question and the Hon. Minister has simply reproduced the recommendations of the Election Commission. Any way, he has replied to my question (a) but he has not replied to question (b). If he replies to that, then I will put my supplementary.

SHRI A. K. SEN : I said all recognised national parties and recognised State parties. If the Hon. Member wants a list of that, well that will be given.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : What is the reaction of those parties ?

SHRI A.K. SEN : They have not communicated the reaction to the Election Commission yet. I think, the Hon. Member's party has yet to do that... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You ask a question.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : We know that some political parties have already made their comments on the report.

SHRI A. K. SEN : If they have, Election Commission has not yet sent them to us.

MR. SPEAKER : That is understood. It is the Election Commission which has to send the query and the answer will go to the Election Commission. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : It is a fact that barring a few constituencies in a few States, in all other constituencies whether it may be Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha, in the elections money power, muscle power and booth capturing play a vital role... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : They are very allergic to it, but they must know it.

But here in the report there is nothing mentioned.

MR. SPEAKER : Can you put a question ?

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : I am doing that.

MR. SPEAKER : You are not doing that.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Different political parties made their comments like 20 per cent of the valid votes otherwise deposit money will be forfeited, name of the political parties in ballot papers, photo of the candidates, etc. But these are not the main things. The political parties mainly from the opposition are pressing .. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Where is the question ?

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : What is the reaction of the Government to the proportional representation by means of 50 per cent seats directly and 20 per cent through Party List system ? Election expenditure must be borne by the Election Commission regarding posters, leaflets and public meetings .. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : One question at a time please.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : This is part (a) and (b), Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : No question of a and b, only one question at a time.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : The question is what is the reaction of the Government on the questionnaire.

SHRI A. K. SEN : Let us take the question about the so called use of muscle power, booth capturing and so on. The Hon. Member knows it better possibly because we are not party to such practices... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody has his own view point.

SHRI A. K. SEN : But nevertheless, the Election Commission has recommended the insertion of a new section, section 135A for the purpose of combating this so called evil

about which the Hon. Member is so fully cognizant.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : This is a very lengthy Report and in that Report the Election Commission have said that there are some cases where the party in power has violated all the election rules by using money power and muscle power. So, may I know from the Hon. Minister what is his reaction on the question of :

- (a) Using of Railway Protection Force during the Lok Sabha election—I think it is not the question of the State Governments, it is the question of the Central Government; and
- (b) Issue of two certificates to two contesting candidates of Islampur Assembly constituency of Bihar by the same Returning Officer, and the action taken against that Returning Officer ?... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : You read the main question and put a relevant question.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : It is not irrelevant, Sir. It is part and parcel of the main Report... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : The only question before me is : "Whether Government have sent a questionnaire on poll reforms to the leaders of the political parties in the country; and if so, the names of such political parties and their reaction thereto".

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : This is connected with the main Report of the Election Commission, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You put another question. Mr. Pradhan, I have got no objection, but you have to be relevant to the question. I am not going to debar you. You put another question, I will admit it. But this question you must put according to the main question .. (Interruptions).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : In addition to money power and muscle power, he was referring to magisterial power.

MR. SPEAKER : Not the supernatural power.

SHRI A. K. SEN : Because the Hon. Member is so overwhelmed with his experience about his own State where the ruling party happens to be a different party, he should put a specific question about that State, and about Bihar also a specific question should be put. About Islampur I have answered earlier.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, in view of the fact that this questionnaire was sent by the Election Commission to all recognised parties, and in view of the fact that the ruling party's head is also in the House in the shape of the Prime Minister, may I know what was the reaction of the ruling party towards this disqualification of persons with criminal record and booth capturing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ) : I am proud to say that we had suggested this disqualification ourselves ...*(Interruptions)*. I made this suggestion to the Election Commission.

[*Translation*]

**Recommendations of Sivaraman
Committee on Dispersal of
Industries**

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*108. **SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM :**
SHRI B. V. DESAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Sub-Committee has been set up to take suitable decision on the recommendations of the Sivaraman Committee on dispersal of industries; and

(b) if so, when the Sub-Committee is likely to submit its recommendations ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). The Government have constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to review and revise the incentive scheme for industrialisation of backward areas, taking into account various recommendations of the Sivaraman

Committee. The Committee has been asked to submit its report by the end of the year.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that the report on such an important issue is not yet ready, so what can be asked ? But, I want to know from the Hon. Minister when the Sivaraman committee was constituted and whether that committee has submitted any interim report to the Government so that we could know the number of backward districts which come in the 'no industry' category ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I have not said that the Government have not received the report of the committee. What I have said is that the Government have constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to consider the question of industrialisation of the backward areas. That committee will consider the recommendations of the Sivaraman Committee. The Sivaraman Committee was constituted in 1978 and it had submitted its report to the Government in 1980. There has not been any delay in that.

[*English*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Why was there delay ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : There has not been any delay because it came up for consideration before the Cabinet, committee and the officials committee. Thereafter, in November, 1981, on the directives of the then Prime Minister, the late Indira Gandhi, a survey of the districts having no big or medium industry was conducted and the districts so identified were declared as 'no industry districts'. Apart from this, these categories—A, B and C—were formed. The actual purpose was how industries could be brought to backward areas which have not attracted any industry or entrepreneur so far. Such districts were identified in November 1981 as did not have any big or medium industry. For this purpose, the facility of Central Investment Subsidy Scheme of concessional finance, which was already there was extended to these districts. Besides a new scheme for Central Investment Subsidy was formulated under which 'no

industry districts' were entitled to 25 per cent subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs, 'B' category districts were entitled to 15 per cent subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 15 lakhs and 'C' category districts, to 10 per cent subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs. Apart from this, there were many other schemes, such as, Infrastructure Development Scheme, Transport Subsidy Scheme, were started to attract industries in the backward areas.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Sivaraman Committee was constituted in 1978 and it submitted its report in 1980. I want to know the number of districts identified from industrial point of view in the entire country and the total quantum of subsidy given in this regard ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, at the time of selection, the number of such districts was 83 which increased to 93 in due course. I do not have the figures of the industries to be set up in these districts right now. If you direct, I shall make these figures available to the Hon. Member. But, there has been substantial increase in the number of 'letters of intent' and licences issued for setting up of industries in these backward areas ever since this scheme came into effect.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is heartening to note, as the Hon. Minister said just now, that the industries would get subsidy and other facilities in the backward areas, but I want to point out that the applications of such entrepreneurs are pending for as many as 4 years and have not been processed by the Ministry so far. The cost of the project which was Rs. 4 crores four years back has escalated to Rs. 10 crores and the entrepreneurs are disheartened, and are abandoning their projects. Therefore, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether his Ministry is taking any steps to speed up the process of issuing licences and if not what are the reasons for that ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : If there is any application pending for the last four years, as the Hon. Member has said, and if he gives a specific complaint in this regard, I shall certainly look into that case. I think, it is not correct that applications have been pending for the last four years,

because, there are general instructions to the Ministry that any application for 'letter of intent' is to be disposed of within a specific time.

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR : Kutch in Gujarat is a very backward area and there are huge reserves of Ventomine Lignite there. There has been a long-standing demand for an Alumina plant there. I want to know whether Government are considering to set up industries there ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : The Hon. Member is asking about Kutch. As I have already said, there are many areas including Kutch, where industries have not reached so far. The very objective of this policy is to have a balanced and proper development and to set up industries in all parts of the country. That is why this scheme has been made attractive. We shall certainly consider if any application from that area is received.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : According to the present criteria, if there is a small unit in a district, that district cannot come under the category of no-industry district. My district Purulia is one of the most backward districts of our country where there is a small industry, a mini-steel plant, having 300 workers. But this district Purulia does not come under the category of no-industry district. That is why it is not getting any benefit or any central subsidy under this scheme. So, in view of this, may I know whether the Government will review the present criteria and make some change in the same ?

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Instead of district it should be the taluk.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : No-industry block or no industry taluk.

MR. SPEAKER : The question has already been answered.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : No, Sir, he has not answered.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Having any small industrial unit does not disqualify a district from coming into the category of no-industry district. As I have

stated earlier, a quick identification was conducted in 1981 of those districts where no large-scale or medium-scale industry was located. They were all included in the list of no-industry districts. But still many suggestions were coming for making the scheme more attractive and more effective for dispersal of industries in the backward areas. That is the reason why an inter-ministerial committee has been constituted and this committee is expected to submit its report to the Government by the end of the year.

Development of Bombay Off-shore Project

*109. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission should undertake further phase of development of Bombay Off-shore project and have requested State Government to make available 225 hectares of land for processing plant and 125 hectares of land for green belt as per Department of Environment stipulations; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b). ONGC had prepared a scheme for integrated development of Western Off-shore including Bombay High region which envisaged among other things setting up of a second oil and gas terminal south of Uran.

At the request of ONGC Maharashtra Government had surveyed a number of sites and suggested a site at Usar in Distt. Raigarh. Further action would be taken when adequate funds become available for the project.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Sir, this proposal to undertake further phase of Development of Bombay Off-shore project and to set up a second oil and gas terminal south of Uran has been pending for a long time. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission first struck oil in Bombay High in early 1974 and started its commercial production in May 1975. About 10 million tonnes per annum of crude oil was initially being explored and it was gradually to be increased to 20 million tonnes per annum by the end of 1984-85. Corres-

pondingly, the production of associated gas which was initially estimated to be 4 million cubic metres per day was expected to be increased to about 8 to 9 million cubic metres per day by the year 1984-85. The place has already been identified by the Maharashtra Government, and the Maharashtra Government has informed about it by their letter dated 14th January 1984, that is, as far back as 1984. My question is: How long it will now take further to provide funds for the scheme ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is a fact that the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra Government by his letter dated 14th January 1984 informed the Secretary (Petroleum) about the availability of the land. But this project required Rs. 2,512 crores and this has to be in two phases. As the Hon. Member is aware, we are facing constraint of resources, and in view of the constraint of resources till the Seventh Plan allocation is finalised, it would be difficult for me to say when this project would come.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : I would like to know whether the Government of India has given its approval to the site at Usar in Raigarh district, which has been proposed by the Government of Maharashtra for this purpose.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is true that we have given the approval.

Funds for Exploration and Production of Petroleum Products

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*110. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 21 June, 1985 under the heading "Oil Ministry starved of funds";

(b) if so, what are the facts;

(c) how far it will affect the exploration and production of petroleum products in the country; and

(d) whether arrangements for funds are being made and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Seventh Five Year Plan is still to be approved by the National Development Council and the Government.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the deficiency of funds ..

(At this stage some papers were thrown from the Visitors' Gallery into the House)

MR. SPEAKER : Carry on.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the deficiency of funds with the Oil Ministry will have any adverse effect on the Karnal Refinery ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Yes, Sir. If we are not going to get funding for this Karnal Refinery, it may be difficult for the Petroleum Ministry and the IOC to set up such a Refinery at Karnal.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to insufficient funds with the O.N.G.C., the gas pipe-line could not be laid in time, as a result of which gas worth crores of rupees from Bombay High had to be burnt and the gas could not be utilised. May I know from the Hon. Minister the quantum and the value of the gas thus burnt ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is difficult to say.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Transfer of Sick Industries from Public to Private Sector

*111. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the full particulars of the sick industries that the Government of West Bengal have recommended for transfer from public sector to private ownership;

(b) the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have decided to transfer the sick industries in appropriate cases from public sector to private ownership in order to achieve economic viability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). No such proposal has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. However, the Government may consider individual cases on merits.

Expansion of Haldia Unit of Indian Oil Corporation

*112. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of the expansion programme of the Haldia Unit of Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal to expand the Haldia Refinery during the 7th Plan period.

Manufacture of Rifampicin

*113. SHRI MOHAMMAD MAHFOO ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rifampicin, a drug for the treatment of T.B. and leprosy, is not manufactured in the country and its imports have been steadily increasing;

(b) whether certain companies which were granted letters of intent for the manufacturing of the drug some years back have yet to start its production;

(c) if so, the quantity (with value) of the drug imported since 1981-82 as against the demand; and

(d) the reasons for failure of the companies who have been given letter of intent to start production of the drug and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Rifampicin bulk drug is yet to be produced in the country. Formulations are being manufactured based on imported bulk drug.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details of imports for the past three years, year-wise are as under :

Year of Import	Qty. imported (in tonnes)	Value (CIF) Rs. lakhs
1981-82	16.00	663.02
1982-83	37.00	1,205.70
1983-84	76.00	1,589.81

(d) Among the reasons for the delays in commencing production are the size of investment and difficulties in securing economically viable technology. In order to encourage the production of Rifampicin, recently Government have delicensed Rifampicin for non-FERA and non-MRTP companies and to tally exempted the custom duty on the import of 3-formyl Rifampicin, Rifampicin-S which are intermediates for the production of Rifampicin bulk drug. Government is monitoring the progress of implementation of

Letters of Intent issued with a view to take appropriate action at appropriate stage.

Repayment of Advances Taken by
W.G. Forge Ltd. Kudal
(Maharashtra)

*114. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether repeated representations have been made to his Ministry by W.G. Forge Ltd. at Kudal in the Sindhudurg District (Maharashtra) regarding the repayment of advances given for raw materials and the necessary adjustments with a view not to hamper production and employment;

(b) if so, whether in view of the fact that this is a defence oriented project, Government have taken a sympathetic view and evolved plans to help the plant at Kudal continue its production; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is sympathetically considering the representation in view of the fact that machining capacity in the Kudal Unit of W.G. Forge Ltd. can be utilised for defence production.

(c) As WG Forge is under liquidation and the official receiver is keeping the Kudal Unit alone running and since advances paid by Government on past orders placed on WG Forge are outstanding, the terms for placement of orders on official receiver and adjustment of past advance refundable to Government are being taken up with the official receiver.

[Translation]

Enquiry into Air Force Planes Involved in Accidents

*115. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :
SHYI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item "15 dino main vayusena ke char viman durghatna-

grast" (Four Airforce planes involved in accidents in 15 days) appeared in the Hindi daily "Navbharat Times" dated 2 June 1985;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted an enquiry into the causes of these accidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps taken to check such accidents in future, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. In fact, there were three accidents to IAF aircraft in May, 1985. In a fourth incident, a Chetak helicopter had to force land on 21st May, 1985. Both pilots and four journalists travelling as passengers were not injured and there was only minor damage to the engine.

(b) to (d). A separate Court of Enquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of each accident. Their findings and recommendations would be studied by Air Headquarters and necessary remedial measures taken. A number of steps for improving Flight Safety and intensifying training of Air Crew and Ground Crew have already been implemented.

Functioning of P & T Headquarters Ajmer

*116. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported allegation of corruption and serious irregularities in the functioning of the P & T Headquarters of Ajmer;

(b) if so, action taken in the matter; and

(c) whether local public have demanded a C.B.I. enquiry into it and if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The Government are aware of the reported allegations of corruption and irregularities in the functioning of Ajmer Head Post Office. Specific complaints have been received by the Department from some members of the public as well as bodies regarding loss/abstraction of cheques/bank drafts/Postal Orders/involving heavy amounts from postal articles particularly foreign postal articles meant for delivery from Ajmer Head Post Office.

With regard to Telecommunication services, Government is not aware of any such reported allegations.

(b) Enquiries have been conducted by the Department and the police in three cases that have come to notice from 1976 onwards regarding theft of/abstraction from postal articles. As a result thereof three officials have been placed under suspension and another three officials are being prosecuted in Courts of Law. The entire staff working in the Registration Branch of the Head Post Office has been rotated and a special check is being kept on the delivery postal articles.

(c) Yes, Sir. There was demand for a C.B.I. enquiry into one case. Since the local police have been conducting enquiries, question of reporting the case to the C.B.I. did not arise.

[English]

Vacancies of Chief Justice in High Courts

*117. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of High Courts which do not have Chief Justice at present;

(b) how long these posts have been lying vacant; and

(c) the reasons for not filling up these posts and the steps taken to fill them ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) to (c). As on 25.7.1985, the following 4 High Courts are not having permanent Chief Justices from the dates indicated against each :

Sl. No.	High Court	Date from which office of Chief Justice is vacant
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5-7-1984
2.	Gauhati	15-11-1984
3.	Punjab & Haryana	29-11-1983
4.	Sikkim	4-1-1985

The matter regarding appointment of regular Chief Justices in these High Courts is engaging the attention of the Government in consultation with the authorities specified in Articles 217 and 222 of the Constitution.

Exploration of Oil and Gas Around Indian Coast

*118. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted about the possibility of oil in deep waters and the reserve of oil and gas present around the Indian coast;

(b) if so, the findings and the area in which oil is available; and

(c) the steps being taken to explore oil and gas from that area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As a result of survey several structures have been identified in water depths of more than 200 metres on the East Coast. Drilling was undertaken in two such structures in Krishna-Godavari Basin and oil and gas has been found. The quantities established so far do not justify commercial production.

Some prospects of hydrocarbons have also been identified in Offshore Andaman and would be taken up for drilling.

Allotment of Maruti Cars

*119. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the interests of customers who have made deposits for Maruti Cars, are being neglected, as is evident from the fact that a new model is being introduced for which new buyers will be allotted new cars;

(b) whether it is a fact that no interest is being paid on the deposits made for Maruti Cars by customers; instead, the prices have been increased; and

(c) whether the company has produced 25,000 cars but the buyers, whose allotment nos. are well below 20,000 have not yet received their Cars ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. When Maruti introduces a new model of the Maruti-800 Car, it will continue to be distributed to those customers who have booked for the Maruti—800 car, in accordance with the existing priority lists.

(b) No, Sir. Customers are paid interest on deposits made by them after vehicles are delivered to them. Prices of Maruti vehicles were increased with effect from 1.4.1985.

(c) Allotment numbers to customers were given for each dealer-city, running from 1 to the number of Cars booked for that city. The distribution of the Cars produced has been made in accordance with the allotment numbers for the dealer cities, and broadly in proportion to the bookings in these cities.

Black Marketing in Sale of Bajaj and Priya Scooters

*120. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases have been brought to the notice of Government regarding the sale of Bajaj and Priya scooters in black market;

(b) if so, whether it is done at the time of taking delivery of scooters; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY

AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). Although possibilities of some such transactions cannot be ruled out, there is no specific information regarding this with the Government.

(c) There is a ban on resale of motorised two wheelers including scooters within two years of the first purchase under the Two-Wheeler Vehicles (Restriction on Resale) Order, 1981. The State transport authorities do not register transfer of these vehicles within the stipulated period of two years unless permission has been given by the Controller for such transfer. Simultaneously Government has taken several steps to improve availability of good quality two-wheelers to meet projected demand.

Hired premises of Bharat Leather Corporation at Madras

1051. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Leather Corporation hired premises for its emporium at Madras in November, 1981 at a rent of Rs. 20,000 per month besides a security deposit of Rs. 1.5 lakhs;

(b) whether it was physically taken over only sometime in January, 1983; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and action taken against those responsible for putting BLC to a loss of Rs. 2.80 lakhs by way of rent for the unoccupied period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Bharat Leather Corporation hired the premises in question in December, 1981 at a rent of Rs. 14,600/- per month with a security deposit of Rs. 87,600/- and the premises were physically taken over in January, 1982.

(c) Does not arise.

Registration of delicensed industries

1052. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have invited applications for registration of delicensed industries;

(b) if so, the reasons and the number of such industries;

(c) the reasons why these industries were delicensed; and

(d) whether registration of delicensed units is being done in accordance with the prescribed rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c). As a result of review of licensing policy/procedures, 25 broad groups of industries and 82 bulk drugs and formulations were delicensed in March and June, 1985. The criteria for selection of these industries included need for creation of further capacity in these industries, export possibilities, industries requiring high technology input, industries of national importance and mass-consumption industries.

The delicensed industrial undertakings are required to apply to the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals in Department of Industrial Development for registration.

(d) The procedure and guidelines for this registration have been laid down in the Department of Industrial Development Press Note dated 25.4.95.

Tyre Industry facing Problem of overcapacity

1053. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tyre industry is facing problem of under-utilization of capacity and the consequent idling of installed capacity; and

(b) if so, the details regarding tyre industry's demand for diversification of tyre units for production of steel conveyor belting and policy of Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COM-

PANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Capacity utilization in tyre industry is around 77 per cent at present.

(b) Government are not aware of any such demand. Steel cord reinforced rubber conveyor beltings are not at present produced in the country and the entire demand is being met by imports. Government is taking a liberal approach to proposals for establishment of capacity for production of steel cord conveyor belting in view of the criticality of the product as well as heavy investment and technological sophistication in production.

Non Availability of Life Saving Drugs

1054. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some important life saving drugs have vanished from the market, especially in Madras;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c). Based on the periodical reports received in this Ministry some shortages, mostly of localised nature have been noticed. In most of the cases equivalent drugs of other manufacturers were available.

The reports in respect of Madras revealed the shortages of (1) Chlormycetin (2) Althrocine Drops (3) Diamox (4) Isoptin tablets (5) Syntocinon Inj. (6) Zyloric tabs. (7) Kenacort Injection (8) Pilocarpine Eye Drops (9) Neomoxazole (10) Atromid-S caps. In respect of the items listed at (1) to (6) above, the concerned manufacturers/stockists reported sufficient stocks with them. On the advice of this Ministry stocks of these drugs were rushed to the reported areas of shortages. In respect of the other items the shortages were attributed to technical problems in production, non-availability of bulk drugs in the international market and other constraints in the bulk drug production. The manufac-

turers were advised to take steps to improve the manufacture/distribution.

Export Earnings From Crude Oil and Petroleum Products

1055. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the total export earnings from crude oil and petroleum products during the last three years; and

(b) the names of the countries whereas the above items were exported ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The total export earnings from crude oil and petroleum products during the last three years given are below :

Year	Rs./Crores
1982-83	1197.16
1983-84	1588.06
1984-85	1818.19

(b) It is difficult to specify the countries to which these go as the transactions are with international oil traders.

Production Capacity of Tyre Industry

1056. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tyre industry in the country is already burdened with excess capacity for manufacture of tyres;

(b) the production of tyres in the country during the last two years and the demand for the same separately for different types of tyres;

(c) whether Government are considering to further increase the capacity of tyre units; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Utilisation of capacity in the industry at present is about 75 per cent.

(b) A statement is given below.

Statement

Production/Demand of tyres (Lakh Nos.)

Year	Installed capacity	Giant	Car	M/cycle	Scooter	ADV	Tractor	OTR	Aero	Moped	Total
1983	113.45	44.49	10.91	7.08	19.02	4.96	7.81	0.15	0.17	2.93	97.56
		41.95	11.55	8.96	23.94	4.87	7.38		0.35	12.03	
1984	136.44	46.12	13.31	8.60	24.16	4.56	9.19	0.15	0.14	3.72	109.95
		44.83	11.93	10.40	27.07	5.36	10.03		0.38	14.78	

Increase in Price of life Saving Medicines

1057. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the OPPI representing the foreign companies has proposed to Government that there should be no price control on drugs;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether it is a fact that since the announcement of New Drug Policy, the prices of the number of essential life saving medicines have gone up and are beyond the capacity of the common man ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Government have not received any such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The prices of price controlled bulk drugs and formulations continue to be regulated under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

Shortage of Mail Vans in West Bengal

1058. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of COMMU-

(c) and (d). Expansion of existing units to achieve economic viability is being encouraged. Keeping in view anticipated demand build-up at the end of the Seventh Plan.

NICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a shortage of mail vans and cash vans in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the number of such vans required there; and

(c) when P and T department would be able to purchase these vans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no shortage of mail vans and cash vans and fleets strength is as per sanction.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Electronic Telephone Exchange from Japan

1059. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the buildings of a number of proposed Electronic (Automatic) Exchange at District Headquarters have already been completed but the Exchanges are yet to be installed as they are still to be imported from Japan and other countries;

(b) if so, the names of such District Headquarters, Circle-wise and the likely date by which the Exchanges would be (i) imported (ii) installed and (iii) commissioned and the reasons for delay alongwith other details like the total number of exchanges being imported and the cost of each one of them;

(c) whether any effort is being made to utilise the intervening period of delay to build up telecom. channels to link these Exchanges/Circuits to the State Capitals by STD and the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Out of a total of 50 District Headquarters having electronic exchange allotment. Buildings are; complete at 21 District Headquarters. Equipments are being imported from Japan.

(b) The circle-wise list of District Headquarters where buildings have already been

completed is given in Statement-I.

(i) The exchanges are being received progressively during January '86 to March '86.

(ii) & (iii) The exchanges are planned to be installed and commissioned during 1986-87. Delay is due to the fact that the cost of the equipment quoted by various firms was very high. It was therefore decided to call for fresh tenders. The total number of exchanges being imported are 68. The approximate equipment cost is 20 lakhs and 30 lakhs for 400 line exchange and 600 line exchange respectively.

(c) The list of works in progress for building up Telecom. Channels to link these exchanges with State Capitals for STD facilities is given in Statement-II.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c).

Statement-I

List of Electronic Exchanges of 400/600 capacity

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Name of place where exchange to be installed.	No. of lines	Land	Buildings
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bihar	1. Dumka	400	Available	Not started
		2. Hajipur	400	-do-	Under const.
		3. Madhubani	400	-do-	Available
		4. Nawadah	400	-do-	Not started
		5. Purnea	600	-do-	Available
2.	J & K	6. Kathua	400	-do-	Not started
3.	Madhya Pradesh	7. Betul	400	-do-	Available
		8. Datia	400	-do-	-do-
		9. Dhar	400	—	-do-
		10. Kargone	400	Available	Under const.
		11. Mandla	400	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6
		12. Shajapur	400	Available	Under const.
		13. Tikamgarh	400	-do-	-do-
		14. Ambikapur	600	—	Available
		15. Balaghat	600	—	-do-
		16. Bhind	600	Available	Under const.
		17. Guna	600	—	Available
		18. Shivpuri	600	—	-do-
4.	North East	19. Halflong	600	Available	Not started
		20. Lungleh	400	-do-	-do-
5.	North West	21. Bilaspur	400	—	Available
		22. Hamirpur	400	—	-do-
		23. Nahan	400	Available	Under const.
		24. Una	400	—	Available
		25. Chamba	600	Available	Not started
		26. Kulu	600	—	Available
6.	Orissa	27. Keonjhar	600	—	Available
		28. Koraput	400	Available	Not started
		29. Phulbani	400	-do-	Under const.
		30. Sundergarh	400	—	Available
		31. Baripada	600	—	-do-
		32. Dhenkanal	600	—	-do-
		33. Chhatur Pur	400	—	-do-
7.	Rajasthan	34. Dungarpur	400	Available	Under const.
		35. Jalore	400	-do-	Not started
		36. Jaisalmer	400	-do-	-do-
		37. Jhalawar	400	-do-	-do-
		38. Sawvi Madhopur	400	-do-	Under const.
		39. Sirohi	400	-do-	Not started
		40. Tonk	400	-do-	Under const.
		41. Bundi	600	-do-	-do-
		42. Jhun Jhunu	600	-do-	Not started
8.	Uttar Pradesh	43. Fatehpur	400	Available	Not started
		44. Gazipur	400	—	Available

1	2	3	4	5	6
		45. Lalitpur	400	Available	Not started
		46. Pauri	400	—	Available
		47. Pithoragarh	400	Available	Not started
		48. Orai	400	-do-	-do-
		49. Sultanpur	600	—	Available
		50. Banda	600	Available	Not started
		Building available-21.	Under Construction-12.	Not yet started-17.	
		Total : 50			

Statement-II

List of work in Progress for Building up Telecom. Channels.

Microwave Schemes

Following are the District Hqrs. where microwave schemes have been planned, which are in various stages.

<i>State</i>	<i>Distt. Headquarters</i>
Andhra Prades	Kothenagudem
Bihar	Dumka.
Kerala	Kalpatta
Madhya-Pradesh	Ambikapur
Orissa	Koraput, Dhenkanal
Rajasthan	Jhun Jhunu
Uttar Pradesh	Gazipur
West Bengal	Alipur Dwar

Coaxial Schemes

Madhya Pradesh	Shivpuri, Guna
Rajasthan	Jaisalmer, Sirohi

UHF Scheme

Following is the position regarding status of UHF media planned for the District. Headquarters.

Sl. No.	Name of Distt. Headquarters	Name of UHF Scheme	UHF Media Availability
1	2	3	4
1.	Dumka (Bihar)	Asansol—Dumka	Towards the end of 7th Plan.
2.	Hajipur -do-	Patna—Hajipur	Before mid of 7th Plan.

1	2	3	4
3.	Madhubani -do-	Darbangha—Madhubani	Existing.
4.	Nawadha -do-	Bihar Sherif—Nawada	End of 7th Plan.
5.	Purnea -do-	Katihar—Purnea	Before middle of 7th Plan.
6.	Kathua J&K	Pathankot—Kathua	-do-
7.	Betul (Madhya Pradesh)	Itarsi—Betul	Towards the end of 7th Plan.
8.	Dhar -do-	Indore—Dhar	-do-
9.	Khargone -do-	Indore—Khargone	-do-
10.	Mandla -do-	Mandla—Jabalpur	-do-
11.	Shajapur -do-	Indore—Shajapur	-do-
12.	Balaghat -do-	Balaghat—Gendia	During 7th Plan.
13.	Bhind -do-	Gwalior—Bhind	-do-
14.	Guna -do-	Rajgarh—Guna	Towards end of 7th Plan.
15.	Harsong N.E.	Silchar—Harsong	Existing.
16.	Lungleh -do-	Aizwal—Lungleh	During 7th Plan period.
17.	Billaspur N.W.	Chandigarh—Bilaspur	Existing.
18.	Hamirpur N.W.	Jullandhur—Hamirpur	During the 7th Plan.
19.	Nahan -do-	Ambala—Nahan	-do-
20.	Chamba -do-	Dalhausie—Chamba	End of 7th Plan.
21.	Koraput Orissa	Lakhimpur—Koraput	During 7th Plan.
22.	Baripada -do-	Balasore—Baripada	End of 7th Plan.
23.	Dugarpur Rajasthan	Banswara—Dungarpur	During 7th Plan.
24.	Jalore -do-	Jalore—Sirohi	End of 7th Plan.
25.	Jhalawar Rajasthan	Kota—Jhalawar	-do-
26.	Sawai -do- Madhopur	Jaipur—Sawai Madhopur	-do-
27.	Tonk -do- Rajasthan	Jaipur—Tonk Rajasthan	-do-
28.	Jhun Jhunu -do-	Churu—Jhun Jhunu	-do-
29.	Pithoragarh U.P.	Bareilly—Pithoragarh	During 7th Plan.
30.	Oria U.P.	Kanpur—Orai	-do-
31.	Sultanpur U.P.	Partapgarh—Sultanpur	End of 7th Plan.
32.	Banda U.P.	Hamirpur—Banda	-do-

**Opening of New Offices under DGOF
at Important Places**

1060. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to open new offices under the Directorate General of Ordnance Factories, Calcutta at some important places to monitor the work of ordnance factories for achieving greater efficiency and better control and coordinate with the Headquarter at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details of such offices being opened/already opened ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). The Headquarters of Director General of Ordnance Factories, who is also Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board, is at Calcutta. An officer of the rank of Additional DGOF has been functioning in Kanpur since 1969 for looking after the Ordnance Equipment group of factories. An officer of similar status has been functioning since 1984 at Avadi to look after mainly the new projects at Avadi and Medak (near Hyderabad). Both these officers function under the overall supervision and control of DGOF at Calcutta. At present, no further offices are being opened.

**Establishment of Sorting Offices and
Postal Stores in West Bengal**

1061. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sorting offices and postal stores to be established in West Bengal during the current year and the names of those places; and

(b) the names of those places where such offices and stores are proposed to be established during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Opening of two Sorting Offices in West Bengal, one at New Jalpaiguri and the other at Howrah, during the current year has been approved. Opening of a Postal Stores Depot is not under consideration at present.

(b) Opening of Sorting Offices and Postal Stores Depots is not a Plan activity under the Seventh Five Years Plan.

Regulation of Price of Tyres

1062. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether, while the Indian tyre industry is facing the problem of over-capacity and the consequent idling of installed capacity the tyre manufacturers have failed to roll back the unilateral price increases made in the recent months;

(b) the price increase effected in 1985 before and after the Union Budget was presented; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to tame the industry including imposing price and distribution control on tyres ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Price increase resorted to by the industry varies from unit to unit as well as from variety to variety for each unit. However, on an average, price increase during this period has been of the order of about 9 per cent.

(c) In the prevailing competitive market conditions in which installed capacity and production are in excess of demand at present, and also since there is no control on price or distribution of raw materials and other inputs, *prima facie*, it would not be appropriate to control prices/distribution of tyres. However, Government has been frequently interacting with both tyre industry and raw material manufacturers with a view to bringing about reduction in prices of tyres.

[Translation]

**Opening of Post Offices in Nalanda
District (Bihar)**

1063. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of new Post Offices opened in Nalanda district (Bihar) during the period between 1980 and 1984;

(b) whether it is a fact that Post Offices have not yet been opened in several villages of Nalanda district which are Panchayat headquarters and have a population of more than 2000 persons;

(c) the total number of Post Offices proposed to be opened in Bihar during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(d) the number out of them proposed to be opened in Nalanda district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 22 New Post Offices have been opened in Nalanda district (Bihar) during the period between 1980 and 1984.

(b) Yes, Sir. There are 25 Gram Panchayat villages having no Post Offices in Nalanda district. As per departmental norms population is not considered for opening Post Offices in Gram Panchayat villages.

(c) and (d). The total number of Post Offices proposed to be opened in Bihar during the 7th Plan period have not been fixed as it is fixed after approval by Planning Commission of the annual plans from year to year. However during the first year of the plan, i.e. 1984-85, Post Offices are proposed to be opened in rural areas subject to lifting-relaxing of economy orders banning creation of posts and out of those, 6 are proposed to be opened in Nalanda district.

**Opening of Petrol Pumps in
Bharatpur (Rajasthan)**

1064. **SHRI LALA RAM KEN :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state the number of new petrol pumps proposed to be opened in Bharatpur, Rajasthan in the near future; and if no new petrol pump is being opened, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : Under the

Oil Industry's Marketing Plan for 1985-86, three new retail outlets are proposed to be opened at Sikri, Rupbas and Mamiyan in Bharatpur district.

[English]

**Production of Automobiles
Ancillaries**

1065. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding the output and production of ancillaries of automobiles; and

(b) if so, the names of the world's largest manufacturers of cars and details regarding India's efforts to improve its present bottom-end rating in the next five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following are some of the major Car manufacturers in the world :

1. M/s. General Motors (USA)
2. „ Toyota Motors, (Japan)
3. „ Ford Motors, (USA)
4. „ Nissan Motors, (Japan)
5. „ Renault, (France)
6. „ Volks Wager (W. Germany)
7. „ Chrysler (USA)
8. „ Peugeot, S. A. (France)
9. „ Fiat, (Italy)
10. „ Mazda, (Japan)

Government has taken steps to encourage modernisation of passenger car industries in the country through induction of new technology and creation of additional capacity. However, it will take time before a developing country like India can reach a production level of cars comparable with major manufacturers of the world. This would also depend on overall economic development of the country.

Revision of Salaries of Judges

1066. SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5448 on 7 May, 1985 regarding revision of salaries of Judges and state :

(a) whether the conference of Chief Justices of High Courts, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers has since been held;

(b) if so, whether the matter of revision of salaries of Supreme Court and High Court Judges was discussed in it; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) to (c). The Joint Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers which was scheduled to be held on 30th May, 1985 at New Delhi has been postponed and is now fixed for 31st August, 1985.

Incentives to Plastic Goods Manufacturers

1067. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to grant some incentives in the form of finance, cheap availability of raw material etc. to plastic goods manufacturers in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that plastic goods are in great demand; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering steps to give encouragement to the manufacturers and details of the steps contemplated by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). The demand for Plastic goods is growing and this trend is expected to continue.

Existing incentives, in the form of concessional finance for units being set up in backward areas, machinery on hire-purchase and certain excise concessions to small scale

units, etc. are available to the entrepreneurs who want to take up the manufacture of Plastic goods.

Manufacture of Plastic Moulded Goods has been delicensed and the import of major raw materials for the plastic industry are now on OGL.

Drilling for Oil

1068. SHRI B. B. RAMAIIH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of places where drilling for oil is going on at present;

(b) whether any provision for survey of new places for drilling oil has been made in the Seventh Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how long will the existing reserves of oil last ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Drilling is in progress in the following areas :

Onland

Andhra Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh

Bihar

Gujarat

Rajasthan

Assam

Tripura

Tamilnadu

West Bengal

Nagaland

Offshore

East Coast

West Coast

(b) and (c). The Seventh Plan has not yet been finalised. The details would be known only after it is finalised.

(d) At the current rate of production the reserves of oil in the country may last for about 17 years. However, more reserves are expected to be added in the meantime.

Distribution of Molasses

1069. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of molasses and maldistribution is causing serious problems in States such as West Bengal which are not self-sufficient and if so, corrective steps taken/proposed;

(b) whether it is a fact that molasses are also being exported due to pressure groups and vested interests and if so, details of exports for the past three years and the value of exports; and

(c) whether ICAR have been working on alternate sources of molasses for alcohol production for decades and if so, the results of their efforts in finding practical solutions ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) The Central Molasses Board, at its meeting on 16.3.1985, had assessed the availability of molasses being short of its demand by about 15 lakh tonnes for the alcohol year 1984-85 (December-November). Even the traditional surplus States like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Haryana do not have surplus molasses for allocation to deficit States including West Bengal. However, the demand of alcohol of West Bengal has been/is being met through allocations from U. P. and Bihar. In order to improve the availability of industrial alcohol in West Bengal, 150 lakh litres has already been permitted for import duty free to M/s. Indian Explosives Ltd. and the applications of other industrial units for duty free import of industrial alcohol are being processed.

(b) During the alcohol years (December-November) 1981-82 and 1982-83, the availability of molasses was more than its demand in the country. On the basis of requests received from the State Government/Union Territory Administrations, a part of surplus molasses was permitted for export. The balance quantity that remained to be exported, was reduced in the alcohol year 1983-84. No new permission for export of molasses has been given by the Government during

current alcohol year (December, 1984-November, 1985). Only State Trading Corporation has been permitted to fulfil the nominal balance amount of its previous export commitment. The details of export of molasses for the last three Financial years are given below :

Year	Qty. exported (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1982-83	0.72 lakhs	219
1983-84	5.04 ,,	2679
1984-85	2.49 ,,	1236

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research is not working on alternate sources of molasses for alcohol production. However, a scheme has been in operation to produce ethanol (alcohol) from sugarcane juice directly. This project is operating at Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore and National Institute of Sugar, Kanpur. The former is working on agricultural aspects of sugarcane production suitable for maximising alcohol production. The latter is working on technological aspects of conversion sugarcane juice into alcohol. The study is in progress at both the institutes.

Foreign Collaboration by Orissa for Manufacture of Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide

1070. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa have sought the clearance from the Union Government for entering into foreign collaboration for a project to manufacture Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to give clearance for implementing the above project ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Electro-Chem Limited, Orissa, a joint sector company, were granted an industrial licence on 26.4.1980 for the manufacture of Electrolytic Manganese

Dioxide (EMD) subject to the condition that no foreign collaboration would be permitted. In March, 1984, the company requested for amendment of the Industrial Licence to permit them to have foreign collaboration for the project since the indigenous technology was not viable on a commercial scale. This has been agreed to by the Government. However, no foreign collaboration application has been received from the company so far.

Export of Naphtha against Import of Fertilizers

1071. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to export Naphtha against the import of fertilizers from the United States;

(b) whether the buying power has been given to MMTC for the above purpose;

(c) whether Indian Oil Corporation has also been given permission to export Naphtha; and

(d) the names of the countries to which India is exporting naphtha ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b) MMTC is entrusted with the import of fertilizers on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture. They also promote export of various products including naphtha.

(c) The Indian Oil Corporation is the canalising agency for export of petroleum products including naphtha.

(d) The export transactions are through international trading companies and it is not possible to specify countries which import our naphtha.

Failure to Utilize Quota of Levy Cement by Kerala Government

1072. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala State has failed to utilize the allotted quota of levy cement for the period April-June, 1985;

(b) if so, the causes thereof; and

(c) the quantum of cement allotted and availed of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c) . It is not correct to say that Kerala State has failed to utilise the allotted quota for the period April-June, 1985. Against the allocation of 99,295 tonnes of levy cement to the State Government of Kerala for the quarter April-June, 1985, despatches were 54,457 tonnes. The despatches were less due to power cuts imposed on the cement factories in Tamil Nadu and certain production constraints in the cement factory in Kerala.

Conversion of Janpath Telephone Exchange into Electronic Exchange

1073. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to convert the existing Janpath Telephone Exchange into an electronic exchange; and

(b) if so, when this exchange will be converted into an electronic exchange ?

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

(b) The existing exchanges at Janpath will be replaced after they have served their useful life.

Setting up of Indian Telephone Industries Units

1074. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places (State-wise) where the Indian Telephone Industries have units at present, and are under construction;

(b) the names of places where such units will be set up in the near future;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start one such unit of ITI in Orissa and the constraints; if any; and

(d) the action taken by Government to represent all the States in the ITI map instead of opening several units at particular places ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). There are five units of Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) located at Bangalore in Karnataka, Naini and Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh, Palghat in Kerala and Srinagar in J & K. Another unit of Indian Telephone Industries is coming up at Mankapur in Gonda District of U. P. which will manufacture Electronic Exchange Equipment. It has been decided, in principle, to set up the second ESS factory unit at Bangalore in Karnataka under ITI.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The location of the new units of the ITI is decided keeping in view the infrastructural facilities available at various places and the need for dispersal of industries in various part of the country.

[Translation]

Telephone Service in Sagar (M.P.)

1075. SHRI NANDIAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone service in Sagar (M.P.) is not satisfactory and many a time telephones do not work and the dial tone is missing;

(b) if so, the reasons for unsatisfactory and disordered telephone system; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken for improving the telephone system there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. Telephone service in Sagar (M.P.) is working generally satisfactory.

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

(c) The following measures are being taken to improve the service further :

(i) Subscriber loops are being replaced by drop wire.

(ii) To reduce overhead alignments underground cables are being laid.

(iii) Flooding of cable tranches before they are closed.

(iv) Use of jelly filled cables in distribution network.

(v) Indian crossbar type 2000 lines exchange is being planned to replace the existing exchange.

(vi) Spacial testing of internal equipment of the exchange.

(vii) Inspections and maintenance routines are being tightened.

[English]

Alternative Proposal for Financial aid to Mini Cement Plants

1076. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received financial aid from Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for mini cement plants in the country;

(b) whether the Bank has recently suspended the aid;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of proposal Government have to finance these mini cement plants in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COM-

PANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d). Mini cement plants receive financial assistance from public financial institutions like IDBI and not directly from Government. Pending a detailed review of the trends in the cement industry and functioning of the mini cement plants already financed by them, IDBI suspended grant of financial assistance to the mini cement plants in January, 1985. IDBI have, however, since resumed this facility. There is, however, no proposal for the Government to finance mini cement plants.

**Direct Dialling Telephone Service
from Loni (UP) to Delhi**

1077. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal under consideration of Government to provide direct telephone service from Delhi to Loni, an industrial area near Shahdara;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons for not providing direct telephone service to Loni from Delhi which is nearer than Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurgaon etc., which already have direct telephone system from Delhi; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide direct telephone service to Loni from Delhi where large number of small scale industries exist and almost the entire quantity of their production is sold in Delhi and in the absence of such a facility the industries are facing a lot of inconvenience ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Representation were received for direct dialling facilities from Loni to Delhi.

(b) and (c). On examination of the cases, provision of the above facility was found to be technically not feasible at present.

(d) No, Sir.

**Setting up of the Industry in Public
Sector in the State of Manipur**

1078. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will

the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-existence of any important industry in the State of Manipur in the public as well as private sector;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the establishment of a unit of the Hindustan Machine Tools or any other public undertaking there; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to appoint a panel to study the problems and prospects pertaining to the industrialisation of the said region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently there is no such proposal under consideration.

(c) A Committee of Ministers (assisted by an official level Committee) has been set up for the North-Eastern Region to review and effect co-ordination of activities relevant to rapid development of the region (including Manipur).

The Government has also appointed an Inter-Ministerial Committee to review and revise the existing scheme for industrialisation of backward areas with special attention to hill areas, North East and other remote areas.

**Refund of Deposits by Lohia Machines
Limited, Kanpur**

1079. SHRI H. G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have received complaints regarding non-payment/refund of deposits made by public while booking Vespa XE Scooters produced by Lohia Machines Limited of Kanpur; if so, full facts and action taken by Government; and

(b) the total number of applications received by Lohia Machines Limited from public for refund of the deposits made with booking applications for Vespa Scooters during the current year so far and how many are pending and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). A few complaints received by the Government were referred to M/s. Lohia Machines Ltd. The company has advised having made refunds in 62992 cases out of a total of 88,982 applications received by it during the first half of 1985 and that the remaining applications are under process.

Use of Foreign Brand Names for Consumer Products

1080. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to allow use of foreign brand names for local consumer products; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). As per the policy of Government, foreign brand names are not ordinarily allowed for use on products for internal sales although there is no objection to their use on products to be exported.

Defence Perspective in view of Increased Naval Activities in Indian Ocean by Super Powers

1081. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposed any new defence perspective Plan in view of increased naval activities by super powers in the Indian Ocean and large scale arms build-up by Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). Having regard to threat perceptions emerging from the developments in the Indian Ocean

region, Government are continually upgrading the country's defence capability. The Defence Plan being prepared will take account of these developments and appropriately provide for the induction of suitable ships, aircraft, and weaponry. The disclosure of the details of the proposed Defence Plan will be prejudicial to national security.

Procedure for Computing Seniority of Officers in an Alphabetical Order in Indian Air Force

1082. SHRI S. M. GURADDI :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure to determine the seniority of officers in various departments and wings of his Ministry recruited or promoted on the same day;

(b) whether it is computed in alphabetical order;

(c) if so, whether this rule/ procedure has been applied to all wings of the armed forces e.g. Indian Air Force;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). The seniority of officers in the Armed Forces is determined on the basis of merit-cum-performance during training. Only candidates selected for direct entry to the technical streams in the Navy and recruited on the same day are arranged initially in alphabetical order. But their seniority is ultimately decided at the time of their commissioning on the basis of their performance during the training course.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. The seniority of Air Force Officers is fixed by their position in order of merit determined on the basis on their performance during training.

[Translation]

Election to the Cantonment Boards in Himachal Pradesh

1083. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which elections to the Cantonment Boards in Himachal Pradesh are likely to be held; and

(b) whether Government propose to nominate some members to these Boards and if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) The question of holding elections to various Cantonment Boards, including those in Himachal Pradesh, is under the consideration of Government. The annual revision of their electoral rolls is proceeding. The dates for elections will be notified thereafter in accordance with the provisions of the Cantonment Act.

(b) Out of the 7 Cantonment Boards in Himachal Pradesh, Khasyol has a normal Cantonment Board. Nomination of civilian members to the remaining six varied Cantonment Boards will be finalised after recommendations of the GOC-in-C of the concerned Commands in respect of all these Cantonment Boards are received.

Modernisation of Gorakhpur Fertilizer Plant

1084. **SHRI MADAN PANDEY :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under consideration any scheme for maintenance and partial modernisation/improvement of the existing unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India at Gorakhpur; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). A phased replacement programme for unserviceable equipment and machinery at Gorakhpur Unit, involving an investment of about Rs. 10 Crores, spread over a period of two years, has already been initiated by the Corporation.

Recruitment in HMT Factory, Ranibagh (U.P.)

1085. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COM-

PANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether recruitment to all the posts in Hindustan Machine Tools factory, Ranibagh (Uttar Pradesh) is done only from among the persons registered with the various employment exchanges in Nainital (Uttar Pradesh);

(b) whether this procedure is being adopted under the policy decisions taken by the Ministry; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to carry out modification in such type of restrictions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) All posts in the categories of workers and Junior Supervisors are filled up out of candidates sponsored by Employment Exchanges at Haldwani and Nainital and dependents of displaced persons and riots. Higher posts are filled up through Employment Exchanges/advertisements in Regional/All India Newspapers. Senior posts are filled in by transfer from other HMT Units.

(b) This procedure is in accordance with the policy of the company and in line with Government policy.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Trade Unions of BHEL Units

1086. **DR. A. K. PATEL :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of recognised trade unions at each of BHEL's units and their affiliations to Central Trade Unions, and

(b) the procedure adopted for their recognition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS :

(SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) :
 (a) A list of recognised unions at various units of BHEL is given in the statement below.

(b) Wherever the unions are recognised under the Code of discipline/relevant Acts, the procedure envisaged in the Code/Act was

followed. In the case of Units where there was no union recognised under the Code/Act it was decided jointly with the workers' representatives including the Central Trade Union Organisations with which Plant Level Unions are affiliated, to determine the majority Union by means of secret ballot.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the unit	Name of the Union	Central Trade Union Organisation to which affiliated to
1	2	3	4
1.	BHEL, Hyderabad Heavy Power Equipment Plant	BHEL Workers and Staff Union	INTUC
		Heavy Electrical Employees & Apprentices Association	BMS
	Switchgear	BHEL Telegunadu Employees Union	INTUC
		BHEL & Switchgear Employees Union BHEL & Switchgear Unit Workers Union	Independent INTUC
2.	BHEL, Bangalore Control Equipment Division Electro Porcelains Division	BHEL Employees Association	Independent
		Government Porcelains Factory Employees Association	Independent
3.	BHEL, Bhopal	Heavy Electricals Mazdoor Trade Union	INTUC
		BHEL Kamgar Trade Union	CITU
		Heavy Electricals Mazdoor Union	AITUC
		Heavy Electricals Shramik Trade Union	HMS
		Heavy Electricals Workers Union	BMS
4.	BHEL, Tiruchy	Bharat Heavy Electricals Workers Union	CITU
		Boiler Plant Employees Union	INTUC
		BHEL Employees Progressive Union	Labour Progressive Front- DMK
		Boiler Plant Anna Workers Union	AIADMK

1	2	3	4
5.	BHEL, Hardwar	Bharat Heavy Electricals Karmachari Sangh Heavy Electricals Workers Trade Union BHEL Workers Association BHEL Karmachari Parishad CFF Workers Trade Union	BMS INTUC AITUC Independent INTUC
6.	BHEL, Jhansi	BHE Karmachari Sangh BHE Employees Union	BMS INTUC

**Preventing non-serious candidates
from contesting Elections**

1087. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Election Commission expressed recently to Government growing concern over multiplicity of candidates in Elections and have suggested to Government a number of proposals to prevent non-serious and independent candidates from contesting elections;

(b) if so, the details of those proposals; and

(c) the Government's thinking thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) to (c). Attention is invited to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 24 dated the 23rd July, 1985 detailing the electoral reform proposals sent by the Election Commission. Item No. 1 of the statement attached to the reply deals with the elimination of non-serious candidates.

[Translation]

**Enquiry Report of Bhopal Gas
Tragedy**

1088. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the enquiry report on Bhopal gas tragedy

caused by the leakage of MIC gas from the Bhopal unit of Union Carbide Factory; and

(b) if so, the facts that came to light during the enquiry and the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). The work of the Commission of Inquiry and the investigations of Central Bureau of Investigation are still in progress.

[English]

**Allotment and Supply of Bitumen to
West Bengal**

1089. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the total allotment of Bitumen to West Bengal during 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84; and

(b) the actual supply of Bitumen during the period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). The allocation/actual upliftment of Bitumen by West Bengal during 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 are as follows :

'000 tonnes

	Allocation		Actual	
	Bulk	Packed	Bulk	Packed
1981-82	75.00	45.00	46.1	38.00
1982-83	100.00	30.00	36.9	27.60
1983-84	65.00	30.00	27.9	30.00

[Translation]

Appointment of Chief Justices of High Courts from outside

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1090. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have found any advantages flowing from the policy of appointment of Chief Justices of High Courts from outside the States concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the States in this regard;

(d) how many State opposed this policy and on what grounds; and

(e) whether any change in this Policy is under consideration ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) to (e). The policy of having Chief Justices from outside High Courts was prepared pursuant to recommendations of the Law Commission and demands from various legal fora in the country and it was formulated in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. Such a policy would foster national integration and counteract parochial trends. Chief Justices appointed from outside could be expected to function and would seem to function impartially, uninfluenced by caste, creed, relationship or local links.

The policy was announced on 28.1.1983. Thereafter, one State had raised objections

on legal and constitutional grounds. The correct legal and constitutional position had been however communicated to the said State Government.

The Central Government wants to implement this policy with sincerity and promptitude and do not consider it necessary to change it. The matter is going to be considered in the conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers, which is going to be held on 31st August, 1985.

[English]

Allocation for Fertilizer Plants in 1985-86

1091. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money allotted for each fertilizer plant out of total outlay of Rs. 590 crores for 1985-86, separately; and

(b) the zone-wise percentage of money allotted for the last three years; year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) The total annual plan allocation for the schemes related to public sector fertilizer units is Rs. 541.47 crores during 1985-86. The unit-wise (scheme-wise) allocation is indicated in the statement below.

(b) Zone-wise, year-wise percentage of plan outlay on public sector fertilizer plants during the last three years is indicated below ;

Zone	Percentage outlay on public sector fertilizer plants %		
	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
North Zone (Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan)	2.7	1.6	1.0
South Zone (Andhra Pradesh, Kerala)	4.6	6.6	6.7
East Zone (Assam, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal)	28.1	21.4	34.0
West Zone (Maharashtra)	64.5	70.3	49.6
Central Zone (Madhya Pradesh)	0.1	0.1	8.7

Statement

Scheme-wise Annual Plan Allocation for Fertilizers During 1985-86

S. No.	Details of Schemes	Amount Allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	2.	3.
		4.
I. Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI)		
	1. Korba	27
	2. Remodelling of Coke Oven Battery (Sindri)	89
	3. Railway Siding—Gorakhpur	21
	4. Rehabilitation of;	
	(a) Sindri Rationalisation	200
	(b) Gorakhpur	
	(c) Ramagundam	
	(d) Talcher	
	5. R & R including waste heat boiler for Talcher and medium pressure boiler for Ramagundam	800
	Total F.C.I.	1137

1.	2.	3.	4.
II. Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT)			
1.	Ship Unloader/Handling facility		87
2.	Cochin Division II Pollution Control		20
3.	Cochin Division I Pollution Control		152
4.	Facilities for import of Phos. Acid		51
5.	Caprolactam Project		3400
6.	Improvement in township		90
7.	Extension of Township facilities and CISF Qtrs.		100
8.	New Schemes		100
9.	FACT Tower		100
10.	Renewals and Replacements		600
	Total F. A. C. T.		4700
III. Rashtriya Chemicals Fertilizers (RCF)			
1.	Trombay V		129
2.	Thal Project		11000
3.	Rehabilitation of Suphala Plant		601
4.	KOL Handling		120
5.	NOX Alignment of HP Nitric Acid		116
6.	Rehabilitation of Ammonia Plant		600
7.	Modernisation of Methanol Plant		100
8.	Hydrogen recovery from purge gas		67
9.	N-15 Enrichment in Nitric Acid		12
10.	Replacement and Renewal		300
	Total R. L. F.		13045
IV. National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)			
1.	Vijaipur Fertilizer Plant		12550
2.	Captive Power Plants Bhatinda and Panipat		2800
3.	Replacement of Electrolysis Plant-Nangal		300
4.	New Schemes		100
5.	Science & Technology		35
6.	Replacement & Renewal		300
	Total N. F. L.		16085

1.	2.	3.	4.
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V. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC)

1. Captive Power Plant (Durgapur)			162
2. Haldia Fertilizer Plant			100
3. Captive Power Plant (Haldia)			10
4. Namrup-II Plant			3400
5. Captive Power Plant (Barauni)			1450
6. Ammonia Storage facilities :			
(a) Durgapur			29
(b) Barauni			40
(c) Haldia			129
7. Sewerage Pump Scheme (Namrup)			35
8. Housing Scheme			35
9. Filled Bag Storage (Barauni)			39
10. Air Pollution Conversion Scheme			1
11. DCDA Conversion Scheme (Namrup)			31
12. Condensate Injection Scheme (Namrup)			42
13. Revamping of Namrup/Durgapur/Barauni			100
14. Replacement and Renewal			400

Total H. F. C.

6003

VI. Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL)

1. Paradeep Fertilizer Project			10000
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VII. Pyrites Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL)

1. Mining Project Amjhore			10
2. Mussoorie Phosphate Project 200 TPD			45
3. Mussoorie Phosphate Expn. Phase I—200 TPD			50
4. Saladipura Exploratory-cum production Mining Project			25
5. 240 TPD Sulphuric Acid Plant 625 TPD SSP Plant Amjhore			100
6. Benefication Plant Development			
7. Phosphate Fertilizer Plant (PAPR)			1
8. Tamili Mine exploration			10
9. R. & D/S & T/Pilot Plant/Feasibility Studies, etc.			191

Total P. P. C. L.

432

1	2	3	4
VIII. Projects and Development India Ltd. (PDIL)			
	1. Continuing Scheme including Replacement and Renewal		152
	2. Computer		28
	3. Catalyst Modernisation		100
	4. FCC Catalyst		100
	5. Office accommodation at Delhi		50
	6. Housing at Baroda		40
	7. Science and Technology		50
	Total P. D. I. L.		520
IX. Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL)			
	1. New Schemes		1000
	Total M.F.L.		1000
	X. Grant to H.F.C. Fertilizer Educational Project		450
	XI. Grant to P.D.I.L. for Research and Development in the field of Fertilizer		275
	XII. Loan to MP Government for water supply to Guna Fertilizer Project		500
	Total		54147 lakhs
			or
			541.47 crores

Bridge over "Aik" Nalah near Arnla Village in J&K

1092. SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no bridge on the "Aik" Nalah to connect the border roads near Arnla village in Tehsil Bishnah, District Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir State;

(b) whether people living in those areas are put to great inconvenience during rainy

season rather they are cut off from the main towns in that Tehsil during that period;

(c) whether Government propose to construct a bridge on that "Aik Nalah" keeping in view the inconvenience caused to the people of that area,

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). A

temporary bailey bridge (33.5 Metres) exists on "AIK" Nalah near Arnia village. During peak monsoon, the bridge is de-launched to obviate its being washed away by the flood water. During this period, traffic is diverted on two other permanent bridges over "Aik Nalah" near Morchapur and Devigarh on the upstream and downstream, respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no operational requirement for the proposed bridge.

Review of Fertilizer Technology Policy

1093. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to review the fertilizer technology policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). The Government keeps itself informed of the global developments in fertilizer technology and will take appropriate steps, should a review in the policy be necessary, keeping in view the future programme of setting up of new fertilizer plants and feedstock availability.

[Translation]

Shortage of LPG Gas in Delhi

1094. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of L.P.G. gas in some areas of Delhi as a result of which consumers have to wait for many days for gas cylinders;

(b) if so, the areas experiencing this shortage and the action taken to meet the same; and

(c) if not, whether complaints have been received in regard to late delivery of gas cylinders and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). There has been marginal delay of 3-5 days in supply of refills to consumers in Delhi in Green Park, Hauz Khas, Safdarjung Development Area, Mehrauli, Malviya Nagar, Jung-Pura, Nizamuddin, Friends Colony, Kaka Nagar, Sunder Nagar and Lajpat Nagar areas. The delay was mainly on account of absenteeism among delivery staff of some distributors, and inadequate supplies of cylinders due to transport and operational bottlenecks. Besides efforts to augment supplies from the nearby plants, distributors have been advised to operate on extended hours.

Sale of Adulterated Petrol

1096. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number, names and addresses of the petrol pumps found selling adulterated petrol during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken so far against each of them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Fifteen cases of proven adulteration were detected by the oil companies during the last three years (1982 to 1984) and necessary action was taken against them. The details of these cases are given in the statement below.

Statement

Details of proven cases of adulteration and action taken against the dealers are given below

Name of State	Name and Address of the petrol pump/dealer	Action taken
1	2	3
GUJARAT	1. Laxmi Automobiles, Surat.	Notice for termination of dealership was issued, but the dealer has moved the court and the matter is sub-judice.
	2. Desai & Co., Bareja.	Dealership was terminated but the dealer has filed an appeal before the High Court and the matter is sub-judice.
	3. P. H. Desai, Keralu.	Dealership was terminated.
	4. Mohan Auto Service, Maninagar, Ahmedabad.	Dealership was terminated but the dealer, has gone to court and the matter is subjudice.
KERALA	5. V. J. Francis Borgio, Ettmanur.	Dealership was terminated but the dealer moved the court and the matter is subjudice.
	6. Iqbal Petroleum, Mannarghat.	Dealership was terminated, the dealer obtained stay order from the court again the equipment being pulled out and an appeal has been filed by HPCL.
	7. Koolath Mohd. & Sons. Kakkad.	Dealership was terminated.
PUNJAB	8. Goel Oil Corporation, Kupkalan	Dealership was terminated, but the dealer moved the court and the matter is subjudice.
MAHARASHTRA	9. Western Petroleum, Puna.	The dealership was terminated but the dealer has challenged the termination in the court and the matter is subjudice.
	10. Ruia Minerals, Chakala, Bombay.	Dealership was terminated but the dealer has moved the court against

1	2	3
		taking over of site by HPCL and the matter is subjudice.
	11. M. S. Thakkar, Ghatcopar, Bombay.	Dealership was terminated, but the dealer has moved the court and the matter is subjudice.
MADHYA PRADESH	12. Kanhaiya Lal & Co., Bhorasala, (M.P.)	Dealership was terminated.
ANDHRA PRADESH	13. Bhaskar Filling Station, Pobbair	Dealership was terminated.
WEST BENGAL	14. Ganeri Wala Service Station, Calcutta.	Show-cause notice for termination was issued, but the dealer has moved the court and the matter is subjudice.
	15. M. M. Biswas, Calcutta.	Show-cause notice for termination was issued, but the dealer has moved the court and the matter is subjudice.

[English]

Production and use of Caustic Soda

1098. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to import membrane cells for an advance technology of caustic soda instead of mercury cells;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the average use of caustic soda in India and its production at present; and

(d) whether this import will affect the price structure adversely ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). Government have evolved the following guidelines for the import of Membrane Cell Technology for the manufacture of Caustic Soda :

(i) The process licensor should identify and enter into agreement with an Indian Engineering Consultancy Company for undertaking basic and detailed engineering, in stages.

(ii) The process licensor shall identify and make arrangements with an Indian manufacturing company for fabrication of hardware such as primary and secondary brine purification equipments, electrolyzers, metal anodes, etc.

(iii) Directorate of General Technical Development (DGTD) in consultation with Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) and other Governmental agencies will evolve the modalities for import of capital goods for chlor-caustic units based on membrane cell technology.

(c) The production of Caustic Soda in the country during 1983-84 and 1984-85 was 6.47 lakh tonnes and 6.84 lakh tonnes respectively. Sufficient capacity exists to meet the indigenous demand which is expected to be of the order of 6.50 lakh tonnes during 1985-86.

(d) The cost of production of Caustic Soda through Membrane Cell Technology will normally be lower as there is substantial power saving when compared with Mercury Cell Process.

Setting of up L. P. G. Bottling Plant at Bhopal

1099. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed a L. P. G. bottling plant at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its progress up till now;

(c) whether its progress is held up due to non-clearance by Department of Environment; and

(d) if so, effective steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to set up an LPG bottling plant of 25,000 MTPA capacity at

Bhopal. IOC has already taken possession of 110 acres of land at Misrod near Bhopal for this purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Senior officers of IOC are closely following up the matter with the concerned authorities of the State Government and the "No-objection certificate" is expected shortly.

Civil Criminal and Labour Cases Pending in Supreme Court and High Courts

1100. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of civil cases, criminal cases and labour cases pending in the Supreme Court and in each High Court till 30.6.85; and

(b) the remedial measures Government propose to take to clear these cases in these Courts ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) Information as furnished by the Registries of Supreme Court and High Court is given in the Statement No. I below.

(b) Steps taken to reduce pendency in Supreme Court and High Courts are given in the Statement No. II below.

Statement-I

Civil, Criminal and Labour cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts

Name of the Court	Number of cases pending			
	Civil	Criminal	Labour (Appeals)	Total
(As on 1.6.1985)				
Supreme Court (Regular hearing and admission matters)	70771	7917	989	79677
High Courts	Number of cases pending			
	Civil	Criminal	Labour (Writ petitions)	Total
1	2	3	4	5
(As on 31.12.1984)				
1. Allahabad	180079	47198	1675	228952
2. Andhra Pradesh	78196	2144	916	81256

1	2	3	4	5
3. Bombay	94335	7059	1548	102942
4. Delhi	64470	3802	885	69157
5. Gujarat	30826	4713	1410	36949
6. Himachal Pradesh	8575	476	5	9059
7. Jammu & Kashmir	22758	2963	86	25807
8. Karnataka	92298	2085	2381	96764
9. Kerala	93189	6207	601	99997
10. Madhya Pradesh	37594	12646	505	50745
11. Madras	122401	10391	959	133751
12. Orissa	20861	3133	220	24214
13. Patna	39459	17118	471	57048
14. Punjab & Haryana	30639	2398	671	33708
15. Rajasthan	36116	10945	1070	48131
16. Sikkim	32	4	—	36
(As on 30.6.1984)				
17. Calcutta	115155	10754	91	126000
(As on 31.12.1983)				
18. Gauhati	10795	2541	67	13403

Statement-II

Steps taken from time to time to Reduce Pendency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in Supreme Courts and High Courts :

1. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgement of Single judge of the High Court in second appeal (Vide Section 100A).
2. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.
3. The Judge strength of the Supreme Court has been raised from 13 to 17 excluding the Chief Justice with effect from 31.12.77 by amending the

Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

4. The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 424 on 1st July 1985.
5. The Supreme Court rules have been amended to vest more power in the Registrars and Judges in Chambers so that the time of the court is not wasted in petty miscellaneous matters.
6. The Supreme Court has also taken the following measures :
 - (i) Priority is given to certain matters;
 - (ii) Miscellaneous matters are fixed daily;
 - (iii) Writ Petitions with identical questions are grouped together

and batches running from 50 to 100 matters are listed together for hearing;

- (iv) Other matter involving identical questions are also identified from time to time and put together and efforts are made to see that such groups are disposed of early;
 - (v) The Supreme Court Rules were revised in 1966 providing for printing of records under its own supervision. As that was also taking quite some time the court of late has started wherever possible dispensing with the preparation of records and hearing the appeals on special leave paper-book itself after the parties have filed their counter-affidavits and affidavits in reply.
7. Apart from the above certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases :
- (a) Cases involving common question are being grouped by several High Courts.
 - (b) Matters fixed for the hearing by giving short returnable dates.
 - (c) Dispensing with printing of records.
 - (d) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts.
8. The Government have also addressed the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts in which there is a heavy pendency of civil cases over 5 years' old to consider appointment of retired judges under Article 224A of the Constitution.
9. The recommendations contained in the 79th report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action

on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the State Governments and High Courts, these have been sent to them along with the views of the Union Government, and they have been requested to take necessary action.

10. The Government have also appointed Law Commission (10th Law Commission) to keep under review the system of judicial administration in the country. Among the terms of reference of the Law Commission are :
- (a) To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the time and in particular to secure :
 - (i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction of costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be just and fair;
 - (ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice; and
 - (iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice,
 - (b) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
 - (c) To recommend to the Government measures for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

11. The Government have constituted all informal Committee of 3 Chief Justices to examine the problem of arrears in High Courts and suggest remedial measures;

**Employment to Ex-Servicemen
in Kerala**

1101. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any special scheme for providing employment to all the ex-servicemen;

(b) the number of ex-servicemen in Kerala who are yet to get employment; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) The Government of India itself follows a policy of reservations in favour of ex-servicemen in recruitments made by it and in Central Public sector enterprises. It has also been commending the policy of reservation to the State Governments. It also provides various facilities to encourage self-employment by ex-servicemen, and has been recommending to the State Governments to similarly promote self-employment efforts by the ex-servicemen.

(b) According to information supplied by the Government of Kerala, 23,882 ex-servicemen are registered with the Zila Sainik welfare officers.

(c) Some of the steps being taken by the State Government of Kerala to promote employment of ex-servicemen are :

- (i) they are given preference in appointments to Government sponsored companies and in certain types of Government posts;
- (ii) Some limited categories of appointments in Government are also reserved for them;
- (iii) the essential qualifications for appointment are also relaxable in their favour under certain conditions;
- (iv) Self-employment of ex-servicemen is being encouraged by means of

reservation of seats in Industrial Training Institutes and Centres, by grant of preference to them in retail distributorships, and by reserving mechanised boats constructed in Boat Building Yards of the Fisheries Department for co-operative societies formed by ex-servicemen.

Registration of Telephones

1102. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Manager, Tele-communications, New Delhi has notified that demand draft instead of the cash, which was earlier in vogue, would be received for registration of telephones with that office;

(b) whether this scheme has been introduced in all the places for such registration and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the registration will be done on the date of realisation of amount from the bank or from the date of receipt of the demand draft; and

(d) whether in view of the adverse reaction of the Public, Government propose to revert back to earlier method of registration against cash. considered to be easy and quick ?

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

(b) No, Sir. However, this scheme has been introduced by telephone authorities in some big cities, depending upon the local condition, to avoid problems of security in handling large amount of cash and for facilitating registration of applications for telephone connections.

(c) The registration is done on the date of receipt of demand draft.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration in view of the fact that no complaints have been received by Delhi Telephone authorities in this regard.

[Translation]

Conversion of Faizabad Telephone Exchange into Electronic Telephone Exchange

1103. SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken to convert the Faizabad telephone exchange in Uttar Pradesh into an Electronic Exchange and if so, when this decision was taken;

(b) whether it is a fact that the land has also been acquired by the Department for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not starting the construction work thereon so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No decision has yet been taken to convert Faizabad telephone exchange into an Electronic Exchange.

(b) A plot of land measuring 24719 Sq. ft. has been acquired recently for a MAX-I Exchange.

(c) The case for the construction of building will be processed as soon as MAX-I equipment is allotted.

[English]

Savings Bank and Money Order System in Post Offices

1104. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present Money Order system and Savings Bank procedure in Post Offices are outmoded and time-consuming;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to introduce time saving methods in Saving Bank accounts in post offices;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce cheque system for Saving Bank account holders in Post Offices; and

(d) whether Government also propose to simplify the money order procedure ?

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

(b) The post office savings bank rules, 1965 were thoroughly revised and replaced by the Post Office Savings Bank General Rules, 1981 and the Post Office Saving Account Rules, 1981. The statutory rules have been also introduced for Recurring Deposits, Cumulative Time Deposits and Time Deposits in replacement of the respective non-statutory rules. All these statutory rules come into effect from 1-4-82. The operating procedures have been suitably modified. They are kept under constant review and appropriate action taken where necessary.

(c) The cheque system in post office Savings Bank is already in vogue in all the Departmental Post Offices.

(d) No, Sir. The money order procedure is already a simplified one.

Shortage of Cylinders

1105. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that resort has to be taken to flare up quite a substantial quantity of natural gas due to shortage of cylinders etc.;

(b) if so, the total quantity of gas that had to be flared up during the last one year, cost of the same and the quantity of the natural gas that could be compressed in cylinders etc., and value thereof; and

(c) measures that Government intend to avoid this loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Natural gas is flared for reasons such as inadequate compression facilities offshore, inadequate infrastructural facilities downstream, failure of consumers to lift the committed offtake, safety reasons, etc. The total

quantity of gas that was flared during the year 1984-85 is 3052 million cubic metres. The notional value of this gas computed at the rate of Rs. 100 per thousand cubic metres, the lowest rate charged within the country, is Rs. 30.52 crores. Natural gas cannot be compressed and stored in cylinders economically like LPG.

(c) Compression facilities are being augmented offshore. Minimum guaranteed offtake is being insisted upon in the case of existing consumers, and ONGC and OIL have been asked to supply gas to more consumers wherever feasible with a view to minimising flaring of gas.

Recruitment in Army from Madhya Pradesh

1106. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide proper guidance to educated healthy youths of Chambal division of Madhya Pradesh regarding their recruitment in the Army; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Advance publicity for recruitment into the Army is given through pamphlets, posters, radio and newspapers before recruiting parties proceed for making recruitments. In addition, the District Public Relations officer and Zila Sainik Karyalayas are also contacted for giving maximum publicity before these tours are organized. For recruitment of Youths of the Chambal division in Madhya Pradesh, during 1984-85 eight tours were undertaken by recruiting parties to various places in the Division.

Upgradation of Administration of Justice

1107. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the States to upgrade the administration of justice starting

from lower courts to district courts so far, State-wise; and

(b) whether his Ministry has issued guidelines to the States to adopt measures to quicken the disposal of the cases by camp courts at Blook level for giving facilities to the weaker sections of the people ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) and (b). The administration of Justice in lower courts is primarily the concern of the State Governments and High Courts. Under Article 235 of the Constitution the control over District Courts and courts subordinate thereto vests with the High Courts. The measures taken so far to quicken the disposal of cases in District and Subordinate Courts in general is given in the statement below.

Statement

Steps taken to reduce the pendency in District and Subordinate Courts

1. The Code of Civil procedure was amended in 1976.
2. The Code of Criminal procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.
3. The Government have appointed Law Commission (10th Law Commission) to keep under review the system of judicial administration in the country. Among the terms of reference of the Law Commission are :
 - (a) To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the time and in particular to secure :

- (i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction of costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that

- decisions should be just and fair;
- (ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice; and
- (iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.
- (b) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
- (c) To recommend to the Government measures for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.
4. Financial assistance is given to the States for setting up additional District and Subordinate court, construction of court buildings and residential quarters to Judicial Officers on the basis of the recommendations of the seventh Finance Commission. Grants are also proposed to be given to states for setting up additional districts and Subordinate courts, construction of court buildings, providing amenities in courts, construction of residential quarters to Judicial officers as recommended by the 8th Finance Commission.
5. The recommendations contained in 77th Report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the State Governments and High Courts, these have been sent to them along with the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to take necessary action.
6. A conference of the State Law Ministers was convened in June, 1982 to discuss the problem of arrears in lower courts. This matter has also been discussed in the conference of Chief Ministers held in April, 1983. In these conferences it has been emphasised on the State that they should take action on the following lines :
- (i) To clear the backlog of cases the States should set up additional court in such a way that all the arrears are cleared within a period of about three years.
- (ii) Certain criteria should be devised by the States in consultation with their High Courts and additional courts should be created without delay when those criteria are fulfilled.
- (iii) Adequate court buildings with proper facilities should be provided.
- (iv) Adequate number of prosecutors should be provided.
- (v) Judicial Officers should be provided with stenographers.
- (vi) The existing vacancies of judicial officers should be speedily filled up.
- (vii) Arrangements should be made for periodic and intensive inspection of the subordinate courts and any proposals for increase in posts to enable such inspections to be made should be considered by the State Governments.
- (viii) Institutionalised training should be imparted to judicial officers at the entry stage and by way of refresher courses.

Proposal for Modernisation of Projects and Development India Ltd.

1108. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Projects and Development India Ltd. (PDIL) has submitted a proposal for modernisation about five years back; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in clearing the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). The Projects and Development India Ltd. (PDIL) submitted a proposal for the modernisation of Catalyst Plant in October/November, 1979. The said proposal was not found suitable and was withdrawn as it had not taken into consideration, among other things, the supply/demand of Catalysts for the gas-based fertilizer projects. Thus, a recast proposal, vetted by an independent Expert Committee, has since been received and is being examined.

Purchase of Office Stationery from CGECCS

1109. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms Office Memorandum No. 14/14/80-Welfare dated 14-7-1981 made it incumbent on all Central Departments, their attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by Government located at Delhi/New Delhi to purchase all items of stationery, electrical, sanitary and other goods from the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society Ltd., New Delhi;

(b) the names of all offices falling under his Ministry covered by the above said order;

(c) whether all offices under his Ministry are following the above instructions and buying these items from the Society; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to ensure compliance of the aforesaid instructions ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) 1. Department of Legal Affairs
2. Legislative Department
3. Department of Justice
4. Law Commission of India
5. Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, Delhi Benches, New Delhi
6. Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes
7. Offices of the Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Law and Justice

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

Indigenous Production of High Voltage Insulators

1110. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether indigenous production of high voltage insulators in joint sector has been taken up in the country;

(b) if so, the cost at which the unit is proposed to be set up;

(c) the time by which it will start production and the estimated annual output;

(d) the estimated foreign exchange to be saved as a result thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal for setting up another such unit in Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if, not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A modern high tension insulator unit, of 6,000 tonnes annual capacity, requires an investment of Rs 10 crores to 25 crores depending upon the product mix.

At present there is only one unit namely M/s Lakshmi Porcelain Ltd., manufacturing HT Insulators in the Joint Sector in Andhra Pradesh and it has already commenced production. The second unit in the Joint Sector namely M/s Modern Insulators Ltd., in the State of Rajasthan, has recently been granted a licence for the manufacture of HT Insulators, and they are likely to commence production by the end of 1985. Other units have not made any significant progress.

(d). As the insulators proposed to be manufactured are being imported now, the entire production of the company(s) will amount to net saving in foreign exchange.

(e) and (f). At present there is no proposal to set up another unit in Andhra Pradesh for the manufacture of High Voltage Insulators.

The industry has, however, been delicensed.

Central Investment in Setting up Industries in Kerala

1111. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has formulated any scheme for setting up at least one industry in every district;

(b) if so, whether it envisages substantial Central investment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal to make substantial Central investment for setting up at least one industry in every district of Kerala.

Meeting of Political Parties on Electoral Reforms

1112. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to call a meet of all political parties of the country in New Delhi to consider the "electoral reforms" recommended by the Election Commission in recent past; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : (a) and (b). Government accord very high priority to electoral reforms. In a major area like this having far reaching implications, as indicated on more than one occasion, Government would put through legislative or similar other proposals only after consultation with major political parties. The Election Commission has already addressed all the political parties to give their reaction on some of the important recommendations and these views would be made available to the Government to facilitate consultation with political parties.

[Translation]

Linking of Azamgarh District Headquarters in Uttar Pradesh with Delhi and Lucknow by S.T.D.

1113. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a proposal to link Azamgarh district headquarters in Uttar Pradesh with Delhi and Lucknow by STD during Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. Subject to availability of resources, there is a proposal to link Azamgarh, a District Headquarter in U.P. with Delhi, and Lucknow by STD towards the end of 7th Plan period.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of H.M.T. Factories in Andhra Pradesh

1114. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places where Hindustan Machine Tools factories have been set up;

(b) the names of the items produced at each of these factories; and

(c) where such factories will be set up in Andhra Pradesh also; if so when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY & COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). A statement is given below :

(c) HMT has already its units in Andhra Pradesh and has no plans to set up any new units.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the places where HMT factories are situated	Items of manufacture
1.	Bangalore (Karnataka)	Machine Tools and Die Casting, Watches, Watch Cases and Quartz Analog Watches, Horological Machinery.
2.	Pinjore (Haryana)	Tractors and Machine Tools.
3.	Kalamassery (Kerala)	Machine Tools and Printing Machinery.
4.	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	Machine Tools, Presses and Lamp/Lamp Components and Lamp Making Machinery, Bearings.
5.	Ajmer (Rajasthan)	Machine Tools
6.	Srinagar (J & K)	Watches

7.	Tumkur (Karnataka)	Watches, Stepper Motors
8.	Aurangabad (Maharashtra)	Dairy Machinery
9.	Gauhati (Assam)	Miniature Battery Cells
10.	Ranibagh (Uttar Pradesh)	Watches

Honey Production

1115. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of accumulation of honey produced in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide facilities to clear them; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for the promotion of honey industry in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) At present, there is no unusual accumulation of stock of honey produced in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Promotion of honey industry is being undertaken by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in the country. Steps being taken for promotion are as under :

(i) Standard Bee boxes are manufactured and distributed at subsidised rate.

(ii) Processing and grading of honey under Agmark is arranged.

(iii) Improved strains of bees are evolved for increasing yield of honey.

(iv) Advance bee management technique is disseminated.

- (v) KVIC provides financial assistance to cooperatives for purchase of honey, direct sale to consumers, dealers, repackers.
- (vi) KVIC has departmental procurement, processing and marketing facilities. Processing units have been established at :
- (1) Kuzhithurai, Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu.
 - (2) Tripunithura, Ernakulam, Kerala.
 - (3) Gandhi Darshan, New Delhi.

Shortage Created by Traders in Kerosene Oil in Orissa

1116. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether his Ministry is aware of artificial shortage created by the traders in kerosene in Orissa;
- (b) if so, whether strict instructions were issued to take strong measures in Orissa against the hoarders and blackmarketers, and
- (c) whether strong measures have been taken by the State Supply Department in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The Orissa Govt. has reported that no artificial shortage of kerosene was created by the traders in the State.

(b) The State Governments have been advised from time to time to streamline the distribution system of kerosene and to take effective action against those including in malpractices of hoarding and black-marketing of kerosene.

(c) Orissa Govt. have issued instructions to the District authorities and State Enforcement Staff to ensure that no dealer resorted to hoarding and black-marketing of kerosene, and the make strong action against any one found including in such malpractices under the Essential Commodities Act.

Expansion and Diversification Scheme of HMT Unit, Kerala

1117. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Hindustan Machine Tools, Kerala unit has any scheme for expansion and diversification during the Seventh Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c). The HMT unit at Kalamassery, Kerala has no scheme for expansion during the Seventh Plan period. The unit has schemes for diversification envisaging addition of products such as, slant bed CNC lathes, CNC turn mill centre and flexible turning cells with workpiece and tool automation, sheetfed offset machines, accessories and attachments like numbering systems, high pile delivery and plate resisting system for printing machines. The diversification schemes are scheduled to be completed during the Seventh Plan period.

Performance of Large Integrated Paper Mills

1118. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have conducted any study about the financial position of different large integrated paper mills located in the country;
- (b) the financial position and the various factors affecting the paper industry;
- (c) the performance of the paper industry in Sixth Plan; and
- (d) the details of the fiscal measures proposed to be taken to improve the performance of integrated paper mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COM-

PANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The major problems of the paper industry relate to increasing investment requirements, dwindling raw material supply, escalating input cost, availability of essential inputs such as, coal and power, and modernisation and renovation.

(c) As against the target of installed capacity and production of 20.50 lakh tonnes and 15.00 lakh tonnes respectively, the capacity installed by 1984-85 amounted to 24 lakh tonnes and production achieved was 13.61 lakh tonnes (estimated).

(d) The problems of the Paper Industry are kept in view by the Industry, Government, Financial Institutions and other concerned agencies, while formulating appropriate remedial measures. Some of the units have taken up modernisation and technological upgradation with a view to achieve increased economic usage of raw materials, higher yield, reduction in energy consumption, improvement of quality, pollution control and prevention of obsolescence. A package of fiscal reliefs, by way of excise concessions, and reduction/waiver of customs duty for imported raw materials has been extended to the paper industry. Infrastructural support has also been improved by increasing allocation of coal to the industry.

[Translation]

Lok Adalat Programme in Gujarat

1119. SHRI CHHITU BHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Lok Adalat Programme organised by the Gujarat High Court in Gujarat has been very effective; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the Committee for implementing Legal Aid Schemes constituted by Government Lok Adalat Programme in Gujarat is being organised by the State Legal Aid and Advice Board and not by the High Court.

From March, 1982 to 22nd June, 1985, the Board has held 92 Lok Adalats 23, 578 cases were dealt with of which 13, 981 were disposed of or compromised and advice was given in 1,667 cases.

[English]

Tenders for Laying Gas Pipeline from Bombay High

1120. SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether global tenders were invited for laying of gas pipeline from Bombay High to places in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for the proposed Fertilizer projects;

(b) if so, whether the tenders have been finalised;

(c) the details of companies and the estimated work of laying the gas pipeline; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir, The last date for receipt of tenders is 27th August, 1985. Orders are expected to be placed by the end of December, 1985. The project is scheduled to be completed in all respects by July, 1989.

[Translation]

Functioning of Kakamaon Telephone Exchange

1121. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for which the Telephone exchange, Kakamaon (Allahabad) in Uttar Pradesh, is not functioning smoothly;

(b) whether Government have received complaints in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon to ensure proper working of this exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Telephone exchange Phaphamau (Allahabad) is working generally satisfactory (No exchange named Kakamanon). However sometimes junction calls are affected between Phaphamau and Allahabad.

(b) In recent past one complaint from the hon'ble Member of Parliament has been received.

(c) At present two junction lines are working between Phaphamau and Allahabad. These junction lines are running along a very long Ganga bridge. Efforts are being made to increase the junction lines.

Uniforms for Postmen

1122. SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether postmen have represented to Government for changing the colour of the uniform; and

(b) whether Government propose to supply them Khaki colour uniform ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. However, we have received representations from a few unions requesting for a change in colour of uniforms now being supplied to the eligible staff.

(b) The matter is being reviewed.

[English]

Setting up of Pulse Code Modulated Digital Telephone Lines in The Rural Areas

1123. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposal to set up pulse Code Modulated (PCM) Digital Telephone lines and containerised electric telephone exchanges in the rural areas;

(b) if so, when such proposal is going to be implemented; and

(c) what are other communication technologies proposed to be provided to meet the specific requirements of rural telephone communication ?

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

(b) Some schemes planned to be implemented during the 7th Plan.

(c) Multi-Access Rural Radio systems and small capacity electronic exchanges are being considered for procurement through indigenous development and/or collaborative manufacture using state of the art technology.

Petro-Chemical Technology in Arab Countries

1124. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to develop petro-chemical technology in Arab countries; and

(b) if so, the various efforts made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Engineers India Limited has provided consultancy and project monitoring services for the petro-chemical complex at Basra in Iraq.

Oil Exploration in the Ran of Kachh

1125. SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission has examined the feasibility of oil exploration in the Ran of Kachh and areas adjoining that Ran;

(b) if so, in what way; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to examine such feasibility ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). ONGC have already carried out geological, gravity-magnetic and seismic survey in the area adjoining the Rann of Kutch. Two exploratory wells have also been drilled in this area.

Supply of mobikes by Hero Honda Motors Ltd., New Delhi

1126. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of deposits collected by Hero Honda Motors Ltd., New Delhi towards advance booking of its motor cycles; and

(b) the production capacity of the above company and how much time it will take to supply the mobike to those who have booked for it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The Company has advised having collected about Rs. 25 crores as advance against bookings for motor-cycles.

(b) The licensed capacity of the Company is 2 lakh motorcycles per annum and it expects to clear bookings within 5 years.

Opening of Foreign Post Office at Varanasi

1127. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a strong demand for opening a Foreign Post Office at Varanasi in view of heavy export of Varanasi Sarees etc., and carpets; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Government is examining the matter.

Hiring of premises at NOIDA by Bharat Leather Corporation.

1128. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Leather Corporation's office at NOIDA on a monthly rent of Rs. 10,000 has been lying unoccupied for the last four and half years;

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

(c) whether any enquiry has been made in order to fix responsibility for hiring premises and wasting public money ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). The premises in question had been taken on a monthly rent of Rs. 2,254/- w.e.f. 4.9.1979 for the registered office of the Corporation. This rent was enhanced to Rs. 3,220/- per month w.e.f. 18.7.1984. The premises have been in use as the registered office of the Corporation.

(c) Does not arise.

Disposal of applications for expansion/ setting up of new units

1129. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of applications from various companies for expansion or for setting up new units were received during the years 1982-83, 1983-84, and 1984-85; if so, the details thereof, year-wise :

(b) whether any new foreign company has also applied; if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications which were referred to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission during the above period and the action taken by the Commission thereon;

(d) the number of applications cleared by Government on the recommendations of MRTP Commission during the above period; and

(e) the number and details of the applications which are still pending for clearance, since when these are pending and the reasons for delay in taking the decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The number of Industrial Licence applications received under the provisions of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for the grant of Letters of Intent during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 from various companies including the FERA companies is as under :

Sl. No.	Year	Total Number of applications received
1.	1982-83	1635
2.	1983-84	1545
3.	1984-85	2069

All the details of approved cases wherein letters of intent have been issued are regularly published in the monthly news-letter brought out by the Indian Investment Centre.

(c) and (d). Of the 16 applications referred to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission during this period, 4 cases were closed owing to the applicants having withdrawn their applications and three cases were closed as approval was not necessary. Out of the remaining nine cases, reported by the Commission, seven were approved and one proposal was rejected by the Government. The proposal in the remaining one case has since been exempted.

(e) The details of pending applications are not divulged till the Government have taken final decisions thereon. Efforts are being made to dispose of all the pending cases and to ensure this, procedures have been streamlined.

Hiring of Drilling Rigs for Exploration of Oil

1130. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of oil drilling rigs engaged by India for exploring oil;

(b) how many rigs have been purchased and the number of such rigs which have been procured on hire during the last three years;

(c) the cost involved for the buying and what amount is being paid for hiring these rigs and from which countries they were procured; and

(d) the terms and conditions for hiring a rig ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The information is as follows :

Oil and Natural Gas Commission :

Onland : 54 (Owned)
2 (Charter hired)
Offshore : 8 (Owned)
6 (Charter hired)

Oil India Limited :

Onland : 6 (Owned)
Offshore : 1 (Charter hired)

(b) and (c). Oil and Natural Gas Commission

13 Onland rigs were purchased from BHEL whose price is yet to be negotiated. 6 Offshore rigs were purchased at a cost of approximately Rs. 263 crores from Japan (3) Singapore (2) and West Germany (1).

2 Onland rigs, one each belonging to an Italian and a West German company were taken on charter hire at a daily operating rate ranging between Rs. 1.38 to 1.70 lakhs. 10 Offshore rigs belonging to American companies were chartered whose daily rates ranged between \$ 16,689 to \$ 87,000.

Oil India Limited

3 Onland rigs were purchased from M/s

BHEL at a cost of Rs. 26 crores 1 Offshore rig belonging to a Mexican company was chartered at an effective day rate of \$ 23,300.

(d) Among the important terms and conditions are those relating to :

- (i) the period of the charter hire.
- (ii) Rate payable during the period of the contract.
- (iii) Supply of the requisite number of personnel/equipment by the contractor.
- (iv) Option to extend contract by one year either on the same rates, terms and conditions or on mutually agreeable terms.

Opening of Branch Post Offices in Rural Areas During Seventh Plan Period

1131. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed any targets for the opening of new Branch Post

Offices in the rural areas during the first year of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the targets for each constituent Postal Circle (State-wise in case of multi-State Postal Circles) for 1985-86;

(c) whether the shortfall covered by not opening that BPOs found justified and planned for 1983-84 and 1984-85 but not opened due to ban by the Ministry of Finance on the filling up of existing vacancies and recruitment to new posts, would also be kept in view so as to cover the backlog; and

(d) if so, the details of the backlog, State-wise for the last two years ?

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

(b) Circle wise targets and not State-wise fixed for 1985-86 are indicated in Statement below :

(c) The physical targets and financial outlays of the Sixth Five Year Plan are deemed to have lapsed on 31.3.1985.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Circle-wise targets for opening of post office during 1985-86

Name of Circle	Opening of post offices during 1985-86			
	Normal	Tribal	Backward	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra	82	15	10	107
2. Bihar	148	25	25	198
3. Delhi	02	—	—	02
4. Gujarat	47	16	10	73
5. J. & K.	—	—	38	38
6. Kerala	34	06	05	45
7. Karnataka	35	04	10	49
8. Madhya Pradesh	118	40	25	183

1	2	3	4	5
9. Maharashtra	95	28	10	133
10. North East	62	120	02	184
11. North West	79	10	02	91
12. Orissa	40	50	02	92
13. Rajasthan	71	20	15	106
14. Tamil Nadu	57	03	05	65
15. U.P.	162	20	30	212
16. West Bengal	83	29	10	122
17. Reserve	55	—	—	55
Total	1170	386	199	1755

Note : Opening of post offices is subject to lifting of economy orders banning creation of new posts.

Appointment of Territorial Army Personnel on Permanent Staff in Urban Units

1132. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Territorial Army personnel are expected to perform the duties of the regular Army personnel during the course of their tenure;

(b) whether till recently JCOs, were employed on permanent staff in the Urban Units of the Territorial Army;

(c) if so, whether this practice has been discontinued and JCOs from the regular Units are appointed on permanent staff, causing frustration and resentment among Territorial Army Jawans; and

(d) if so, the reasons for this change and the likely date by which it would be discontinued ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Territorial Army units can be embodied for specific military tasks if the need arises. These tasks are for secondary and defensive roles.

(b) to (c). There is a fixed proportion of Territorial Army JCOs and Regular Army JCOs for appointment on the permanent staff of Urban Units. There has been no change in this policy. A Regular Army JCO is posted in a vacancy for a Territorial Army JCO only when a suitable JCO from the Territorial Army is not available.

Shifting of 1900 Lines from Delhi Gate Area to New Electronic Telephone Exchange

1133. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether over 1900 lines in Delhi Gate area will be shifted to the new Electronic Exchange;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) the total expenditure involved;

(d) the time by which these lines will go electronic; and

(e) to what extent it will be useful ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes Sir, in first phase.

(b) The main reasons for transfer is to give relief to Delhi Gate Exchange as well as to the applicants on waiting list in Delhi Gate Exchange.

(c) The expenditure involved in laying the cables for transfer of 2930 telephones and augmentation of underground cable in the transferred area is about Rs. Ninety Lakhs (Rs. 90-lakhs).

(d) 1891 lines were transferred on 21.06.85 to Kidwai Bhavan '331' exchange and about 1039 lines will be transferred by the end of this month.

(e) It will give relief to overloaded exchange of Delhi Gate '26' and '27' to the extent of 2930 lines.

Production and Demand of Oil in Seventh Five Year Plan

1134. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand of oil at the end of last year of Sixth Plan period (1984-85) and the total output during the period *vis a vis* the demand;

(b) the total estimated oil production during the Seventh Five Year Plan and the demand during the period;

(c) the total oil imported during the Sixth Five Year Plan and foreign exchange involved; and

(d) whether India will become self-sufficient as far as oil is concerned, by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The demand and production of crude oil during the terminal year of sixth five year plan viz 1984-85 is 35.56 MT and 23.99 MT respectively.

(b) The total production of crude oil from indigenous sources during Seventh plan period is expected to be around 171 MT as against the demand of 239 MT of petroleum products.

(c) During the Sixth five year plan the gross imports of crude oil were of the order of 78.11 MT valued at Rs. 18095 crores approximately.

(d) Not likely.

Black Marketing of Cement in Delhi and Other Places

1135. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is at present an acute shortage of cement in the market particularly in Delhi, Calcutta and other places and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the free sale cement is at present being sold in the capital at a premium of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per bag and the dealers/stockists do not issue receipts for the amount thus charged in excess, and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to make adequate quantity of cement available in the large consuming centres and to check such black-marketing by these stockists/dealers in the Capital ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The production of cement has increased from 27 million tonnes in 1983-1984 to 30.17 million tonnes in 1984-85, thereby improving the availability of cement in the country. However, there has been recently increase in the demand for cement in the open market due to increase in the tempo of construction activity particularly in the important urban centres of northern region in the country and also the anxiety of the people to complete the works before the onset of the Monsoon. There was difficulty in obtaining wagons for transport of cement to some of the urban centres including the Capital. The position regarding availability of cement is reported to have improved since then.

(b) and (c). There is no statutory control on the price of non-levy cement.

However, Government's anxiety over the rise in prices of non-levy cement has been conveyed to the cement industry.

Telecommunication Facilities in Tribal and Hill Areas

1136. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the telecommunication facilities made available by Post and Telegraphs Department in backward tribal and hill areas of the country;

(b) how many public telephone have been installed in such under this policy and their number, Statewise by the end of 1984-85; and

(c) the number and locations where such facility is likely to be provided during the year 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Telecommunication facilities provided in backward tribal and hilly areas are primarily long distance public telephones and combined offices, under the liberalised policy.

(b) The number of such long distance public telephones installed in the country during the 6th plan, by the end of 1984-85 is 11774. The State-wise information is given in the statement below:

(c) A total of 2000 LDPTS/Combined Offices are planned in the year 1985-86., Subject to availability of financial and material resources. Locations are being identified by the Telecom. Circles.

Statement

State-wise break up of long distance public telephones installed in rural backward, and hilly areas during the 6th Plan by the end of 1984-85.

Sl.N. Name of Circle	LDPTS
1. Andhra Pradesh	2890
2. Bihar	1038

3. Gujarat (including Gujarat, Dadra, Nagar Haveli, Diu Daman)	305
4. Jammu & Kashmir	66
5. Karnataka	396
6. Kerala (including Kerala, Mahe & Minicoy, Lakshadweep, Amindive Islands)	36
7. Madhya Pradesh	1444
8. Maharashtra (including Maharashtra Goa)	714
9. North Eastern (including Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh)	104
10. North Western (including Haryana Himachal Pradesh, Panjab and Chandigarh)	379
11. Orissa	380
12. Rajasthan	453
13. Tamil Nadu (including Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry)	1960
14. Uttar Pradesh	1300
15. West Bengal (including West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands)	339

Total

11,774

[Translation]

Constitution of Telephone Advisory Committees

1137. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in the country where Telephone Advisory Committees are functioning alongwith the dates of their functioning in each case, and

(b) the purpose of setting up these committees, the persons eligible to become members of these Committees, the criteria adopted

for their selection and the tenure of their membership ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The information is given in the statement-I below :

(b) The purpose of setting up these Committees is given in the statement-II below:

A Member of the Committee should normally be residing in the geographical jurisdiction of a Telephone District in case of Telephone Advisory Committee, and in the concerned State/Union Territory in the case of a Telecommunications Advlsory Committee.

The nomination of Members of the Committee is made to represent various categories of interests selected from a panel of names recommended by the concerned Head of the Telecommunications Circle/Telephone District and others received directly in the Directorate, except for Members of Parliament who are nominated by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs.

The tenure of Advisory Committee is normally two years.

Statement-I

Statement showing the names of the Advisory Committees and the respective dates from which these are functioning

Sl. No.	Name of the Advisory Committee	Date from which functioning
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Telephone Districts

1.	Agra	22-6-1985
2.	Ahmedabad	15-11-1984
3.	Amristar	13-10-1983
4.	Bangalore	30-11-1984
5.	Baroda	22-6-1985
6.	Bombay	16-10-1984
7.	Calcutta	20-9-1984
8.	Calicut	22-6-1985
9.	Chandigarh	22-11-1984
10.	Coimbatore	18-10-1984

11.	Delhi	19-5-1984
12.	Ernakulam	14-11-1984
13.	Hyderabad	22-6-1985
14.	Indore	22-6-1985
15.	Jaipur	12-10-1984
16.	Jalandhar	22-6-1985
17.	Kanpur	22-6-1985
18.	Ludhiana	1-11-1983
19.	Madras	16-10-1984
20.	Madurai	22-6-1985
21.	Nagpur	22-6-1985
22.	Varanasi	22-6-1985
23.	Vijayawada	22-6-1985
24.	Pune	27-10-1984
25.	Patna	19-7-1985

State/Union Territories

26.	Andhra Pradesh	22-6-1985
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	22-6-1985
28.	Assam	30-10-1984
29.	Goa, Daman & Diu	21-9-1984
30.	Gujarat	22-6-1985
31.	Haryana	29-10-1984
32.	Himachal Pradesh	13-9-1984
33.	Jammu & Kashmir	22-6-1985
34.	Lakshadweep	22-6-1985
35.	Madhya Pradesh	22-6-1985
36.	Tripura	23-10-1984
37.	Manipur	22-6-1985
38.	Maharashtra	22-6-1985
39.	Meghalaya	22-6-1985
40.	Pondicherry	22-6-1985
41.	Rajasthan	17-10-1984
42.	West Bengal	22-6-1985

Statement-II

Statement showing purpose of setting up of the Telecommunications/ Telephone Advisory Committees

1. Bringing the telephone using public and the Telecom. Department into closer relationship.
2. Giving the public confidence that their grievances are being properly represented and attended to.

3. Advising the Department on the improvement of local and trunk services.
4. Giving publicity to the action being taken by the Department for improving and developing the telephone services.
5. Assisting the Department in handling the present shortages in telephone equipment and lines by invoking co-operation and patience from public.
6. Assisting the Department in deciding out-of-turn connections as provided under the rules on a fair and equitable basis by joint assessment of the comparative merits of various applicants in the waiting list under the 'OYT' and 'NON-OYT' special categories.

[English]

Criteria for Issuing Licences/Registration for Production of Bulk Drugs

1138. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the parameters of economy that are taken into account while issuing licences/registrations for production of bulk drugs from basic stages *vis—à—vis* international prices;

(b) whether foreign companies having equity not more than 40 per cent are producing bulk drugs at a higher price than that being produced by their parent companies abroad;

(c) the details of items price difference of such items produced by them in our country; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) FERA companies are issued industrial approvals/letters of intent only if the manufacture is from the basic stage. In other cases factors like the availability of indigenous raw materials and relative cost of production from different stages are taken into account while specifying the stage from which the bulk drug is to be manufactured.

(b) to (d). By and large the cost of production of bulk drugs in the country in all sectors is higher than the c.i.f. prices because of a number of factors including the higher cost of inputs and utilities.

Manufacture of Tractors in Bihar, U. P. and Rajasthan

1139. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the companies which are manufacturing tractors in Bihar, U.P. and Rajasthan; and

(b) the number of tractors manufactured by each company during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b) : The following companies are manufacturing tractors in Bihar, U. P. and Rajasthan and their production is as follows :

S. No.	Unit manufacturing tractors	Location	Production in Nos.	
			83-84	84-85
1	2	3	4	5
1.	M/s. Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation.	Patna, (Bihar)	26	7

1	2	3	4	5
2.	M/s. Auto Tractors Limited.	Pratapgarh, (U. P.)	701	450
3.	M/s. Harsa Tractors Limited.	Ghaziabad, (U. P.)	173	114
4.	M/s. Eicher Diesels Limited.	Alwar, (Rajasthan)	161	703

Setting up of more Cement Factories in U.P. and Rajasthan

1140. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government to open cement factories in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the coming years;

(b) if so, the places where these factories would be established and when; and

(c) the amount estimated to be spent on these factories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b) Approvals by way of Industrial Licence/ Letters of Intent/Registration with DGTD have been given for setting up cement factories (both in private and public sector) to 28 parties in Rajasthan and to 10 parties in Uttar Pradesh. These factories are proposed to be set up in the following Districts and are in various stages of implementation and it would, therefore, be difficult at this stage, to indicate the likely time by which these plants would go into commercial production ;

Rajasthan

Uttar Pradesh

District	No. of factories	District	No. of factories
1. Nagaur	8	1. Dehra Dun	4
2. Sirohi	7	2. Pithoragarh	2
3. Ajmer	2	3. Almorha	1
4. Sikar	4	4. Pauri Gharwal	1
5. Chittorgarh	2	5. Mirzapur	2
6. Raipur	1		
7. Jodhpur	1	Total :	10
8. Chittor	1		
9. Kota	1		
10. Udaipur	1		

(c) According to the current price levels, the average investment per tonne of cement ranges from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1500 depending upon the size of the plant, technology adopted etc.

Drilling in Bay of Bengal

1141. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state the details of the drilling programme undertaken by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the Bay of Bengal and when the off-shore drilling would start ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : ONGC have identified the drilling locations and preparatory work for undertaking drilling is in progress. The drilling in Bengal offshore by ONGC is likely to start by end 1985.

Introduction of Green Boxes for Local Letter in the Country

1142. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :
SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce green boxes for local letter only in some selective cities; and

(b) the reason why Government do not propose to introduce such system in all other towns of our country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes. Green letter boxes have been re-introduced in 7 selected cities i.e. Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmadabad, Bangalore and Hyderabad on an experimental basis.

(b) The past experience of various cities indicates that members of the public do not post local letters only in the green letter boxes.

Shortage of Molasses

1143. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether at present there is a ban on building up additional capacity for potable alcohol;

(b) whether this ban is mostly due to scarcity of molasses, which is an important ingredient;

(c) whether scarcity of molasses is also affecting manufacture of industrial alcohol; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the supply of molasses ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b) . As part of prohibition policy, the Government banned, from 19.11.75, the creation of additional capacity or expansion of existing capacity for distillation or brewing of alcoholic drinks except in 100 per cent export oriented cases.

(c) and (d) . Molasses is a by-product in the manufacture of sugar. Hence, availability of molasses in any given year is determined by the production of sugar. Because of slightly higher sugar production, molasses production is also slightly higher during current alcohol year 1984-85 (December, 1984-November, 1985) as compared to last year. It is likely to result in higher production of alcohol also. However, due to increased demand for alcohol, shortage is being experienced. Government is, therefore, allowing duty free imports of denatured alcohol to industrial users.

Composition of group set up to study the repercussions on the transportation of P.O.L. Products

1144. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level official group has been set up to study the repercussions on the transportation of P.O.L. products arising out of the steep cut in the Seventh Plan allocation for the Petroleum sector; and

(b) if so, the composition of this group and the time by which its report is likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Telecommunication System in Orissa during Seventh Plan Period

1145. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps and chalked out programme for the department of the communication system in the State of Orissa during the Sevneeth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the State headquarter, Bhubaneshwar, is proposed to be connected with all the district headquarters by STD lines;

(c) whether Government have also made provision for providing STD system in sub-divisional headquarters and giving telephone facilities in every district and Public Call Office in every Panchayat Headquarters; and

(d) the details in this regard ?

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

(b) This would be subject to the availability of adequate plan funds.

(c) Provision of STD facility in sub-divisional headquarters is not a plan priority. Long Distance Public Call Offices can be provided at Panchayat headquarters if certain conditions as detailed in (d) are satisfied.

(d) Out of 13 district headquarters of Orissa, 2 district headquarters namely Cuttack and Puri are already connected on STD to the State Capital Bhubaneshwar. The remaining district headquarters namely Balasore, Baripada, Bhawanipatna, Bolangir, Chartapur (Ganjam), Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Phulbani, Sambalpur and Sundergarh are planned to be provided with STD facility during the 7th Plan period subject to availability of funds.

Long distance Public Call Offices can be provided at Panchayat Headquarters on subsidised basis if they happen to be category stations as below :

- Sub-divisional/Tahsil Headquarters;
- Sub Tahsil Headquarters.
- Block Headquarters.
- Places with a population of 5000 or more in ordinary areas and 2500 or more in backward or hilly areas.
- Places with Police Stations under the Charge of an Officer of the rank of a Sub-Inspector of Police or above.
- Out of the way places beyond 40 Kms (radial distance) from an existing exchange.
- Tourist/Pilgrimage Centre/Agricultural/Irrigation/Power Project sites/Townships.
- Other stations on the basis of financial viability or in the case of loss on rent and guarantee basis.

Telephone Connections in National Capital Region

1146. SHRI B. B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the interest of quick development of National Capital Region, Government have drawn up a plan to give telephone connections to people in this area; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider shifting telephones of offices/individuals who shift to places like Faridabad, NOIDA etc., which will fall within the National Capital Region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The plans are under preparation.

(b) Shifting of telephone from one exchange to another is permitted within the local area of a telephone system. Due to technical reasons the shifting of telephone outside the local area would not be possible.

The proposed National Capital Region would be covering several telephone systems having different local areas. Therefore shifting of telephones connections from Faridabad Exchange of Delhi Telephones system to NOIDA telephone system will not be possible as these form two separate Local areas.

Agreement Regarding Petrochemical Complex at Haldia as a Joint Sector Unit

1147. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS
MUNSI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government had entered into an agreement with a private sector entrepreneur to implement the long-delayed petro-chemical complex at Haldia as a Joint Sector Unit; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An understanding has been reached between West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. and Goenkas for the setting up of this project on the standard joint sector pattern.

Increase in Prices by M/s Bajaj Auto Ltd.

1148. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that M/s Bajaj Auto Ltd., Pune, have increased the prices of their products a number of times;

(b) if so, the number of times the prices of the Bajaj products. Scooter and Tempo have been increased during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether prior approval of the Government was obtained before the increase of prices; and

(d) the reasons for increasing the prices every year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b) . Bajaj Auto Ltd. do not manufacture Tempo. Information in respect of the prices of Bajaj Super and Bajaj Chetak Scooters during the last five years is as follows :

(Ex-factory price excluding excise duty in Rs.)

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985 (July)
Bajaj Super	4750	5280	5280	5540	6490
	5100			6000	
Bajaj Chetak	4900	5430	5430	5740	6730
	5250			6180	

(c) There is no Government control on prices of automobile including two-wheeler scooters and as such the question of obtaining Government approval does not arise.

(d) The increase in prices of two-whee-

lers over the past 4-5 years has not been excessive in comparison to increase in the general price index and that of inputs like steel-aluminium, non-ferrous metals, tyres, etc.

Energy Saving Potential in Industries

1149. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study of ten high energy consuming units in South India has shown that a saving of Rs. 30 crores annually is possible (Business Standard, 2.6.1985) and if so, whether similar exercise has been done in other parts of the country, details thereof;

(b) whether consumption of energy in India is one of the highest in the world in respect of coal mining steel and aluminium manufacture, etc. and if so, whether any time bound programmes are in operation or are on the anvil;

(c) whether any estimate of total savings possible on this score have been made and if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have any plans for finding alternate sources of energy for the Industrial needs for the 21st century in view of depletion of petroleum stocks and if so, details of the perspective plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Government are not aware of any study conducted specifically for 10 high energy consuming units in South India. However, the National Productivity Council on behalf of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Utilisation and Conservation of Energy, constituted by the Government of India, conducted Energy Audit Studies in 200 industries, covering 12 sectors.

(b) Yes Sir. The Energy consumption in the different industrial sectors in India is quite high as compared to the developed countries.

(c) The Inter-Ministerial Group had estimated saving potential of Rs. 1925 crores on an annual basis (1982 figures) by implementing energy conservation measures.

(d) A draft Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) has been prepared by the Working Group on the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for promoting use and exploitation of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in this country. The final dimen-

sions of the Plan are still under discussion with the Planning Commission.

No Industry Districts in U. P.

1150. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of 'No Industry' districts in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) whether Districts of Uttar Kashi, Tehri Garhwal and Chamoli also come within the definition of 'No Industry' district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) There are eleven No-Industry Districts in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Opening of Petrol Depot in Sagar, M.P.

1151. SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 228 on 24 July, 1984 regarding petroleum products depots of Indian Oil Corporation and state the progress made so far regarding opening of petroleum depot at Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : Owing to constraint of resources and the consequent inability of the oil industry to take up any tankage schemes other than those of operational necessity, no progress has been made about opening of a depot at Sagar in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Supply of Gas to Hazira Fertilizer Project in Gujarat

1152. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :
SHRI B. V. DESAI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the failure of ONGC to supply gas on schedule to Hazira Fertilizer Project in Gujarat in resulting in a daily production loss of Rs. 1 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons for this failure; and

(c) the steps being taken to correct the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). There has been some slippage in the completion of the ONGC project for supply of gas to the KRIBHCO fertilizer project. The project consists of laying submarine and onland pipeline. The submarine portion has already been completed. Work is in progress for the onland portion. The main reasons for the slippage are :

1. Capsizing of two dredgers
2. Failure of a 200 tonnes Winch resulting in injuries to many and death of one person.
3. Breakage of Winch rope.

(c) The present plan for completion of work requires pulling of the pipeline by M/s. Mc. Dermott's barge with the "tie-in" (welding) of pipes at four location in the middle of River Mindola. Both these operations are critically dependent on weather and tidal conditions. Simultaneously an alternative contingency plan involving laying of 25 km. land line pipe to bypass Mindola river has also been drawn up.

Report of Oil cost Review Committee

1153. SHRI V. SOBHANADRESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since received the report of the Oil Review Committee; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). The Oil Cost Review Committee has submitted its report to Government which is under examination.

Setting up of Heavy Industries in Bihar

1154. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether regional imbalance exists in setting up of heavy industries in Public and Private Sectors in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of heavy industries in northern region of Bihar;

(c) whether Government propose to set up heavy industries in Public Sector in the industrially backward divisions; and

(d) if so, the type of industries which Government propose to set up in the northern Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). Government maintain only district/statewise data in regard to issue of all Letters of Intent and Industrial Licences.

73 LIs and 64 ILs were issued in respect of industries in Bihar during 1982-1984. District-wise break-up of these is indicated in the statement below :

(c) and (d). There is no such proposal at present in respect of heavy engineering and capital goods industries sector.

Statement

District-wise Break-up of letters of intent and industrial licences issued for location of Industries in Bihar during the years 1982 to 1984

District	1982		1983		1984	
	LOI	IL	LOI	IL	LOI	IL
1. Aurangabad	2	—	—	—	1	—
2. Bhojpur	2	—	1	—	1	1
3. Khagaria	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Nalanda	1	—	—	—	—	1
5. Purnea	—	—	2	1	1	—
6. Saharsa	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Bhagalpur	—	—	—	1	—	1
8. Darbhanga	—	—	1	—	—	—
9. Champaran (East)	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Champaran (West)	2	—	1	—	—	—
11. Palamau	—	—	1	—	—	—
12. Santhal Parganas	—	—	1	2	1	1
13. Muzaffarpur	—	—	—	—	—	1
14. Saran	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Nawadah	—	—	—	1	—	—
16. Gaya	—	—	—	1	—	—
17. Begusarai	1	—	1	—	—	1
18. Monghyr	—	—	1	—	1	—
19. Patna	—	2	2	1	—	3
20. Rohtas	1	—	—	—	—	—
21. Siwan	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Gopalganj	1	—	—	—	—	—
23. Vaishali	—	—	—	—	—	—
24. Sitamarhi	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Samastipur	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Madhubani	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Katihar	—	—	—	1	—	—
28. Hazaribagh	—	1	2	2	1	1
29. Giridih	—	—	—	—	—	1
30. Ranchi	4	—	1	3	5	4
31. Dhanbad	—	1	1	7	—	8
32. Singhbhum	4	5	3	9	4	3
33. More than one Distt./any backward area/Any No-Industry Distt.	4	—	12	—	6	—
Total	22	9	30	29	21	26

**Turn over of and Incentives given
to Industries**

1155. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the turn over of the small scale industries and the large scale industry during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) the estimated target of turn-over of these industries in the country in the Seventh Plan period; and

(c) the incentives given to small scale industries in comparison to large scale industries during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The data on turnover for the large scale and small scale sector for the Sixth Plan period is not available. However, on the basis of CSO Index of Industrial Production, the industrial sector as a whole recorded an annual average growth rate of 5.5 per cent.

(b) The Seventh Five Year Plan envisages an annual average growth rate of 7 per cent for the industrial sector.

(c) Government attaches high priority to the development of small scale sector, which constitutes an important segment of economy in terms of employment, output and exports. Several incentives including financial assistance at low rate of interest, supply of machinery on hire-purchase basis, relief from excise duty and other fiscal concessions, investment subsidy for small scale units set up in backward areas, transport subsidy, reservation of certain items for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector and reservation of certain item for exclusive purchase from the small scale sector are available for the development of small scale sector.

[Translation]

**Heavy industries and Central Investment
Subsidy Scheme in Gaya (Bihar)**

1156. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY

AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gaya district in Bihar is covered under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme announced by Union Government; and

(b) whether Government have under consideration a scheme to set up heavy industries in this backward district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

[English]

Setting up of Paper Plants In Bihar

1157. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up more small paper plants in Bihar, particularly in rural areas, keeping in view that large resources such as wood and other raw materials are available in abundance in Adivasi forest areas of that State;

(b) whether State Government has sent any proposals in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c). Besides four small paper mills each with an annual installed capacity of less than 10,000 tonnes, which have been set up in the State of Bihar, as on 1.1.85, registrations have been granted by DGTD in favour of 13 units for setting up of additional capacity for manufacture of 49020 tonnes of paper and paper board.

Supply of Indigenous off-shore Vessels

1158. SHRI R. P. DAS :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has placed orders for indigenous off shore supply vessels with some Indian shipyards;

(b) if so, the details of the said orders;

(c) the names of the Indian shipyards with whom said orders were placed, with details of vessels to be supplied, shipyard-wise;

(d) by what time vessels are to be supplied; and

(e) total amount of money involved in the said orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) :

-
1. Mazagon Docks Limited, — 8 OSV. 4 were to be delivered between October 1983
Bombay. to April, 1984. Two vessels delivered so far in February, 1984 and March, 1985 respectively. Remaining two are yet to be delivered. Formal contract in respect of remaining 4 is yet to be signed.
 2. Hindustan Shipyard — 4 OSV's to be delivered between July, 1985 to April,
Limited, Vishakhapatnam 1986. No vessel delivered as yet.
 3. Hooghly Dock & Port — 2 OSV's to be delivered between October, 1985 to
Engineers India Ltd., January, 1986.
Howrah.
 4. Garden Reach Shipbuilders — 3 OSV's to be delivered between October, 1985 to
and Engineers, Calcutta. April, 1986.
 5. Goa Shipyards Limited, — 3 OSV's to be delivered between August, 1985 to
Goa. April, 1986.
-

(e) The above orders would cost approximately Rs. 90 crores.

Purchase of Oil during Seventh Five Year Plan

1159. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to buy oil during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the names of the exporters and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The purchases are partly made on year to year basis and partly on On-the-spot basis. The details for the Seventh Plan will not, therefore, be available at this time.

Revival of Sick Industries

1160. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are preparing a blue-print formulating the strategies for re-opening the closed industries and reviving the sick units;

(b) if so, what is the total number of sick units in the country at present;

(c) whether any proposal is being considered for their improvement; and

(d) the total number of sick units that will be revived during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (c). The Union Government is proposing to set up a Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction for tackling the problem of sick units. Necessary draft legislation in this regard is now being finalised. However, certain policy guidelines on sick industries have already been issued for guidance of Central Ministries, State Governments and Financial institutions to deal with this problem. The salient features of these guidelines have already been furnished in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 204 on 23.1.1985.

(b) Data on sick industrial unit assisted by banks are being collected by RBI as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. According to the latest data available from RBI, there were 83,597 sick units in the country as at the end of June, 1984.

(d) Revival of sick units, which are potentially viable is considered by the assisting banks and financial institutions on individual merits and is a continuous process. It is therefore not possible to quantify the number of sick units which will be revived during the current year.

No Industry Districts in States

1161. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government, while moulding its Industrial location policy, have included only 'A' category Districts (which do not have any large or medium scale industrial unit) in the list of 'No Industry Districts';

(b) whether it is causing hardship to some States; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction to it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) After the re-categorisation of backward areas, No Industry Districts and Special Regions have been included in Category 'A'.

(b) Some of the States have suggested that Taluk/Blocks having no large or medium scale industry or districts having one or two medium or large scale industries may be included in the list of 'No Industry Districts'.

(c) Government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee to review and revise the existing scheme of Incentives for industrialisation of Backward Areas.

Improvement in Production of Engineering Industries

1162. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of manufacturing output and production of engineering industries have been less in 1984-85 than in 1983-84 and if so, the reasons thereof and steps taken to improve their performance; and

(b) whether any trend towards improvement is visible in this sector during the quarter from April to June, 1985; and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) No, Sir. The index of production of manufacturing sector including engineering industries achieved a growth of 4.1 per cent in 1984-85.

(b) Yes, Sir. The index of production of manufacturing sector including engineering industries recorded a growth of 6.1 per cent in April, 1985, the month for which the latest data is available. Industry groups which recorded a high growth rate are Electrical Machinery (13.9 per cent) and Transport Equipment (16.7 per cent).

**Introduction of S. T. D. System at
Tamluk, West Bengal**

1163. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the plan and programme of Government to introduce S.T.D. system in national net-work at Tamluk, district Midnapore (West Bengal);

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). Tamluk is a manual exchange of 200 line capacity. Provision of STD facility to a place is dependent on the following :

- (i) Availability of automatic exchange of appropriate type at the station.
- (ii) Installation of connecting equipment in the local exchange at the station.
- (iii) Availability of switching equipment in the trunk automatic exchange to which it is to be connected.
- (iv) Availability of reliable transmission medium linking that place with national network.

Due to limited availability of switching and transmission equipment even large number of priority stations like districts headquarters in the country are yet to be provided with S.T.D. facilities. Tamluk which is not a district headquarter is likely to be considered for providing S T.D. facilities after meeting the priority requirements.

[Translation]

**Shortage of Telephone Operators in
Nasirabad Telephone Exchange**

1164. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation about the difficulties of the subscribers due to shortage of tele-

phone operators in Nasirabad Telephone Exchange;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken by Government; and

(c) whether the equipment meant for linking Nasirabad Telephone Exchange with other parts of country with direct dialling system have not yet been installed so far and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A representation from the President Nagar Yuvak Congress (I) was received by the Divisional Engineer Beawar.

(b) There is no shortage of Telephone Operators, in the Nasirabad telephone exchange. Against the sanctioned strength of 9 telephone operators, 9 are posted there.

(c) There is one direct dialling circuit between Nasirabad-Ajmer. Circuits to other stations are not justified on present traffic basis. However there is no proposal for introducing STD from Nasirabad as it is a manual exchange.

[English]

Bloated Demand of Tyres

1165. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether tyre production during Sixth Plan has been far in excess of domestic demand;

(b) whether it is a fact that demand of tyres was bloated with a view to import rubber and depress domestic prices; and

(c) if so, whether responsibility has been fixed therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Setting up of Fertilizer Project near
Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan)**

1166. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have approved the proposal for setting up of a fertilizer project near Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan in the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details regarding ownership, production capacity, zero date, etc. are given in the statement below.

Statement

Location	Ownership	Zero date	Production capacity
Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan	M/s. Zuari Agro Chemicals Ltd.	1.10.85	Amonia : 1350 TPD Urea : 2200 TPD

Exploration of Oil and Gas

1167. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to locate oil and gas reserves in offshore and onshore in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what are the findings; and

(c) the steps taken to explore oil and gas from the area where it has been located ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The seismic survey was conducted during the last three years as follows :

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Onshore			
Standard line km.	8944	9996	12466
Line kms.	3332	3423	5045
Offshore			
Line kms.	27231	19874	23444

(b) and (c). The above data has been interpreted and several leads have been found for exploratory drilling. In these three years exploratory drilling have been carried out in a number of onshore and offshore locations.

**Conversion of Manual Telephone
Exchanges into Automatic
Telephone Exchanges**

1168. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of requests received from various State Governments for converting the manual telephone exchanges into auto exchanges;

(b) the names of the cities for which the requests have been received; and

(c) the Government policy to provide auto telephone exchanges in place of manual exchanges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDA) : (a) and (b). The information is given in the statement below.

(c) The policy adopted is to accord priority to exchanges at District Head-quarters and exchanges of higher capacities with large waiting lists.

Statment

The number and details of requests as on April '85 with names of places received from various State Governments for converting the manual telephone exchanges into auto exchanges.

Name of Place	Number	Details
1. Agra (Uttar Pradesh)	2	1. Sanjay place Transportnagar 2. Foundry Nagar
2. Nagpur (Maharashtra)	1	1. Nagpur Maharashtra State
3. Panchkula (Chandigarh)	1	1. Panchkula
4. Sivaganga (Madras Circle)	1	1. Sivaganga
5. Orissa	24	1. Badapokhari 2. Fatepur 3. Santargadia 4. Kansa 5. Chhatrapur 6. Balandapuda 7. Gochhapada 8. Nuapadar 9. Smalbarrage 10. Kaniha 11. Athamallik (Auto Exch. existing) 12. Samakoi Dam 13. Sansada 14. Khamar College 15. Bhuban (Auto Exch. existing) 16. Chendipada (Auto Exch. existing) 17. Garposh 18. Kaseibahal 19. Bamra (Auto Exch. existing) 20. Rasgovindpur 21. Bai Singh 22. Tarakutti 23. Santara 24. Gaddulia
6. Punjab	3	1. Kauni (Faridkot) 2. Goindwal (Amritsar) 3. Humbran (Ludhiana)

[Translation]

**Opening of Public Call Offices in
Chonaliya and Soni, District at
Almora**

1169. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received representations from people's representatives for opening Public Call Offices in Chonaliya and Soni (District Almora) in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Public Call offices will be opened at these places during the year 1985-86; and

(c) if not, the time by which Public Call Offices are likely to be opened at these places ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The places Chonaliya and Soni in District Almora do not qualify for provision of telecommunication facilities on subsidized basis. The facility can however be provided on rent and guarantee basis if some interested party or the State Government agrees to indemnify the Department against the anticipated loss.

**Setting up of Petrol Pump at Lohaghat,
U. P.**

1170. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has since taken a decision to set up a petrol pump at Lohaghat (U.P.); and

(b) if so, the time by which this petrol pump would be made available for public use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The letter of intent has been issued to the selected dealer on 19.6.85. Efforts are being made to commission the dealership at the earliest after completing requisite formalities.

**Construction of Motor Road from
Tavaghat to Zipti in Dharchula
(Uttar Pradesh)**

1171. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any representation from the representatives of the people for getting the motor road from Tavaghat to Zipti in border area of Dharchula in Uttar Pradesh constructed by DGBR; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The road from Tanakpur to Tavaghat (about 263 Kms. in length) had been constructed by Border Roads Organisation to Class IX specification (3.66 Metres carriageway). There is no operational requirement for the extension of the road beyond Tavaghat upto Zipti. Hence the works cannot be undertaken from Border Roads Development Board funds.

[English]

Demand of L.P.G. Cylinders

1172. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) total production of L.P.G. by various sources in the country till date;

(b) whether, there are sufficient number of LPG cylinders to meet the increased demand;

(c) the procedure adopted by the oil companies in general to procure gas cylinders from the manufacturers;

(d) whether it is a fact that the production capacity of the approved gas cylinder manufacturers is not fully utilized;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The production of LPG in the country during 1985-86 is expected to be 1.188 Million Tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Procurement of Cyliyers by the oil companies is done after floating public tenders and orders are placed on approved parties for supply of cylinders. Developmental orders are also placed on new units who have obtained approval of the Oil Industry Technical Committee, and other prescribed clearances.

(d) to (f) . The registered production capacity of the cylinder manufacturers is far in excess of the oil industry's requirement. The cylinder units, have been advised to go in for diversification.

Funds to Rehabilitate the Families of Bhopal Gas Tragedy Victims.

1173. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh have asked for more funds to rehabilitate the families of Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent on health and medical facilities and rehabilitation work as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b) . An additional sum of Rs. 30 crores has been asked by the State Government for rehabilitation for the families of Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims.

(c) A sum of Rs. 32 crores has been spent by the end of May, 1985 on relief measures undertaken by the State Government.

Simplification of Licensing Procedure in Industries

1174. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the licensing procedure in respect of industries has been simplified;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent this has cut down the delay in issuing licences ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b) . The Licensing Procedures are being constantly reviewed and various measures have been taken in this regard from time to time. Some of the important measure taken recently included de-licensing of 25 broad groups of industries and 82 essential bulk drugs and related formulations, providing the facility of broad banding in the case of number of industries, raising the investment limited for small scale and ancillary undertakings to Rs. 35 lakhs and 45 lakhs respectively, raising of threshold limit for MRTP to Rs. 100 crores and enforcement of time limits in the disposal of industrial licensing cases.

(c). In the case of de-licensed industries, the entrepreneur does not need a licence and he is only required to get registration with SIA which is normally given within a period of 21 days. Number of industrial units get exemption from licensing, being outside the licensing limits. Where an industrial licence is required, the time taken in disposal has been cut down considerably. For example, out of 1883 applications from non—MRTP companies that were disposed of during 1984 about 70 per cent cases were disposed of within 90 days. The corresponding percentage of such cases disposed of within 90 days was 48 per cent during 1983. Similar results are likely to follow in the case of MRTP Companies with the increase in the threshold limit for MRTP companies to Rs. 100 crorer and exemption of 27 groups of industries from the requirement of MRTP clearance.

[Translation]

Supply of High Quality Essential Items at Concessional Rates to Personnel of Defence Forces through Departmental Canteen Stores

1175. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether revised estimates of Rs. 361.90 crores were made and an amount of Rs. 404.01 crores was provided in the Budget Estimates for the year 1985-86 for supplying domestic items and other high quality essential items of daily reads at concessional rates to the personnel of armed forces all over India; and

(b) the items made available from the Departmental Canteen Stores and the names of the items which are provided at concessional rates and how it is determined that the items taken by them are for their own use or these are for other persons for which Government have to bear huge expenditure every year ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 3000 items are sold through retail outlets by the Canteen Stores Department. These include household goods, toilet requisites, liquor, food, stationery and certain special items. The Canteen Stores Department arrange sale of these items to unit managed outlets under the control of Defence Services themselves. Strict watch is being kept to ensure that sale is made only to authorised consumers. Necessary action is taken on receipt of reports of unauthorised sale/possession of these items. The Canteen Stores Department is basically a trading organisation and has been making profits every year.

[English]

Exploration of Oil by Foreign Companies.

1176. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government and Planning Commission have decided that oil exploration be thrown open to foreign oil companies on terms and conditions suiting the foreign concerns;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of countries involved and rates enhanced;

(c) the reasons as to why the ONGC and Oil India could not undertake the above job when their work was very satisfactory and was being encouraged; and

(d) how the above arrangements with foreign companies affect our foreign exchange position and steps contemplated to save the foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (d). In order to supplement the efforts of the two national oil companies engaged in the work of exploration and exploitation of oil, it was decided to invite foreign oil companies of repute to explore and exploit hydrocarbons in selected areas of the country.

In the earlier two rounds of bidding for leasing of areas for oil exploration and production, one block was awarded to Chevron of USA. The risk money was invested by the foreign contractor.

Government is considering the question of going in for a third round of bidding for leasing of areas for oil exploration and production. The details of the terms and conditions have not yet been finalised.

In the event of oil discovery our dependence on imported crude will be reduced.

Introduction of Microwave Telephone System to Forest Areas.

1178. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce microwave telephone system in jungle areas to avoid theft of open line wire and frequent repair of the lines due to forest growth and other reasons;

(b) if so, the programme undertaken for this purpose; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to manufacture these equipments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. We have plans to cover jungle areas by Multi-access Radio relay systems in very high Frequency (VHF) range.

(b) 9000 Long Distance Public Telephones have been proposed to be provided in the country including jungle areas with Multi-access Radio relay systems during 7th Plan. However, this will depend upon the Technical feasibility and availability of resources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons of Mig Factory at Sunabeda in Koraput (Orissa)

1179. **SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have rehabilitated all the displaced persons of Mig factory at Sunabeda in Koraput by now;

(b) if not, how many persons have been rehabilitated and how many have not been rehabilitated so far;

(c) the nature of rehabilitation; and

(d) whether any of those persons have been employed ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (d). According to HAL, out of a total of 397 displaced persons, 86 have been employed by the Company directly in semi-skilled/unskilled jobs. The remaining 311 have been employed by the contractors to the Company, on work connected with sanitation, material handling, construction, etc.

Expansion of Mig Factory at Sunabeda, Orissa

1180. **SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to expand Mig factory at Sunabeda in Koraput (Orissa);

(b) the nature of expansion;

(c) the time by which the expansion is likely to take place; and

(d) the employment prospects, if any, after the expansion ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (d). The facilities at the Koraput Division of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for the manufacture and overhaul of aero-engines are being augmented, by way of additions to the plant and machinery, civil works and services. The programme will be completed in about 3 years. The expansion programme does not envisage any significant increase in the manpower.

Purchase of Oil Rigs

1181. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of oil digging rigs purchased since January 1985 from abroad;•

(b) the details of the countries who supplied oil rigs;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange paid; and

(d) if not purchased so far, whether there is any proposal to purchase them from abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). The Oil and Natural Gas Commission placed an order in March, 1985 on M/s Ingersoll Rand, USA for the purchase of one mobile drilling rig at a cost of US\$ 1,607,178.

(d) Oil India Limited proposes to purchase 3 land rigs from abroad. Oil and Natural Gas Commission has floated two tenders for the purchase of 8 land rigs.

Post Offices in Bangalore City in Rented Buildings

1182. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Bangalore City running in rented buildings;

(b) the amount paid by the Department every month towards rent;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide own buildings for all post offices in Bangalore City; and

(d) if the State Government agrees to provide land and other facilities, whether the Department would take steps to construct new buildings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 198 (One hundred and ninety-eight only).

(b) Rs. 1,24,591 (One lakh twenty four thousand five hundred and ninety-one only).

(c) Departmental buildings are constructed in a phased manner subject to availability of sites and funds and actual need for having departmental buildings.

(d) Department takes steps to construct departmental buildings subject to availability of funds and actual need to have departmental buildings.

Malfunctioning of Nagpur Telephones

1183. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that working of the Nagpur telephones is deteriorating day by day;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of telephone consumers at Nagpur are criticising the functioning of Nagpur telephones;

(c) whether Government propose to make a thorough investigation into the alleged malfunctioning of the Nagpur Telephones; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. Telephone services of Nagpur Telephone system is working generally satisfactory. However, working of one exchange out of four i. e. Itwari telephone exchange had deteriorated in summer due to equipment trouble and staff absenteeism.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Investigations were made and Divisional Engineer and Assistant Engineer were transferred. The equipment was attended to on priority and now the telephone exchange is working satisfactorily.

Rebate to Telephone Subscribers in Respect of Wrong Calls

1184. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any suggestion has been received by the Union Government to give suitable rebate to the telephone subscribers in respect of wrong number calls;

(b) whether the Union Government have considered this suggestion;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to old equipments in the Nagpur Telephone Exchange, the problems of wrong number calls, etc. are increasing;

(d) whether Government propose to change the existing Nagpur Telephone Exchange, into Electronic Exchange; and

(e) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) : Yes Sir; suggestions have been received from various quarters from time to time. A study was undertaken at different places. Instances of such calls have been found to be less than 0.8 per cent of total calls. Grant of rebate for such calls is, therefore, warranted.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Project estimate for 10,000 lines E-10B electronic exchange has been sanc-

tioned and electronic equipment is likely to be supplied during the 7th plan period.

Setting up of Sub-Committee to look into the Problems of Ex-Servicemen

1185. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P. Singh, Deo, former Union State Minister of Defence to look into the problems of Ex-Servicemen about a year ago;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether another sub-committee has been set up to look into the redresses of Ex-servicemen; and

(e) if so, when a final decision will be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARSIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir.

(c) Copies of the Report are being laid on the Table of the House separately.

(d) As required by the general instructions of Government on the subject, with a view to speedily achieve inter-Ministry consultations (which were necessary on a large number of the recommendations) an "Empowered Committee" (and not a sub-committee) was set up by the Ministry of Defence, including representatives from all other concerned Ministeries as well as the Planning Commission. The Empowered Committee has completed its task.

(e) Many of the recommendations have been accepted and their implementation is in hand. A final decision will be taken shortly on the remaining recommendations which relate exclusively to the Central Government. The recommendations which need to be individually decided upon and implemented by the State Governments have already been commended to them.

Manufacture of LPG Cylinders

1186. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be

pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that there is scarcity of LPG cylinders and as a result it takes a long time in getting domestic gas connections;

(b) the total manufacturing capacity of cylinders during the last two years vis-a-vis total demand during the period;

(c) whether any cylinders had to be imported during the period; and

(d) if so, details thereof and foreign exchange involved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) There is no scarcity of LPG cylinders.

(b) The total manufacturing capacity and demand for LPG cylinders during the last two years was as follows :

	<i>Mfg. Capacity</i>	<i>Lakhs Demand</i>
1983-84	99.00	50.00
1984-85	120.00	50.00

(c) and (d) : In view of shortage of cylinder during 1982-83, the Indian Oil Corporation had floated a global tender, in December, 1982. Based on the tender order for 8 lakh cylinders were placed on M/s. Mangels Minas of Brazil. Against this order 6.2 lakh cylinders have been received, involving foreign exchange of US \$94,67,400/.

Digital Tele-Communication Network in Koraput District in Orissa

1187. SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Koraput District in Orissa was selected by his Ministry to provide digital tele-communication network during Sixth Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that except the selection of places for installation of towers in different places of that district by the Telecommunication Circle, Orissa, no further progress had been made up to the end of Sixth Plan;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by his Ministry to implement the scheme during Seventh Plan ?

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

(b) Stations for the introduction of integrated digital network in Koraput District have been identified and network plans have been prepared.

(c) and (d) : The scheme was not taken up due to non-availability of the equipment. The scheme can be implemented in the Seventh Plan subject to availability of equipment and funds.

**Purchase of Stationery etc.
in Defence Ministry**

1188. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms Office Memorandum No. 14/14/80 Welfare dated 14-7-1981 made it incumbent on all Central Departments their attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by Government located at Delhi/New Delhi to purchase all items of stationery, electrical, sanitary and other goods from the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society Ltd., New Delhi;

(b) the names of all offices falling under his Ministry covered by the above said order;

(c) whether all offices under his Ministry including Air Headquarters and Delhi Cantt. offices are following the above instructions and buying these items from the Society; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to ensure compliance of the order ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir, except Delhi Cantonment Board.

(b) It is not considered necessary in the public interest to disclose the names of the subordinate formations located in Delhi/Delhi Cantt.

(c) It is confirmed that all offices under the Ministry of Defence, except Delhi Cantonment, Board, located at Delhi/Delhi Cantonment. are buying the items of stationery from the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society Ltd. Delhi.

(d) Instructions have been issued to the Delhi Cantonment Board to follow the prescribed procedure.

**Retention of Telephone Facilities after
Retirement of Government
Officers**

1189. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government allows retention of telephone facility after retirement of an officer of Government or on death, if request is made by the family members of the concerned Government officer; and

(b) if so the details regarding the procedure followed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. however, a retiring Government officer can register for a telephone connection in his personal capacity as a Retired Government Officer in the 'Non-OYT-SS' category six months before the date of his/her superannuation provided he/she has drawn a basic salary of Rs. 1600 per month or more for at least one year prior to retirement. The Government official should not have availed of this facility earlier at any other station in the country under this category. This facility will also be available to the spouse of the Government employee after his/her death.

**Concessions for Setting up Industries
in Backward Areas**

1190. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the subsidy and other concessions being granted by Government for setting up industries in the backward areas have yielded the desired result;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to assess the progress made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the State-wise details of industries set up during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas set up by the Planning Commission to, inter-alia, review the existing schemes of Central Investment Subsidy, Concessional Finance etc. submitted its report on "Industrial Dispersal" in October, 1980. Copies of Report have been laid on the Table of the House.

(c) A statement showing the state-wise break-up of industrial licences issued for setting up industries in backward areas during the last three years is given below. The details such as name of unit, item of manufacture, location etc. are published by the India Investment Centre in their "monthly News letter", copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Statement

State/Union Territory	Year		
	1982	1983	1984
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	9	25	23
2. Andhra & Nicobar	—	—	—
3. Arunachal Pradesh	—	2	3
4. Assam	1	22	8
5. Bihar	—	6	6
6. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	1
7. Goa, Daman & Diu	7	3	10
8. Gujarat	25	36	30
9. Haryana	4	12	11
10. Himachal Pradesh	5	5	5
11. Jammu & Kashmir	2	10	8
12. Karnataka	16	27	19
13. Kerala	6	16	13
14. Madhya Pradesh	5	19	23
15. Maharashtra	21	23	39
16. Manipur	—	—	—
17. Meghalaya	—	—	—
18. Nagaland	—	2	2
19. Orissa	2	5	5
20. Pondicherry	1	3	3
21. Punjab	3	11	15

1	2	3	4
22. Rajasthan	9	11	15
23. Sikkim	—	—	2
24. Tamilnadu	15	35	32
25. Tripura	—	—	1
26. Uttar Pradesh	5	33	35
27. West Bengal	8	11	12
28. State not indicated/ more than one state	1	—	2
Total :	145	317	323

Exploration of Oil

1191. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the flow of oil from the existing wells in the country is diminishing;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any intensive efforts are being made to locate oil in regions hitherto unexplored; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Decline in reservoir pressure is a normal phenomenon after commencement of production. In some fields oil flow is declining due to ageing. The flow is diminishing at rates ranging from 5-10 per cent depending on rock and oil properties and age of reserves.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Some of the steps planned in this behalf are :

1. Introduction of new seismic exploration technology;
2. Extensive exploration of areas in less precisely known geographical regions.
3. Induction of advanced technology and increased use of computers for data processing.

Introduction of Computers in Courts

1192. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce computers in the working of the Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the legal and technical experts were consulted before taking any decision in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details of the opinion expressed by legal experts in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The matter is receiving the attention of the Government.

Theft of Insured Parcels

1193. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the light of large scale thefts of insured parcels, Government are devising a machinery to check this illegal practice;

(b) if so, the details of the steps envisaged;

(c) whether Government have been able to make any break through in this connection;

(d) if so, the number of cases apprehended in 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(e) the details of action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The existing machinery is considered adequate and is geared up from time to time.

(c) Yes, Sir. In a few cases some outsiders and a few departmental officials were apprehended. The cases were reported to police.

(d) The number of cases apprehended during 1983-84 and 1984-85 are as follows :

1983-84	1984-85
122	92

(e) Persons found involved in theft of insured parcels prosecuted in Court of Law or departmentally proceeded against.

Telephone Service in North Bihar

1194. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the telephone service in Bihar State particularly in North Bihar are deteriorating day by day;

(b) whether Government are aware that there remains almost breakdown in telephone services; and

(c) the steps Union Government propose to take to improve the telephone services in Bihar State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No Sir; telephone service in Bihar State particularly in North Bihar are working generally satisfactory.

(b) No breakdown have been reported.

(c) Following steps are being taken to further improve the telephone system in Bihar State :—

1. Laying of new junction and primary cables in ducts in large telephone systems.
2. Pressurisation of main cables and laying of new cables duly pressurised.
3. Flooding of cable trenches before they are closed.
4. Use of jelly filled cables in distribution network.
5. Scrapping of life-expired equipment and cables.
6. Special testing of internal equipment of the exchanges.
7. Provision of engine alternators to get over Power failures.

[Translation]

Cities in Uttar Pradesh to be Linked by S.T.D.

1195. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the cities in Uttar Pradesh which are proposed to be linked through S.T.D. during the year 1985-86 ;

(b) the pre-requisites for a city to become entitled for S.T.D. ;

(c) whether district Ajamgarh does not fulfil the requirement for this entitlement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) In Uttar Pradesh 29 cities are already provided with S.T.D. facilities, and no new city is proposed to be linked through S.T.D. during the year 1985-86;

(b) The pre-requisites for provision of S.T.D. from a city a :

- (i) installation of automatic exchange of appropriate type at that station.
- (ii) installation of reliable transmission medium including multi-

plexing equipment required for linking that station to national network.

- (iii) installation of appropriate terminations in the trunk automatic exchange to which the station is to be connected.
- (iv) installation of required terminating equipment in the local exchange at that station.

(c) Out of the four pre-requisites for S.T.D. facility mentioned in (b) above items (i), (iii) and (iv) are fulfilled. Item (ii) namely reliable transmission medium and multiplexing equipment is yet to be fulfilled in the case of Ajamgarh.

Setting up of Public Call Offices in Districts of Uttar Pradesh Based on Multi Access Rural Radio System

1196. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is a proposal for introducing Public Call Offices in Ajamgarh, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Ballia, Jaunpur, Basti and Gazipur districts of UP based on 'multi-access' rural radio system ;

(b) if so, the number of Public Call Offices likely to be opened during 1985-86 based on the aforesaid system; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Nil.

(c) The implementation of these schemes depends upon availability of equipment to be manufactured indigenously. Orders for indigenous MARR equipment for Deoria scheme have been placed on M/s. ITI and equipment is expected in 1986-87. Orders in respect of other districts are under process.

Telegraph Facility in big Markets of Azamgarh District in U.P.

1197. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of post offices in big markets in Azamgarh-district in Uttar Pradesh do not have telegraph facility as a result of which people of rural areas have to cover a long distance to book telegrams;

(b) whether Government propose to provide telegraph facility at Surajpur, Maryadpur Dubari; Sipah, Latghat and Thekmapost offices, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Telegraph facility is provided in a post office when justified by traffic. All post offices therefore may not qualify for provision of telegraph facility.

(b) Telegraph facility is already provided at Surajpur, Dubari, Latghat and Thekma.

(c) Maryadpur and Sipah do not qualify for provision of telegraph facility on subsidized basis as per the present policy. The telegraph facility can, however, be provided on rent and guarantee basis if some interested party or State Government agrees to indemnify the Department against the anticipated loss.

[English]

Off-Shore Drilling in West Bengal

1198. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has undertaken a Project of off-shore drilling in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether international tenders for the project have been floated, how many tenders have been received by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the names of the companies; and

(c) the target of drilling and how many points will be released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) ONGC have initiated preparatory work for undertaking exploratory drilling in Bengal offshore.

(b) Global tenders have been invited for charter hiring of one shallow water jack up rig for drilling in Bengal offshore. Six tenders were received. The names of these companies are :

1. Reading and Bates Drilling Co., U.K.
2. Perforaciones Maritimas Mexicanas SA, Mexico.
3. Permargo International Corporation, USA.
4. Zapata Offshore Co., USA.
5. Forex Naptune International Inc. France.
6. ESSAR, Bombay.

(c). The drilling is likely to start by end 1985. Five independent locations have been identified for drilling in this area.

Permanent Bench of High Court at Agartala

1199. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending at Agartala Bench of Gauhati High Court; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to set up permanent bench of Gauhati High Court at Agartala ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) As per information furnished by the Registry, the number of cases pending as on 31-12-1983 in Gauhati High Court as a whole is 13,403.

(b) No, Sir.

Introduction of S. T. D. Service in Agartala Telephone Exchange

1200. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce S. T. D. service in Agartala Telephone Exchange; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be introduced ?

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

(b) S. T. D. to Agartala is likely to be introduced towards the end of the 7th Plan period subject to availability of funds and equipment.

Construction of ONGC Complex in West Bengal

1201. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to construct the ONGC Complex in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps ONGC authorities have so far been taken to construct the complex ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). The Oil and Natural Gas Commission plans to establish its residential-cum-office Complex in Calcutta. Efforts are being made to procure suitable land for the complex.

Expansion Scheme of Instrumentation Limited, Palghat

1202. **SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Instrumentation Limited at Palghat has formulated a scheme for its expansion; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The expansion plan of Instrumentation Limited, Palghat for the Seventh Plan period

envisages manufacture of Hitech Valves, Power Cylinders and Control Drives and Desuperheaters and Pressure Reducing Station.

Expansion of Indian Telephone Industries, Palghat

1203. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Telephone Industries at Palghat is being expanded;

(b) whether this unit will have the manufacturing capacity for electronic exchanges, components and telephone instruments etc; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (c). The Palghat Unit is being expanded for the manufacture of 1.5 lakh lines consisting of 30,000 lines (60,000 equivalent lines) of Digital Trunk Automatic Exchanges, 40,000 lines of Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchanges and 50,000 line of Rural Automatic Exchanges. No components and telephone instruments are proposed to be manufactured in the Unit.

Modernisation of F. A. C. T. Unit at Udyogamandal in Kerala

1204. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the F.A.C.T. unit at Udyogamandal in Kerala is the oldest and has become obsolete;

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernise this unit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) The Udyogamandal Unit is the first major fertilizer factory in the country. Subsequently, this Unit was expanded in

stages. The old plants like wood gasification plants, Monsanto Sulphuric Acid plants, Electrolytic Hydrogen plant, which became obsolete, were scrapped.

(b) and (c). Certain renovations, the details of which are to be worked out by the company, have to be carried out.

Setting up of Ammonia Plant at Udyogamandal in Kerala

1205. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an ammonia plant at Udyogamandal in Kerala;

(b) if so, its capacity and other details; and

(c) when it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c). The Company has approached the Government with a proposal for setting up a new Ammonia plant with a capacity of 900 tonnes per day. Government has not taken any decision on the proposal.

[Translation]

Civil Criminal cases pending in Himachal Pradesh High Court

1206 SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of civil and criminal cases pending in Himachal Pradesh High Court; and

(b) the steps being taken to provide inexpensive justice to the people and the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) As per information furnished by the Registry of Himachal Pradesh High Court, 8583 civil cases and 476 criminal cases are pending as on 31.12.1984.

(b) Steps taken to reduce pendency in High Courts in general including those for

providing inexpensive justice are given in the statement below.

Statement

Steps Taken from Time to Time to Reduce Pendency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in the High Court :

- (1) The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgement of Single Judge of the High Court in second appeal (Vide Section 100 A).
- (2) The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.
- (3) The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 424 on 1st July, 1985.
- (4) Apart from the above, certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases :
 - (a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts.
 - (b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates.
 - (c) Dispensing with printing of records.
 - (d) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts.
- (5) The Government have also addressed the Chief Ministers of States are Chief Justices of High Courts in which there is a heavy pendency of civil cases over 5 years' old to consider appointment of retired judges under Article 224 A of the Constitution.
- (6) The recommendations contained in the 79th report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the

State Governments and High Courts, these have been sent to them along-with the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to taken necessary action.

- (7) The Government have also appointed Law Commission (10th Law Commission) to keep under review the system of Judicial Administration in the country. Among the terms of reference of the Law Commission are :
 - (a) To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the time and in particular to secure :
 - (i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction of costs so as to secure quick and economic disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be just and fair;
 - (ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice; and
 - (iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.
 - (b) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
 - (c) To recommend to the Government measures for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

- (8) The Government have constituted an informal Committee of 3 Chief Justices to examine the problem of arrears in High Courts and suggest remedial measures.

Exploration of Mineral Oil in Bihar

1207. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the research and exploration work for mineral oil is being carried out in Betia and Madhubani in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of the achievements made in this regard so far; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that at many other places such as around Rajgir hills and forests in district Nalanda in Bihar, there is possibility of finding mineral oil and if so, the steps being taken by Government for exploration of oil there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In Betia area, on the basis of seismic surveys, one well Gandak-1 was drilled upto 5314 metres and is under testing. In Madhubani area, one well (Madhubani deep well No. 1) has been released for drilling upto 6000 metres. Further, two seismic parties carried out surveys during 1984-85 field season. The data is under evaluation.

(c) Rajgir-Nalanda area is not considered prospective for discovery of hydrocarbons.

Use of Hindi in Ministry of Communications

1208. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindi is the official language of our country as per the provisions of Official Languages Act, 1963;

(b) if so, the position in regard to its implementation in both the Departments of his Ministry;

(c) whether it is a fact that hundred per cent of the items of work mentioned in section 3 (3) of this Act are required to be done in Hindi; and

(d) if so, the percentage of implementation in both the Departments of his Ministry in respect of the items mentioned in the aforesaid section ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Article 343(1) of the Constitution of India provides that Hindi written in Devanagari script shall be the Official Language of the Union.

(b) The various provisions of Official Languages Act, 1963, as amended and the Rules framed thereunder, are being implemented progressively in the Departments of Telecommunications and posts of the Ministry of Communications.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The percentage of implementation of Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act during the last three years is as follows :

Region 'A'	81-82 %	82-83 %	83-84 %
P & T Directorate, New Delhi	64	66	67
Circles			
New Delhi	33	68	63
Bihar	41	57	55
Rajasthan	57	62	72
U. P.	51	66	68
M. P.	66	78	79
Region 'B,			
Maharashtra	68	65	70
Gujarat	6	9	16
N. W.	46	54	56
Region 'C'			
A. P.	28	29	26
Kerala	17	18	19
Karnataka	1	2	1
Orissa	10	11	15
J & K	10	12	14
West Bengal	10	12	14
N. E.	8	9	9

[English]

Use of Hindi in Law Ministry

1209. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindi is the official language of our country as per the provisions Official Languages Act, 1963;

(b) if so, the position in regard to implementation in his Ministry;

(c) whether it is a fact that hundred per cent of the items of work mentioned in Section 3(3) of this Act are required to be done in Hindi; and

(d) if so, the position regarding the implementation thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) Hindi is the official language of the Union as provided in art. 343 of the Constitution.

(b) There is an emphasis on the progressive use of Hindi as official language and every endeavour is made by the Ministry of Law and Justice to act in accordance with the provisions of Part XVII of the Constitution relating to the official language, the Official Languages Act, 1963, and the rules made thereunder and the instructions issued, from time to time, by the Department of Official Language in this behalf.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This is being fully implemented.

Sickness of Drug Industry

1210. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons of sickness of the drug industry;

(b) the efforts made by Government to revive the drug industry from its present state of sickness; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI

VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) It is not correct to generalise and characterise the drug industry as sick.

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

[Translation]

Adulteration of Kerosene in Petrol/ Diesel Oil by Petrol Pump Owners

1211. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued licence for distribution of kerosene alongwith the licence of petrol to petrol pump owners in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have received complaints regarding adulteration of kerosene in petrol/diesel oil by petrol pump owners;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to scrap the provision regarding issue of double licences to petrol pumps; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Permission was given for sale of kerosene alongwith petrol and HSD at Multi-purpose Distribution Centres (MPDC).

(b) Complaints have been received from time to time regarding adulteration of petrol/ diesel with kerosene.

(c) and (d). In view of the complaints oil companies have been advised by the Government in May '85 to discontinue kerosene supplies to the existing multipurpose distribution centres in a phased manner within one year.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Baroda Telephone District

1212. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for augmenting the capacity

of Telephone Exchanges in Baroda Telephone District;

(b) if so, the capacity being augmented and the progress of work of expansion that is being carried out at present; and

(c) when this expansion will be completed?

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

(b) and (c). In Baroda Telephone District capacity will be increased by 6100 lines during the current year for which works are in progress at Fatehganj and Alkapuri.

Raw Material Crisis in Domestic Distillery Industry

1213. **SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties of domestic distillery industry in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to import molasses in order to remove the grave raw material crisis faced by the domestic distilleries in the country; and

(c) the other steps proposed to be taken to help out the industry from the present crisis?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) The All India Distillers' Association has reported that distilleries are faced with closure due to shortage of molasses during the current alcohol year (December, 1984 to November, 1985).

(b) Government do not propose to import molasses. However, as a raw material,

its import is under OGL to actual users (industrial) in terms of S. No. 1 of Appendix 6 of the Import Policy 1985-88 subject to the conditions laid down therein.

(c) The State Governments have been requested (i) to ensure that all available molasses are gainfully used; (ii) to encourage the use of khandsari molasses for alcohol production; (iii) to ensure creation (by sugar factories) of adequate and proper storage facilities for molasses.

The Government had also set up 3 Working Groups, namely, (i) Working Group on levies on Molasses and Alcohol, (ii) Working Group on Storage of Molasses and (iii) Working Group on Capacity Utilization. These Working Groups have also made certain recommendations for effecting improvements in the alcohol industry. The recommendations have also been communicated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for implementation.

Financial Assistance by Italy for Fertilizer Plants in India

1214. **SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Italy has been financing some fertilizer plants in India;

(b) if so, which are the fertilizer plants being financed by Italy; and

(c) the extent of financial assistance given by Italy in setting up fertilizer plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Details regarding fertilizer plants being financed by Italy and the extent of financial assistance, including suppliers credit, are given in the Statement below :

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Project	Budgetted financial assistance	Remarks
1.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	Thal	US \$ 0.652 million	Suppliers Credit.
2.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation	Namrup-III	US \$ 2.481 million US \$ 14.56 million	Suppliers Credit. Govt. Credit.
3.	Indo-Gulf Fertilizer and Chemicals Corporation Ltd.	Jagdishpur	US \$ 40 million US \$ 40 million	Govt. Credit. Export credit on O. E. C. D. terms.

Printing of Question Papers in English and Hindi for Military Nursing Services Examination

1215. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question papers for Military Nursing Services Examination are printed in English only;

(b) if so, whether due to the papers being printed in English, the majority of candidates from Hindi speaking areas, particularly from U. P. and Bihar are not able to qualify the M. N. S. Examination;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to get the question papers printed in Hindi or both in Hindi and English; if so, when; and

(d) whether there are and difficulties in getting the papers printed in Hindi; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE : (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). There is no such proposal before the Government at present.

Problems in Pharmaceutical Industry in Marketing their Products

1216. SHRI RADHA KANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the pharmaceutical industry is facing serious problems in marketing their products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts made by Government to help the pharmaceutical industry in marketing their products; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Setting up of Drug units and Formulation Units in Orissa

1217. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of basic drug units and formulation units set up in different States;

(b) the number of such units set up in Orissa;

(c) whether Government have received fresh proposal from some State Governments to set up some such units in those States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to clear those proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b) To the extent information available (as on 31.12.83) there are 253 units in the organised sector registered with DGTD for the manufacture of drug and pharmaceuticals. State-wise break-up is not available.

(c) and (d). Government had been receiving proposal from the State Corporations for the manufacture of drugs and pharmaceuticals. These proposal are examined on merits as per the provision of Drug Policy, 1978.

Splitting up of Fertilizer Corporation of India

1218. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have finalised a proposal for a major restructuring of the fertilizer industry in the public sector;

(b) whether Fertilizer Corporation of India is proposed to be split into two separate companies; and

(c) if so, the details and the purpose thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c). The proposal regarding restructuring of the fertilizer plants in the public sector has not yet been finalised by the Government.

Appellate/Original cases pending in Supreme Courts and High Courts

1219. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the pendency of the cases (i) on the appellate side and (ii) original side in the various High Courts;

(b) how many of them are pending since more than (i) one year (ii) two years and (iii) three years;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce pendency; and

(d) the pendency of such cases in the Supreme Court ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) (b) and (d). Information as furnished by the Registrars of Supreme Court and High Courts is given in Statement No. I below.

(c) Steps taken to reduce pendency in Supreme Courts are given in the Statement No. II below.

Statement

Appellate/Original cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts

Name of the Court	Number of Regular hearing and admission matters pending.			Number of Regular hearing matters pending over		
	Original	Appellate	Total	One Yr.	Two Yrs.	Three Yrs.

(As on 1.6.1985)

Supreme Court	26044	53633	79677	31572	24900	18109
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High Courts	Number of cases pending					
	Original Side	Appellate Side	Total	Over One Yr.	Over Two Yrs.	Over Three Yrs.
(As on 31.12.1984)						
1. Allahabad	86116	142536	228952	172859	129826	89282
2. Andhra Pradesh	40246	41010	81256	49101	30726	18115
3. Bombay	62627	40315	102942	72685	53173	38633
4. Delhi	38167	30990	69157	47684	33573	24090
5. Gujarat	15244	21705	36949	25273	17683	12975
6. Himachal Pradesh	2090	6969	9059	6457	5312	3756
7. Jammu & Kashmir	10533	15274	25807	19014	12361	8123
8. Karnataka	72221	24543	96764	73492	53040	26432
9. Kerala	49088	50909	99997	58322	29922	13293
10. Madhya Pradesh	9667	41078	50745	21987	14690	10128
11. Madras	47715	86036	133751	83977	52451	31830
12. Orissa	9203	15011	24214	15374	11094	7579
13. Patna	13985	43064	57048	38223	27691	20484
14. Punjab & Haryana	9927	23781	33708	21313	15846	12043
15. Rajasthan	22961	25170	48131	33059	23829	17692
16. Sikkim	18	18	36	10	5	1
(As on 30.6.1984)						
17. Calcutta	19479	106521	126000	110269	87851	71915
(As on 31.12.1983)						
18. Gauhati	6208	7195	126000	9689	7208	4974

Statement-II

Steps taken from time to time to Reduce Pendency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in Supreme Court and High Courts :

1. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgement of Single Judge of the High Court in second appeal (Vide Section 100A).
2. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of Law Commission was enacted in 1973.
3. The Judge strength of the Supreme Court has been raised from 13 to

17 excluding the Chief Justice with effect from 31.12.77 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

4. The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 424 on 1st July 1985.
5. The Supreme Court rules have been amended to vest more powers in the Registrars and Judges in Chambers so that the time of the court is not wasted in petty miscellaneous matters.
6. The Supreme Court has also taken the following measures :
 - (i) Priority is given to certain matters;

- (ii) Writ Petitions with identical questions are grouped together and batches running from 50 to 100 matters are listed together for hearing;
- (iii) Miscellaneous matters are fixed daily;
- (iv) Other matters involving identical questions are also identified from time to time and put together and efforts are made to see that such groups are disposed of early;
- (v) The Supreme Court Rules were revised in 1966 providing for printing of records under its own supervision. As that was also taking quite some time the court of late has started wherever possible dispensing with the preparation of records and hearing the appeals on special leave paper-book itself after the parties have filed their counter-affidavits and affidavits in reply.
7. A part from the above certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases :
- (a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts.
- (b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates.
- (c) Dispensing with printing of records.
- (d) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts.
8. The Government have also addressed the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts in which there is a heavy pendency of civil cases over 5 years' old to consider appointment of retired judges under Article 224-A of the Constitution.
9. The recommendations contained in the 79th report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the State Governments and High Courts, these have been sent to them alongwith the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to take necessary action.
10. The Government have also appointed Law Commission (10th Law Commission) to keep under review the system of judicial administration in the country. Among the terms of reference of the Law Commission are :
- (a) To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the time and in particular to secure :
- (i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction of costs as to so secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be just and fair;
- (ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice; and
- (iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.
- (b) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
- (c) To recommend to the Government measures for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof

which have outlived their utility.

11. The Government have constituted an informal Committee of 3 Chief Justices to examine the problem of arrears in High Courts and suggest remedial measures.

Acting Chief Justices in High Courts

1220. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state in how many High Courts Acting Chief Justices are there and since how long they are working as such ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : As on 25.7.1985, the following 4 High Courts are having acting Chief Justices from the dates indicated against each :

Sl. No.	High Court	Date from which office of Chief Justice is vacant
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5-7-1984
2.	Gauhati	15-11-1984
3.	Punjab & Harayana	29-11-1983
4.	Sikkim	4-1-1985

Setting up of Oil Refinery in Orissa

1221. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria being followed to identify sites for setting up of Oil Refineries in the country;

(b) in view of encouraging results of drilling operations in and around Orissa, whether Government have any plans to set up an Oil Refinery in Orissa in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor and whether the State Government has submitted any proposal in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Site for Oil Refineries is selected on various techno-economic considerations based on reports from experts. At present, there is no

plan to set up an oil refinery in Orissa. No proposal of the Orissa State Government has been received in this Ministry.

Compensation to Bhopal Gas Victims

1222. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the progress made to have compensation paid by the Union Carbide Company at Bhopal to the gas victims ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : A civil complaint claiming compensatory damages, punitive damages, the costs etc. was filed on 8th April, 1985 in the United States Federal District Court, Southern District, New York against the United Carbide Corporation. The second pretrial conference is scheduled to be held on 7th August, 1985. Some negotiations with the United Carbide Corporation have also been held. It is not possible to indicate the progress and the details at this stage as these are being held under the umbrella and directions of the court which are to be respected.

Investment in Industries in West Bengal

1223. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state why fresh investments are not being made in the sphere of industry in West Bengal and the causes thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : Judging from trends in letters of intent and industrial licences issued for location of industries in West Bengal and financial assistance sanctioned and disbursed by financial institutions, the investment climate in West Bengal seems to be encouraging. The number of licences issued for location of industries in West Bengal increased from 23 in 1980 to 93 in 1984. The share of West Bengal in total licences issued also increased from 4.8 per cent in 1980 to 10.3 per cent in 1984. Similarly, the financial assistance disbursed by financial institutions

to industries in West Bengal increased by 21.3 per cent during 1983-84 over the previous year.

Production of L.P.G.

1224. SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the plans formulated for augmenting production of L.P.G. in the country during the next three years;

(b) the rate of which the demand is increasing and the matching increase in production during the last three years; and

(c) whether it would be possible to cover small towns with one lakh as population by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Production of L.P.G. is expected to increase from the present (1984-85) level of 862,000 tonnes per annum to 1.8 million tonnes per annum by 1987-88.

(b) The demand and production of LPG during the last three years was as under :

	(000 tonnes)		
	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Production	576	793	862
Demand	602	747	962

(c) The Oil Industry is already marketing LPG in all towns with a population of one lakh or more.

Price Fixation of Drugs

1225. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some drug industries are marketing their formulations without price approval even after crossing the limit of Rs. 50 lakhs in sales turn over;

(b) whether some drug industries have not even applied for price fixation;

(c) if so, the names of such drug manufacturing units; and

(d) the steps taken against such drug industries ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Some units reported to have crossed the limit of Rs. 50 lakhs in sales turn over have come to the notice of the Government. Notices have been issued to over 200 units to ascertain the sales turnover and other relevant details before taking further action. While some units have already furnished information in reply to notices others have submitted a representation against Government's right to revise the prices of the formulations after the concerned units ceased to be exempt after crossing the limit of Rs. 50 lakhs. Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association have also represented to the Government. All these representations/replies are being processed after taking the legal advice.

Introduction of Fibre Optics in the Telecommunication System

1226. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the large scale introduction of fibre optics in the telecommunication system;

(b) if so, the names of the Industrial units entrusted the task to supply fibre optics to meet the requirement for the telecommunication system; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to manufacture fibre optics to meet the requirement for telecommunication system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). During the Seventh Five Year Plan period, fibre optic cable systems are proposed to be introduced in the telecommunication network. Feasibility for undertaking indigenous manufacture is also being considered. M/s. Hindustan Cables Ltd., and Messrs. Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation have floated enquiries for under-

taking indigenous manufacture under collaboration and offers received are under consideration.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi in Defence Ministry

1227. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindi is the official language of our country as per the provisions of Official Languages Act, 1963;

(b) if so the position in regard to its implementation in his Ministry;

(c) whether it is a fact that hundred per cent of the items of work mentioned in section 3 (3) of this Act are required to be done in Hindi; and

(d) if so, the position regarding the implementation thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (d). Under Article 343 (1) of the Constitution of India, Hindi in Devanagari script is the Official Language of the Union and as per provision made in the Official Languages Act 1963 as amended, English has been allowed to continue to be used in addition to Hindi for all official purposes for the Union until Resolutions for the discontinuance of the use of English Language have been passed by the Legislatures of all the States and also both the House of Parliament.

In compliance with this constitutional requirement, Hindi is being progressively used in the transaction of business of the Ministry of Defence. All items of work mentioned in section 3 (3) of the Official Languages Act as amended are required to be done both in Hindi and English. Ministry of Defence are making every effort to comply with this requirement in full.

Telephone Service in Delhi

1228. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even light showers in Delhi cause faults in the Delhi telephones system;

(b) if so, the arrangements being made to ensure smooth working of telephones in the rainy season;

(c) whether it is also a fact that since the introduction of electronic telephone system in Delhi, most of the time, one gets wrong numbers and many times when two persons are talking on the telephone, the line gets connected with some other person; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to remove such technical faults and to meet the increasing demand of telephone connections in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Light showers do not affect the telephone system severely.

(b) To tackle the large scale cable breakdowns, which occur during the monsoon, the Department prepares itself a few months before the start of the monsoon. The Directorate issues instructions in this regard to field units to take many monsoon measures, i.e., pooling of vehicles, checking of cabinets and pillars, MDF rooms, basements, collection and storing of jointing materials and testing and keeping in fitness the various instruments to locate the cable breakdowns, etc. are specially taken care of. Most of the cables are tested for their insulation. The control rooms are set-up in all the big cities and staffed round the clock. A close watch is kept on the working of telephone systems at the highest level to achieve speedy restoration of break-down faults.

(c) No such observation has come to notice.

(d) Not applicable.

To meet the increasing demand of telephones in Delhi nearly 1,40,700 telephone lines are proposed to be added in the Delhi network during 1985-88.

[English]

Pending Cases in Bombay High Court

1229. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases, pending in Bombay High Court; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to expedite disposal of the pending cases in Bombay High Court ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) As per information furnished by the Registry of Bombay High Court the pendency of cases as on 31.12.84. is 1,02,942.

(b) Steps taken to reduce the pendency of cases in High Courts in general are indicated in the statement given below.

Statement

Steps taken to reduce pendency in High Courts

The following steps have been taken to reduce pendency in High Courts :

- (1) The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from Judgment of Single Judge of the High Court in second appeal (vide Section 100A).
- (2) The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.
- (3) The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March 1977 to 424 on 1st July, 1985.
- (4) Apart from the above certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases :
 - (a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts.
 - (b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable date.
 - (c) Dispensing with printing of records.
 - (d) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Act.

(5) The Government have also addressed the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts in which there is a heavy pendency of civil cases over 5 years' old to consider appointment of retired judges under Article 224A of the Constitution.

(6) The Government have also appointed Law Commission (10th Law Commission) to keep under review the system of judicial administration in the country. Among the terms of reference of the Law Commission are :

(a) To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure :

(i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be just and fair;

(ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice; and

(iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.

(b) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

(c) To recommend to the Government measures for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

(7) The recommendations contained in the 79th report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the State Governments and High Courts these have been sent to them along with the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to take necessary action.

(8) The Government have constituted an informal Committee of 3 Chief Justices to examine the problem of arrears in High Courts and suggest remedial measures.

**Opening of Post Offices in Maharashtra
in 1985-86**

1230. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Post Offices opened during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices proposed to be opened during 1985-86; and

(c) the number of Post Offices Proposed to be opened in Maharashtra during 1985-86 and what would be their location ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 3267 Post Offices have been opened in the last 3 years and year wise information is as under :

1982-82	1000
1983-14	2205
1984-85	62

(b) In the year 1985-86, 1755 BOs are to be opened in rural areas subject to the lifting/relaxing of economy orders banning creation of posts.

(c) 133 Branch Post Offices will be opened in Maharashtra during 1985-86 if the economy orders are relaxed, location of the BOs not yet finalised due to currency of the economy orders.

**Charges for Telephone Calls (STD)
and Telegrams on Saturday.**

1231. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that half rates are charged for telephone calls (STD) and telegrams on Sundays, the day being a holiday;

(b) whether in view of Saturdays having been declared a closed holiday, Government propose to allow half rates on Saturdays also on the lines of rates being charged on Sundays;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No Sir, only for booking of ordinary trunk calls terminating beyond fifty Kilometers and S.V.S. trunk calls, half rates are charged, on Sunday. However telegrams are not charged at a half rate, even on Sundays. In respect of Subscriber Trunk Dialling charges, half rates are charged on Sundays.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) At the moment Government has no intention to introduce half rates for booking of trunk calls because 5 days week has been implemented only in Administrative offices whereas in operative offices still 6 days week is in vogue. Also, there is no appreciable change in the traffic pattern on Saturdays after the introduction of 5 days week. For Telegrams, this question does not arise, since even on Sundays, they are not being charged at half rates.

**Winter Uniform for Employees in
ONGC**

1132. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2222 on the 9th April, 1985 regarding the agreement between ONGC and Employees Union for Winter Uniforms and state :

(a) whether the tenders for procurement of said uniforms were invited and various Public Sector Undertakings or Government Organisations participated in the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) efforts made to procure the materials, if necessary with price preference over others in such tenders, from Public Sector Undertakings or Government Organisations

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) . Yes, Sir.

(b) . The undermentioned Public Sector Undertakings/Government Organisations have responded to the ONCG's tenders :

1. M/s N.T.C., New Delhi.
2. M/s Cownpore Woolen Mills, Kanpur.
3. M/s Bharat Leather Corporation, New Delhi.
4. M/s Bharatia Charmodyog Sangh, Agra.
5. M/s U. P. State Development and Marketing Corporation, Agra.
6. M/s National Federation of Industrial Corporation Ltd. New Delhi.
7. M/s Tannery Footware Corporation, Kanpur.
8. M/s Tamil Nadu Small Scale, Madras.
9. M/s Hindustan Charam Kala Udyogik Utpadan Samiti, Agra.
10. M/s Punjab State Leather Development Corporation, Chandigarh.

(c) While taking a decision about award of contract, the Commission shall keep in view the guidelines issued by Government about price preference to the Public Sector Undertakings.

Underground Cables a Major cause for Phone Inefficiency

1233. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether underground cables have been identified as the major cause for phone inefficiency (H. T. 17-7-85);

(b) whether in view of this discovery, Government propose to stop laying underground cables till pucca trenches/pipes are built or laid; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce wireless phones to overcome the cable problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The underground cables is the major cause for phone interruptions only during the rainy season.

(b) There is a programme for construction of ducts for laying main telephone cables i.e. junction and primary cables. The small size cables are buried directly underground in view of the heavy cost of duct construction. There are no plans to stop laying of cables till ducts are constructed for main cables as completion of duct works takes a long time. The expansion of telecommunication facilities cannot be stopped pending construction of ducts. However, Department is proposing use of small sizes aerial cables on poles, dully filled cables being laid for distribution would be less fault-prone than dry Core cables. It is not technically possible to erect all types of cables on the existing poles.

(c) No, Sir. Wireless phone do not provide any solution to cable problems.

Setting up of Separate High Court at Imphal, Manipur

1234. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the establishment of a separate High Court for the State of Manipur at Imphal in view of the demands made in this behalf;

(b) if so, when;

(c) if not, whether Government are aware that the people of Manipur are experiencing serious handicaps in sharing the

High Court facilities with adjoining States; and

(d) the number of cases pending with the Guwahati High Court in respect of Manipur as on 31st May, 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) to (c) . The Government are not considering, at present the establishment of a separate High Court for Manipur. A circuit Bench of the Gauhati High Court sits at Imphal and also visits capitals of other North-Eastern States. The Government have noted the difficulties of the people of Manipur in this respect. These difficulties are likely to be considerably reduced if one Judge sits regularly or most of the time at Imphal. With this end in view, the question of appointing more Judges in Gauhati High Court is engaging the attention of the Government.

(d) . The requisite information is being collected from the High Court and will be laid on the Table of the House after it is received.

Manufacture of Scooters by Lohia Machines Limited, Kanpur

1235. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the installed capacity of Lohia Machines Limited, Kanpur approved by Government for production of Vespa—XE Scooters per year and the actual indigenous production of scooters by the said company;

(b) whether Government are aware that Lohia Machines Limited are only importing Vespa—XE Scooters for supply to customers as they have not been able to set up any plant so far for indigenous production of these Scooters; and

(c) if so, full facts and the action Government propose to take against this company for violating the terms and conditions under which they were granted industrial licence to set up a plant for manufacturing these scooters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINIS-

TRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) . The Company has an approved capacity of one lakh nos. and has so far manufactured 25 thousand scooters with approved phased manufacturing programme.

(b) . The Company has indigenised to the planned level of 60 per cent in the first year.

(c) . Does not arise.

Registration of cases under Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1984

1237. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been cases registered by the police for violation of provisions of Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1984 in different States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, how many and in which States and Union Territories;

(c) whether any specific instructions have been issued to the police for prosecution under clause 489A of I.P.C.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) and (b) . As stated in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 70 dated the 23rd July, 1985, rules under the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act are being finalised. Notification for bringing the Amendments Act into force and notification publishing the rules are likely to be issued shortly. It may also be mentioned that when the Amendment Act comes into force, the amendments directed to be made will become part of the principal Act and cases are to be registered under the principal Act.

(c) and (d) . Yes. The State Governments have been requested, inter alia, to make necessary arrangements to give wide publicity to the provisions of section 489A of the I.P.C. through local media and to make copies thereof available to all police stations etc. and also to make necessary arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the said provisions.

Procurement of Dress Materials for Officers' Uniform by I.O.C. Ltd

1238. SHRI V. SREENIWASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2326 on the 9th April, 1985 regarding procurement of Dress Materials for officers uniforms by IOC Ltd. and state :

(a) whether any final decision has been taken in the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of tenders;

(c) whether any public sector Undertaking or Government Organisations had participated in such tenders for supply of said materials; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to procure the same from such Public Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Limited tenders were invited on 'Two Bid' basis in response to which priced bids were received from five parties viz., National Textile Corporation, Madura Coats, Bombay Dying, Shree Ram Mills and Binny Ltd. for procurement of cloth for summer uniforms. Purchase order has been placed on M/s National Textile Corporation Limited, a public sector undertaking.

[Translation]

Fire in Bharat Petroleum Depot at Indore

1239. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the loss of life and property suffered and the value of petrol, diesel and oil burnt as a result of fire in a Bharat Petroleum depot at Indore this year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said depot is situated in a thickly populated colony in Indore and the people have been demanding for a long time to shift it from there, the District Magistrate had also asked

to shift this Depot and the people had also moved the court;

(c) the reasons for not shifting the depot; and

(d) the action taken to shift this depot and the steps being taken to ensure that these depots do not remain in thickly populated colonies in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) While there was no loss of life in the fire of May 6, 1985, there was loss of petrol, lubrication oils/greases valued at approximately Rs. 3.5 lakhs, and of property worth about Rs. 2.47 lakhs belonging to Bharat Petroleum Corporation. Two contractor tank lorries were also damaged.

(b) The depot is not located in a thickly populated colony and the people of Indore had not been demanding its shifting prior to the fire. Before this occurrence of fire, the Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court took note of a news item in a local newspaper about shifting of the overhead diesel tank of the depot and has issued notice to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. The Collector of Indore has now advised relocation of the depot.

(c) and (d). It is not proposed to shift this depot because it has been functioning in terms of valid clearances given by the Chief Controller of Explosives and the Municipal Authorities and additional measures pertaining to fire fighting and safety are being implemented, keeping in mind also the observations in the magisterial enquiry report relating to the fire and the orders of Collector, Indore thereon. Several depots in the country are operating within municipal areas in accordance with valid clearances from appropriate authorities and shifting of these depots would be neither feasible nor is it warranted.

[English]

Induction of Mirage—2000 Aircraft and its effect on the Production of Light Combat Aircraft

1240. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which Mirage—2000 aircraft will strengthen the Indian Air Force against Pakistan's weapons obtained from the USA; and

(b) the extent to which induction of Mirage—2000 aircraft will adversely affect the production of Light Combat Aircraft proposed to be manufactured by HAL at Bangalore ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE : (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) In the role assigned to it, the Mirage 2000 would adequately meet the air defence and strike requirements of the Indian Air Force.

(b) Induction of the Mirage—2000 shall have no effect on the Light Combat Aircraft programme.

Contract for Designing and Supplying Imported Equipment and Material for Indo-Gulf Fertilizer Plant at Jagdishpur (U. P.)

1241. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Italian company, Snam Progetti, has been given contract for designing and supplying imported equipment and material for the Indo-Gulf Fertilizer plant to be set up at Jagdishpur in U. P. without inviting global tenders for the purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, stating the reasons which weighed with the Government to give the contract to Snam Progetti without inviting global tenders ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b) . Based on the Urea/Ammonia technology approved by the Government, after global evaluation, the contractual arrangements between M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizer and Chemicals Corporation and Snamprogetti for designing and supplying imported equipment were finalised on the basis of negotiations between the two companies. The contract was awarded by M/s. IGFCC to M/s. Snamprogetti and not by the Government.

Declaration of no Industry District in Gujarat

1242. SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission considers even a cooperative milk dairy as an industry and as such it declines to declare such a district as having any dairy as 'no industry district';

(b) whether Government of Gujarat has proposed that Banaskantha District should be declared as 'No Industry District'; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not approving the request of Gujarat Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) : Milk Dairy, if engaged in the manufacture of milk foods will be treated as an industrial unit. If by virtue of investment, such a milk dairy could be classified as a medium or large scale industry, the presence of such a milk dairy would disqualify the district to be treated as a 'No Industry District'.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have constituted a High Level Committee to go into the entire scheme of Central Investment Subsidy for backward areas.

12.00 hrs.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, privilege notice will take precedence.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I want to bring to your notice...

MR. SPEAKER : He has given a privilege motion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : One minute. I will listen to you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let me make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of submission

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let the House know what the issue is.

MR. SPEAKER : Let me say.'

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed. I request you to listen to me first. That is what I say. I did not say, I will not listen to you. I request you to listen to me first.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Do you know what the issue is ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I am saying.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You explain it

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I am saying.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE ; You can do it.

MR. SPEAKER : I have got a privilege motion from Prof. Madhu Dandavate against Shri Birendra Singh. I will find out the fact; I will write to him and then I will see.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You see what is in the record.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, only one submission.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I have said.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The official record says, "Any Hon. Member who is saying 'No' who does not accept this fact..."

MR. SPEAKER : There is something else, Prof. Sir. You are a very learned man.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. I have not allowed him.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : How can you prevent me from reading the debate ?

MR. SPEAKER : I am not preventing you, Sir. I have only said...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We are called as agents of the sugar magnates and industrialists. I object to it. This is in relation to Mr. Tewari and others. I object to it.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't get agitated. I will remember...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There is a *prima facie* case against him. Either Rao Birendra Singh must tender an unqualified apology to the House or the matter should straightaway go to the Privileges Committee. Here is the debate of yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you getting agitated ? When I am saying...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Yes, I am agitated. When I am called an agent of the industrial lobby, I am agitated. I do not know whether you are agitated. But I am agitated.

MR. SPEAKER : Sorry. Don't get agitated. I have already taken up the issue.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We are representatives of the people. We are not stooges of the traders.

MR. SPEAKER : Professor, Sir, just listen to me for a minute. I have not thrown out your notice. I have not rejected it outright. I have only stated that I will find out the facts. You have given it today.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER : I have just got it. I have to see the record also. I have to get the answer from the Minister also. Then I will decide.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : When the whole sentence is read out from the official debate, what clarification do you need ?

MR. SPEAKER : I need, Sir. Because in the later part of the proceedings, he has clearly expressed it. I was listening to that. I observed yesterday that he has not imputed any motive ...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, he said about the Hon. Members. Here, he says, any Hon. Member who...

MR. SPEAKER ; That is what I say. Why don't you let me study it first ? Let me study it first, Sir. It is for me to study it. I will not give a judgement which is wrong. I will not go against the rule.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Are you not convinced that there is a *prima facie* case ?

MR. SPEAKER : I will see, Sir. Then, I will come to you. I have not rejected it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : For your intelligence only two minutes are required to read this.

MR. SPEAKER : There are certain more things, Sir. I will listen and I will come to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have to consider. That is what I have already said. I have requested you to listen to me first.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir I have given a notice for a statement from the Government on the floor of this House about... (Interruptions) the reported consideration of Ecuadorian Government's recognition to the non-existent Khalistan Government. This is an attempt on the part of the imperialist lobby to sabotage...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Tewaryji, yesterday, you spoke about it. Are you sure that you have given a notice.

[English]

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I have definitely given a notice.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You had not given it yesterday.

[English]

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I had given yesterday. You can verify.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

[English]

Please don't interrupt. I am talking to Mr. Tewary.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Many of us have given.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday you had raised some matter pertaining to drugs. You had not given notice either for Calling Attention or Under Rule 193 and Shri Swell had also not given any notice.

[English]

SHRI G. G. SWELL : I have given it, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : No Sir. Look here. I have to make it clear. I want to make it very clear.

[Translation]

I want to make one thing clear. Please listen to me. I shall not say any thing wrong. If I commit any mistake, I would beg pardon. I have no inhibition in this regard.

[English]

I do not stand on false prestige.

[Translation]

Shri Swell was just now saying but he gave notice only at 2.48 P.M. yesterday.

[English]

He was raising it in the House yesterday.

[Translation]

You had neither given any notice for Calling Attention nor under Rule 193 yesterday.

[English]

In spite of that, you are raising it in the House.

[Translation]

I have no objection. I shall look into the Calling Attention of which you have given notice. I consider it important. Yesterday, even before you raised it, when Shri Amitabh Bachchan discussed with me the question of drugs and asked about that I said all right and told him that, he should give a proper notice and I shall support that.

[English]

It affects the health of my people and my boys.

[Translation]

I had therefore stated at that very moment that you had not given any notice yesterday and I have checked it up.

[English]

So I am telling you.

[Translation]

Please listen to one more thing.

[English]

I want to make it clear to you on the floor of the House. Please give me one minute. Why don't you listen? Please sit down.

[Translation]

I want to tell you one more thing whether you have given Calling Attention Notice or some thing else.

[English]

You can see me in the Chamber.

[Translation]

I have repeated it hundred times and again I am telling you that if you consider Calling Attention more important, you should discuss it with me. The doors of my Chamber are always open for you.

[English]

I am amenable to you.

[Translation]

There will be a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee tomorrow. In case you want to include some specific subject, you can discuss it with me.

[English]

Any subject which is of importance to the public and which is in general good, will not be barred from discussion.

[Translation]

It is for you to decide. Therefore, there is no need to get agitated any say or do anything here.

[English]

I am open to you any time. You are welcome.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : You have made the observations about me. Let me make a submission. I always meet you in Chamber and I do not raise any issue unless I have given proper notice either Calling Attention or whatever it is. I have given notice today.

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday it was not so.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I want your specific ruling on this because it is a serious matter.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I can not give a ruling like that. Your Calling Attention is with me. I shall consider it in all seriousness and give my ruling.

[English]

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : You direct the Government to make a statement.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot give my ruling like this. I shall consider the matter in all seriousness.

[English]

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Can you give me two minutes? You have taken my name.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I have given a Calling Attention Notice about the danger of a disaster worse than the Bhopal one taking place at Allahabad in the IFFCO factory. The High Court has ordered that an investigation team should go and see what is happening. I have given the notice three or four days ago. You kindly see it. It is a serious matter.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. All the serious matters are coming up one by one.

[*English*]

It will take time. But I will consider it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : If an explosion takes place, it will be too late. Some preventive action is necessary.

MR. SPEAKER : I have told you that I will consider it.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Please give me two minutes. Let me first say that it is very far from my intention to embarrass you or to add to your difficulties. Speaker's Chair is a difficult chair. Let me say that my question on 'Drugs' was No. 4 on Friday. It was a very important question. Somehow it could not be reached. That is why, I wanted to raise it yesterday. It is a fact that at the time when I raised it, I had not given any notice.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I am saying.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I gave notice later on under 193.

MR. SPEAKER : I have got it.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Now, about this move by the Ecuador Government to recognise Khalistan, I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I will consider it.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I would request that there should be a full discussion. This is an international conspiracy.

MR. SPEAKER : You should come to me.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Half-a-minute more. This is an international conspiracy and, therefore, we must...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I disagree with you on this subject. I do not want any elaboration on the floor of the House. When the discussion takes place, then you can give it. This is irrelevant.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : All the patriotic forces in the country have heaved a sigh of relief on the settlement on Punjab. You know that Punjab has suffered a great deal and with the turmoil in Punjab, our economy in Jammu & Kashmir State suffered a very great deal and it is in shambles.

I want the Central Government to assess the damage to the economy of Jammu & Kashmir and compensate it...

MR. SPEAKER : You have to give something in writing.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Added to that difficulty is...

MR. SPEAKER : No. This is irrelevant. Not allowed. This is not the way Irrelevant.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : There are cracks in two important dams in Kerala—Kallada and Idamalaya

MR. SPEAKER : I will see to it. There is also a statement by the Minister that there is no danger.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I want to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER : No submission is needed.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda) : I have given a notice about single-window service in Andhra Pradesh...

MR. SPEAKER : I have admitted that. That will be discussed by the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : Sir, I have given notice of breach of

*Not recorded.

privilege and contempt of the House against a correspondent of the Hindustan Times...

MR. SPEAKER . I have already asked for explanation. I will take care of it.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : I have given a notice about China-USA nuclear pact which does not contain any clause with respect to diversion of technology

MR. SPEAKER : Under what ?

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : A Calling Attention Notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I will see.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SWAROOP RAM (Gaya) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of a Calling Attention. Floods are causing havoc in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have already discussed it. Not allowed. Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

12.12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Report of the Committee on Problems of Ex-Serviceman and statement showing reasons for delay in laying the report

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : I beg to lay on the table :—

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the High Level Committee on Problems of Ex-Servicemen.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the report mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1127/85]

Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules 1985

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 1985 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 428 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 1985 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 591(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 1985. Under sub-section (5) of section 7 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1218/85]

Monopolies and Restricted Trade Practices Commission (Recruitment of Members of Staff) Amendment Rules, 1985 :

Review and Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur etc. for the Year 1983-84.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (Recruitment of Members of Staff) Amendment Rules, 1985 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 486 in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 1985, under sub-section (3) of section 67 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1219/85]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1983-84.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited,

Jaipur, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1220/85]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1983-84.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1221/85]

12.14 hrs

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

[English]

Fourth Report

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventy-second Report of the Committee (Seventh Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Supply—Directorate General of Supply and Disposal.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1985-86

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for

Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1985-86.

12.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

[English]

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Floods in the country this year have so far been mainly confined to the North, North-East and Eastern Regions. The Brahmaputra and its principal tributaries, namely Burhi-Dihing, Dhansiri, Puthimari, Manas, Beki, Sankosh, Raidak, Jaldhaka and Tista and the rivers in the lower Ganga region like Mahananda, Kosi, Kamla-Balan, Bagmati and Burhi Gandak are in spate affecting areas in Assam, Bihar, and West Bengal and are flowing above the danger level. The flood situation in Bagmati and other rivers in the Lower Ganga Region has been aggravating over the last 24 hours. Yamuna river which has been rising has touched the warning level at Delhi yesterday. Ghagra, Rapti and Gandak have also been rising fast. The river Ganga from Rudra Prayag downward has been rising all along its course and has almost touched the danger level at Farakka. In the last month, the rivers in the Barak Valley had also been flowing above the danger level causing extensive damage in Assam, Manipur and Tripura. Local heavy rains and flash floods have also occurred in Kerala, Bombay, Jammu & Kashmir and Gujarat.

2. According to the information from the State Governments, a total area of about 9.7 lakh hectares and a population of 181 lakhs have been affected by the floods this year so far. Human lives lost so far are reported to be 340. The total value of damage due to floods (as on 29-7-1985) has been placed at Rs. 616 crores. Last year in the entire monsoon period the area affected by floods was 152 lakh hectares, the population affected was 504 lakhs, human lives lost were 1,577 and the total damage was reported as Rs. 1,653 crores.

3. I visited the flood affected areas of Assam on 19th and 20th July, 1985 covering

an extensive area of about 400 kms from Majuli Island in the Brahmaputra river on the East to Gumi-Palasbari reach of the river on the West. I had discussions with the Chief Minister of Assam and the Ministers and officers concerned from the North-East region regarding the floods control measures in the region.

4. One of the main reasons for the mounting damages and losses is the increased use and occupancy of the flood-prone areas in an uncontrolled manner and encroachments into the natural waterway of the river by the people. To prevent this, a Model Flood Plain Zoning Bill had been suggested to the States in 1975. However, except for Manipur, no State has enacted legislation for the purpose.

5. I had written to the Governor of Punjab, Chief Ministers of States and the Lt. Governors of the Union Territories well in advance to take precautionary steps to meet any flood situation in their States/Union Territories during this monsoon season.

6. The Central Water Commission has a network of 145 flood forecasting stations on several major inter-State rivers. Since May, 1985, over one thousand four hundred forecasts have been issued so far to the State authorities concerned. Eightyfive per cent of these forecasts turned out to be correct within the desired accuracy range of ± 15 cms. and such forecasts have been very useful.

7. Recently the Ministry of Irrigation and Power have set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Brahmaputra Board, to monitor the flood control works undertaken in the Brahmaputra Valley by the Government of Assam. The Union Ministry have decided to release the Central assistance for these works quarterly on the basis of the reports from the Monitoring Committee. As an immediate measure of relief, an ad hoc advance of Rs. 4 crores has already been released for expediting the flood control works undertaken by the Government of Assam. The Brahmaputra Board is already working on the preparation of a master plan for flood control measures in the Brahmaputra Valley.

8. A comprehensive master plan for the flood control measures in the Ganga Basin is under preparation by the Ganga Flood

Control Commission. On 27th June, 1985 the Ganga Flood Control Board reviewed the position on the Master Plan as well as the preparedness of the Basin States to meet the flood situation in the monsoon of 1985, when it was also noted that repair and restoration of the breaches in Eastern Kosi Embankment and Mahananda embankment caused by the floods in 1984 have been carried out.

9. A brief statement giving State-wise report regarding the flood situation and the floods damages so far during this monsoon is given below.

Statement

Flood situation in the Country (As on 29th July, 1985)

During this year, the South West monsoon advanced over Kerala on 28th May, 1985, 4 days earlier than the normal date of onset i.e. June 1st. By 14th July, the monsoon covered the entire country. The India Meteorological Department has divided the country into 35 subdivisions from Meteorological considerations. Upto 24th July, the rainfall was either in excess or normal in 23 subdivisions. It was, however, deficient (20 per cent to 59 per cent below normal) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (-35 per cent); Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura (-23 per cent); East Rajasthan (-43 per cent); West Madhya Pradesh (-48 per cent); Gujarat (-37 per cent); Madhya Maharashtra (-21 per cent); and Coastal Karnataka (-20 per cent).

Reports received so far from the State Governments indicate that heavy rains/floods of varying intensity have occurred in the States of Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Tripura and West Bengal and the Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Goa, Daman & Diu.

Appendix 'I' indicates the list of flood forecast sites maintained by Central Water Commission where the rivers have crossed the warning level during 1985 monsoon till 29.7.1985 and for which flood forecasts were issued by Central Water Commission to the State authorities concerned.

The total value of the damage caused by heavy rains/floods during current season as

on 29-7-1985 is reported to be of the order of Rs. 615.62 crores. Human lives so far reported as lost are 340. The position regarding flood situation in the affected States is given below and details of damage that have been reported so far by the State Governments are given in Appendix 'II'.

1. *Assam*—The State experienced two waves of floods : the first one from 20-5-1985 to 13-6-1985 and the second from 16-6-1985 which is still continuing. During these two spells of floods, the Brahmaputra and its tributaries *viz.*, the Burhi Dehing, the Subansiri, the Kopili, the Dhansiri, the Pagladia, the Puthimari, the Manas, the Beki and the Sankosh crossed their respective danger levels at various places.

The first wave floods affected parts of Sonitpur, Darrang Barpeta, Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Kokrajhar, Dibrugarh and Kamrup districts. Road and rail communication was disrupted at some places in the State. In Mariagaon subdivision, ten families were affected due to erosion. In Kamrup district, erosion occurred in the right bank and left bank embankments of river Puthimari on 31-5-1985 and 6-6-1985 respectively. Right bank embankment of river Nona breached on 4-6-1985. In Lakhimpur district, spoil bund along left bank of river Brahmajon was cut by public on 28th May, 1985. Erosion occurred in the newly constructed retirement of Kumotia. Old Brahmaputra dyke near Talipara and right bank of river Gabharu in Sonitpur district were eroded. Erosion also occurred at right bank embankment of river Dikrong at KM 3.0, left bank of river Gangadhar in Kokrajhar district and along banks of river Pagladiya and river Kumotia in Dhemaji subdivision. In Sonitpur and Darrang districts, embankments along both the banks of river Saktala were damaged due to overtopping at several places.

The second wave of floods affected parts of Sonitpur, Goalpara, Nalbari, Dhemaji, Kamrup and Barpeta districts. In Jorhat subdivision, Janjimukh-Mudoijan PWD road breached on 18-6-1985. Left bank embankment of river Solangi in Sonitpur district was cut by public on 27-6-85 and the river changed its course through the cut and inundated the adjoining areas. Erosion took place at various places in the embankments in Sonitpur, Kamrup, Barpeta and Goalpara districts. Entire right bank embankment of

river Dhansiri, a south bank tributary of river Brahmaputra, was overtopped between Panjan to Borpathar and breached at 7 places. Brahmaputra right bank embankment adjacent to Hajo was eroded from KM 4.97 to 5.10 on 8-7-1985 in Kamrup district and water spilled to the countryside. Erosion is also reported at various places in Nalbari district, in the left bank of river Gainadi and at KM 36 of dyke of river Subansiri. Left bank embankment of river Hajo, the tributary of river Brahmaputra was cut by public on 10-7-1985. In Dhubri district, dowel bund at Kumarganj was overtopped in many reaches and flood water spilled over. In Dhemaji district, Kumotia dyke breached at KM 5 on right bank and KM 7 on left bank. Brahmaputra dyke near Silghat at KM 14 was cut by public on 21-7-1985. Left bank embankment of river Durpang, the northern tributary in Lakhimpur district breached due to erosion on 19-7-1985.

In total, there are reports of fourteen breaches and five cuts in embankments in the Brahmaputra Valley.

In Barak basin, river Barak and its branches/tributaries *viz.*, the Katakhal, the Kushiya, the Longai, the Sonai, the Rukni, and the Singla were in floods since last week of May, 1985 and flowed above danger level. River Barak at Annapurnaghat surpassed its previous high flood level of 21.08 metres recorded in 1966 and attained a level of 21.45 metres on 20-6-1985. River Longai at Chandkhira PWD road bridge site also surpassed its previous high flood level of 25.02 metres recorded on 15-5-1985 and attained a level of 25.04 metres on 18-6-1985.

The Hydrological Observations and Flood Forecasting Organisation of the Central Water Commission has flood forecasting station on river Barak at Annapurnaghat. It was forecast that water level would be 21.49 metres by 2100 hours on 19-6-1985 and be at 21.35 metres at 2400 hours on 20-6-1985 with falling trend.

Parts of Patharkandi, Karimganj, Badarpur and Silchar towns including the Tarapur locality and the railway line in the station yard of Silchar were affected. Right bank embankment of Nurulcherra, a tributary of river Longai in Karimganj district, was cut by public at three places on 28th May, 1985.

Embankments were overtopped and breaches occurred at various places in Karimganj and Cachar districts. In total 24 number of breaches have been reported in the embankment system of Barak, Longai, Singla, Sonai, Nurucherra and Katakhal. Also 13 number of cuts made by public have been reported in the embankment system of Barak, Madura and Nurucherra besides erosion at various places. Road communication was disrupted on Karimganj-Dharamnagar and Shillong-Silchar roads. Rail communication was also disrupted in Karimganj. Army was deployed on 21st June, 1985 for rescue purposes and the marooned people were shifted to safer places. The flood situation is reported to be improving though the receding trend of the water level is slow.

2. *Bihar*—River Kosi at Baltara crossed danger level for the first time on 17th July, 1985 and is still in floods. River Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla-Balan and Mahananda are also in floods and are flowing above the danger levels.

The Eastern Kosi Embankment had breached near KM 75 during the floods of September, 1984. The breach has since been closed and the position so far is reported as safe. Repair works for the breaches in Mahananda embankments have also been reported as completed. Retired embankments have since been constructed at the three gaps (Thori gap, Semarbari gap and Bhitha gap) caused by the breaches in 1983 in Piprasi-Pipraghat section of Gandak right embankment in Bihar.

The districts of Monghyr and Gopalganj are reported to have experienced very heavy rains and due to rise in water level and erosion, Badua upper nala reservoir (on tributary of river Badua) constructed in the last week of June, 1985 breached on 1-7-1985 in Monghyr district. The road connecting the Motihari retired bund with the old bund in Gopalganj district also breached. The Mahananda is reported to have caused erosion in its right embankment. The Ganga is also reported to have eroded western portion of two retired bunds in district Katihar.

The floods have affected 129 villages in six districts till 28-7-1985.

3. *Jammu and Kashmir*—Due to local heavy rainfall and flash floods, 28 human lives were lost due to house collapse and drowning.

4. *Kerala*—Heavy rains/unprecedented floods, sea erosion and landslides in the last week of June, 1985 affected whole State and caused severe damage to houses crops, school-buildings and private properties. Besides, 7337 kms of P.W.D. roads, National Highway, rural roads, bridges, sea walls, minor irrigation structures and canal systems of seven major irrigation projects were also damaged. Human lives reported as lost are 102. A Central Team visited the affected areas from 16th to 19th July, 1985 for assessing the situation.

5. *Maharashtra*—Heavy rainfall occurred in Bombay city during the month of June, 1985. Bombay (Colaba) recorded a rainfall of 35 cms on 17-6-1985 paralysing the normal life in the city. Human lives so far reported as lost due to heavy rains and landslides are 75.

6. *Manipur*—Rivers Imphal and Iril rose in floods in the last week of May, 1985. Two breaches took place in the embankment of Imphal river on 26-5-1985. Flash floods came from a number of hill streams in Bishenpur and Imphal districts and as a result, number of houses and paddy fields were damaged. Heavy erosion took place effecting embankments and villages at few places.

7. *Punjab*—There was intense rainfall in Jullunder, Hoshiarpur and Kapurthala districts on the night between 18th and 19th July, 1985 which seemed like a cloud-burst. In a few hours, the choes carried very heavy discharge of about 2 to 3 times of that for which the embankments were designed which resulted in the spilling over of the embankments.

Heavy discharge carried by the choes could not be passed through the drainage crossings under Jullunder branch, with the result that water headed up on the upstream side and entered the canal and then breached it at a number of places.

Near Alwalpur, the 'Madras-Jammu Express' was marooned on the 19th July as the rail track was completely flooded. About

1200 passengers had to be evacuated by boats and brought to Jullunder from where a special train was deployed to send them to Pathankot. National Highway between Jullunder and Amritsar was breached and the rail traffic between Pathankot and Jullunder was suspended as 34 kms of track was damaged/washed away. Rail track near Lohian junction was cut. State Highways, town roads, link roads, were damaged. Spurs, embankments, bridges and bunds on choes were damaged/washed away.

Flash floods in river Swan affected crops in 10 villages in Rupar district and some kacha houses were damaged.

8. *Tripura*—Rivers Juri, Gumti and Manu were in floods on 17th May, and flowed above danger level. Four major bridges were washed away due to floods during 26th to 28th May, 1985. Large scale damage occurred to the embankments. A minor irrigation pump house pipelines was also damaged. Fifty villages were submerged and the State capital was cut off for 24 hours. Road communication was disrupted at Kailashahar.

9. *Uttar Pradesh*—Landslides were reported in the river Gola, 4 kms down stream of its origin in the hilly areas in Nainital district in the State, which caused blockade, resulting in the accumulation of water and forming of a lake. The blockade subsequently breached on 24-7-1985. Otherwise, the flood situation in the State is so far under control. The State have completed

the Turtipar-Srinagar bund along the Ghaghra in Balia district before the monsoon season.

Apart from the flood forecasting network established by Central Water Commission in the State, the State Government on their own are also issuing Daily Flood Bulletins to concerned officers and this arrangement is stated to be working satisfactorily.

10. *West Bengal*—Rivers Dwarkeswar and Gandheswari were in floods on 10th July, 1985. One breach occurred in right embankment of river Dwarkeswar in Hooghly district. Severe bank erosion occurred at Barikantatala on the left bank of river Fulahar. River Kaljani at Balabhut in Cooch-Bihar eroded the lands and affected the habitation in the area and disrupted local road communication. Erosion also occurred in left and right embankments of river Kaljani in Jalpaiguri, left bank of river Siltorsa and in right bank of river Mansai. A vast area of both forest and habitation on the right bank of river Pana was devastated due to its diversion through a new channel in Bhutri forest in Jalpaiguri.

11. *Arunachal Pradesh*—Three bridges were damaged/washed away on Passighat-Jonai road. Road communication was disrupted which was subsequently restored.

12. *Goa Daman and Diu*—Due to heavy rains in June, 1985 three breaches occurred in different bunds, inundating land and damaging roads.

Appendix-I

Central Water Commission Flood Forecast Stations where rivers have crossed warning level during 1985 monsoon till 29-07-1985

Sl. No.	River	Name of CWC Forecast Station	Warning level Mts.	Danger level Mts.	Highest flood level so far in any previous year		Maximum level reached so far this season	No. of Forecast issued till date	Level as on 29-7-85	
					HFL Mts.	Year				Mts.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Brahmaputra	Dibrugarh	103.24	104.24	105.95	1977	105.48	6-7-85	131	105.18
2.	—do—	Neematighat	84.04	85.04	86.84	1977	86.26	29-6-85	64	86.00
3.	—do—	Tezpur	64.23	65.23	66.44	1980	65.84	27-7-85	50	65.72
4.	—do—	Guwahati	48.68	49.68	51.06	1962	49.81	12-7-85	26	49.73
5.	—do—	Goalpara	35.27	36.27	37.43	1954	36.10	29-7-85	57	36.10
6.	—do—	Dhubri	27.50	28.50	29.85	1972	29.22	29-7-85	109	29.22
7.	Burhidihing	Naharkatia	119.40	120.40	122.69	1973	120.26	25-7-85	6	119.05
8.	—do—	Khowang	101.11	102.11	103.69	1984	103.61	26-7-85	35	103.19
9.	Subansiri	Badatighat	81.50	82.53	86.84	1972	82.68	15-7-85	7	82.18
10.	Dhansiri	Golaghat	88.50	89.50	90.68	1974	90.08	20-6-85	12	87.23
11.	—do—	Numaligarh	76.42	77.42	79.38	1974	79.22	20-6-85	109	77.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12.	Kopilli	Kampur	59.50	60.50	61.86	1973	61.20	19-6-85	20	57.36 (27-7-85)
13.	—do—	Dhararamtul	55.00	56.00	57.15	1974	55.20	23-6-85	3	54.20
14.	Pagladiya	NT Road Xing	51.75	52.75	55.38	1984	53.50	1-6-85	59	52.37
15.	Puthimari	N.H. Xing	50.81	51.81	54.54	1979	54.05	3-6-85	109	52.67
16.	Manas	N.H. Xing	46.56	47.56	50.08	1984	48.31	29-7-85	56	48.31
17.	Beki	Road Bridge	43.38	44.38	46.00	1978	45.40	24-7-85	123	45.39
18.	Barak	Silchar	18.83	19.83	21.08	1966	*21.45	20-6-85	34	18.28
		(Annapura Ghat)								
19.	Katakhal	Matizuri	19.27	20.27	22.30	1981	22.27	19-6-85	22	16.66
20.	Sankosh	Golakganj	28.51	29.51	32.00	1968	30.14	29-7-85	74	30.14
21.	Jaidhaka	Mathabanga	48.20	48.70	49.60	1972	48.66	24-7-85	10	48.24
22.	Torsa	Ghughumari	39.80	40.41	41.40	1984	40.02	24-7-85	12	39.92
23.	Raidak	Tufanganj	34.22	35.30	26.05	1984	35.45	24-7-85	24	35.00
24.	Ganga	Hardwar	293.00	294.00	296.23	1978	293.10	24-7-85	1	292.30
25.	—do—	Farakka	21.25	22.25	24.52	1980	21.74	29-7-85	4	21.74
26.	Yamuna	Delhi Rly. Bridge	204.00	204.83	207.49	1978	204.12	29-7-85	1	204.12
27.	Ghaghra	Elgin Bridge	105.07	106.07	107.18	1983	105.46	27-7-85	13	105.24
28.	—do—	Ayodhya	91.73	92.73	93.53	1983	92.16	27-7-85	13	92.05
29.	—do—	Turtipar	63.01	64.01	65.09	1983	64.00	29-7-85	13	64.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
30.	—do—	Darauli	59.82	60.82	61.66	1948	59.88	29-7-85	1	59.88
31.	Rapti	Gorakhpur (Birdghat)	73.98	74.98	76.84	1974	74.33	29-7-85	2	74.33
32.	Gandak	Khadda	95.00	96.00	96.85	1978	95.75	25-7-85	41	95.45
33.	—do—	Rewaghat	53.41	54.41	55.04	1974	53.89	28-7-85	11	53.86
34.	Burhigandak	Muzaffarpur (Sikanderpur)	51.53	52.53	55.93	1975	52.06	29-7-85	3	52.06
35.	Burhigandak	Samastipur	45.02	46.02	48.63	1984	46.17	29-7-85	11	46.17
36.	—do—	Rossera	41.63	42.63	45.98	1974	42.89	29-7-85	14	42.89
37.	Bagmati	Benibad	47.68	48.68	49.56	1979	48.91	29-7-85	15	48.91
38.	—do—	Hayaghat	44.72	45.72	48.06	1975	45.22	29-7-85	3	45.22
39.	Kosi	Basua	48.75	47.75	48.44	1979	47.55	29-7-85	25	47.55
40.	—do—	Baltara	32.85	33.85	35.37	1974	34.68	29-7-85	23	34.68
41.	—do—	Kursela	29.00	30.00	31.85	1978	29.36	29-7-85	4	29.36
42.	Adhwara Group	Kamtaul	49.00	50.00	52.38	1975	49.97	29-7-85	5	49.97
43.	—do—	Ekmathat	45.94	46.94	48.57	1975	46.47	29-7-85	4	46.47
44.	Kamla Balan	Jhanjharpur	49.00	50.00	51.83	1975	51.39	29-7-85	20	51.39
45.	Mahananda	Dhengraghat	34.65	35.65	38.09	1968	36.22	26-7-85	22	36.13
46.	—do—	Jhawa	30.40	31.40	33.40	1977	32.23	29-7-85	20	32.23

* A new HFL reached this year.

Appendix-II

Statement showing Flood/Cyclone damage based on the reports received from
the State Governments/Union Territories upto 29.7.1985

(Col. 6+8+11 in Rs lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Area affected in lakh ha.	Population affected in lakhs	Damage to crops Area in ha.	Value in Rs. lakhs	Damage to houses Nos.	Value in Rs. lakhs	Cattle head lost Nos.	Human lives lost Nos.	Damage to public utilities in Rs. lakhs	Total damage to crops & houses & public utilities	Date of report
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Assam	5.23	19.93	0.60	44.86	109149	0.39	549	46	1035.80	1081.05	27.7.85
2.	Bihar	0.74	1.36	0.07	7.35	—	—	—	17	—	7.35	28.7.85
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	—	19.7.85
4.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.12	0.12	3.7.85
5.	Kerala	1.46	146.00	0.90	16150.00	478514	3290.00	19002	102	32636.00	52076.00	22.7.85
6.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	75	7592.60	7592.60	20.7.85
7.	Manipur	0.11	1.05	0.001	4.21	164	—	19	5	270.21	274.42	25.6.85
8.	Punjab	2.13	10.00	2.06	—	—	—	—	55	75.00	75.00	28.7.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9.	Sikkim	0.001	—	0.001	—	—	—	23	1	—	—	1.7.85
10.	Tripura	0.02	3.00	0.020	243.07	13827	—	—	10	211.25	454.32	26.7.85
11.	West Bengal	0.006	—	0.006	1.00	462	—	—	1	—	1.00	25.7.85
12.	Goa, Daman & Diu	0.002	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17.7.85
Total		9.699	181.34	3.658	16450.49	602116	3290.39	19593	340	41820.98	61561.86	

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

INDIAN RAILWAYS
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSILAL) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Railway Act, 1890.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890.”

The motion was adopted

SHRI BANSI LAL : I introduce the Bill.

12.18 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we go to matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

(i) Need to set up a T.V. Centre at Basti in Uttar Pradesh

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Doordarshan definitely plays a very important role in the country's progress by way of imparting education and disseminating information to the citizens in every field and making them good citizens. There is a scheme under the Government's consideration for providing education in schools and colleges in the near future through the Indian satellite Insat B-I. This scheme covers programmes from basic and primary education to adult education. Very useful and valuable programmes are being telecast on T.V. for farmers in the country. Even now India is predominantly an agricultural country and three-fourths of her population

is dependent on agriculture. The farmers are provided information regarding increasing the production and use of modern techniques for improved methods of cultivation. In this way, it is clear that Doordarshan is not only a means of entertainment but it telecasts programmes which are very useful in every walk of life. It is a matter of happiness that the Government of India are setting up T.V. Centres rapidly on a large scale. District Basti of Uttar Pradesh occupies second place in the State so far as population is concerned, but the percentage of literacy is very low there even now and most of the people are living below the poverty line. No T.V. Centre has so far been set up there, whereas T.V. centres have been functioning in districts surrounding District Basti like Deoria, Gorakhpur, Faizabad etc., for the last several years.

I would request the Hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting that early steps may be taken to set up a T.V. centre in District Basti, keeping in view its backwardness and in public interest.

[*English*]

(ii) Need to declare Trivandrum Aerodrome as an International Airport

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : Sir, The Trivandrum Aerodrome is one of the the busiest airports in India where at present 16 International flights are operated a week. Kerala is the foremost contributor of traffic to and from the Gulf countries. But this aerodrome has not been officially declared an International airport on the ground that it cannot take bigger aircraft like Boeing 747 and DC 10.

The Trivandrum airport can conveniently accommodate several of the smaller aircraft operated by International airlines. Development works such as extension of run-way, installation of approach lights and telecommunication equipments for night landing etc. are going on at full pace. On completion of these works, the Trivandrum aerodrome will be able to operate International aircrafts of any kind. A major portion of the passengers from Madras and Malaysia and Singapore are from Kerala. It is, therefore, necessary to introduce the operation of such flights from the Trivandrum airport.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Pt. II section 2 dated 30.7.85.

Considering the prospect of development and the traffic density, I request that urgent steps be taken for declaring the Trivandrum aerodrome as an International airport.

[*Translation*]

(iii) Need to change the timings of trains running between Tumkur and Bangalore due to introduction of five day week

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur)
Sir, from my constituency, Tumkur, about three thousand persons travel every day to Bangalore, the Capital city of Karnataka. Among them fifteen hundred are businessmen and another fifteen hundred are the employees of State and Central Governments. These employees and the business community completely depend on trains for their daily journey.

But now the State Government offices are also switching over to the system of five day week from the month of August, 1985. Naturally, the timings of the offices will also change accordingly. This has caused great concern among the employees of the State and Central Governments because they cannot depend upon any other mode of transportation. Therefore, it has become very essential to change the timings of the trains which run from Bangalore to Tumkur and vice-versa. Train No. 224 which leaves Tumkur in the morning should leave at 7.25 a.m. and reach Bangalore at 9.30 a.m. Train No. 223 which leaves Bangalore in the evening should start at 6.30 p.m. and arrive at Tumkur at 8.30 p.m.

At present train No. 223 halts at Doddabele for forty minutes to allow train No. 291 to pass. Instead of this the crossing point may please be switched over to Gollahalli which would be very convenient to maximum number of commuters.

(iv) Need to improve telephone services in Bihar and provide automatic exchanges at Begusarai and Barauni

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Balua) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for some time past the telephone service in North Bihar has deteriorated considerably. In fact telephone is no longer an item of luxury in this industrial age, rather it is a medium of

economic progress and any laxity or shortcoming in its functioning can hamper the economic development. I would like that the Minister of Communications should pay special attention to it and try to bring about maximum efficiency in the telephone services.

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the difficulties being experienced by the people of the district Begusarai in the matter of telecommunication services. District Begusarai is a headquarter and is one of the prominent industrial areas of Bihar. The proximity of Barauni Fertilizer and the Thermal Refinery to this famous city has added to its importance in the industrial field. At present, the telephone exchange at Begusarai is a manually operated one, as a result of which the people are not getting the telephone facility which should be available to them. The work on converting the manually operated telephone exchange into an automatic exchange was started, but it is understood that the work on the proposed automatic telephone exchange has not yet been completed due to non-availability of some vital equipments. An automatic telephone exchange at Begusarai is a must and this has great importance. I would request the Hon. Minister that for the all round development of an industrial area like Barauni he should take effective steps in the direction of installing an automatic telephone exchange at Begusarai under a time-bound schedule.

12.25 hrs.

[MR. N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

(v) Need to introduce legislation providing ownership rights to tenants by duly compensating the Landlords

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay South) : A serious problem we have today in our cities is that of tenants in old and dilapidated buildings. Landlords do not maintain their aging buildings, the plea being the return they get by way of rent does not justify spending on repairs and upkeep. But since estate values keep going up, decay of the buildings does not worry the landlords.

*The Speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

In fact, decay is to their advantage as they expect tenants to move out because of inconveniences like leakage, etc. and hence neglect is often deliberate.

But tenants do not move out. They cannot afford higher rents and they are reluctant to go to the distant suburbs. Landlords cannot evict them as tenants are protected under the Rent Act. However, they cannot carry out any repairs to their structures as the landlords come in the way. Thus they are forced to continue to live in the decaying buildings often risking their lives. This is a serious problem to which no solution has been found yet.

To end this, the Government must introduce legislation providing ownership rights to tenants in such buildings by compensating the landlord on a fair and prescribed basis. As owners, the tenants can form themselves into cooperative housing societies and carry out their own repairs/reconstruction. If the Union Government implements this, the State Government, in turn can introduce appropriate laws. The step will be similar to the land-for-the-tiller policy which the Government has rightly legislated and also help solve a major problem of most of our cities.

(vi) Need to set up electronic industries in Kolar District of Karnataka to meet drought and unemployment conditions prevailing there

DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : The entire Kolar district in Karnataka is reeling under severe drought. There is no drinking water. The borewells are drying up. Surprisingly there is not even a single river in the entire district. For the last 15 years there was no sufficient rain in this district. The poor villagers are sitting idle without jobs. Agriculturists are the worst hit. No crop can be raised here. The underground water table is going deeper and deeper. Besides gruelling poverty, the people are groaning under brain fever, leprosy and such other contagious diseases. Skin diseases are common throughout the district.

Excepting Kolar Gold Fields there is not a single medium or major industry here. Educationally and economically this is one of the most backward districts in the state of Karnataka. Unless some immediate and

concrete steps are taken, the people in this district are going to become extinct. The Central Government should come to the succour of the people. There is no other alternative but to start some small and medium industries very soon. Therefore, I request the Hon. Industries Minister to set up electronic industries without any further delay.

(vii) Need to impose total ban on the export of human skeletons

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Export of human skeletons is a great slur to our national prestige and high human values. The people engaged in this dispiritful trade steal the babies and kill them, take out dead bodies out of the graves and also while floating in the Ganges and other rivers to the great injury of the religious sentiments of the different sections of the people.

The growing demands of human skeletons and bones from the foreign countries have led the Indian exporters to kidnap small children for the purpose of coping with the demands of human skeletons, by mercilessly killing them. Hence stealing and kidnapping of small children have become a serious problem in some parts of our country.

It is said that most of the human skeletons are supplied to the exporters from Bihar, Bengal and Orissa, Bihar being the largest one.

It is strange that there is ban on the supply of animal skeletons while licences are issued for the supply of human skeletons.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to impose an immediate total ban on the export of human skeletons as it was done on the report of Prof. T. K. Rail, Assistant Controller of Import and Export Department, Calcutta, in the year 1976.

(viii) Need to set up a Regional Office of the State Bank of India at Calicut

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : It is the long felt need of the Malabar area in Kerala consisting the revenue districts of Kasargod,

Calicut, Wynad, Malarpuram and Palghat to have more banking facilities. The State Bank of India is doing quite good service during the past few years in this area. It is understood that after the amalgamation of Bank of Cochin with State Bank of India, an additional Regional Office is going to be set up in the State. At present the people from Malabar area which is situated in the northern part of Kerala have to go to the Regional Office located at Trivandrum, the southern most part of Kerala. This causes untold difficulties to small industrialists and entrepreneurs.

Malabar area is still backward and most of the districts are declared 'no industry' districts. Under these circumstances, I request the Ministry of Finance through the Hon. Speaker to set up the proposed Regional Office of the State Bank of India at Calicut.

12.32 hrs.

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MOTIONS RE : THIRTY-SECOND,
THIRTY-THIRD AND THIRTY-
FOURTH REPORTS OF THE
UNION PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up further consideration of the Motions moved by Shri K.P. Singh Deo regarding the Thirty-second, Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth Reports of the Union Public Service Commission.

Dr. Rajhans was on his legs. He may please continue.

[Translation]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday I was speaking on the Reports of the Union Public Service Commission and I had not concluded my speech. Today, I have to raise only two or three points more.

First of all, I would like to say that the candidates from Hindi speaking States are not able to compete in the U.P.S.C. examinations despite having all other qualifications for the simple reason that they

cannot express themselves in English. They are not at fault for this. I have visited almost the entire world several times. English is not spoken anywhere in Europe except in England. I would like to narrate a small incident here.

Once I was in Italy and I felt very thirsty there. I was under the impression that all the hotel personnel and shopkeepers must be conversant with the English language. Being thirsty, I moved from one place to another. I said —

[English]

—I want a glass of water.

[Translation]

Nobody was able even to reply to me. Then, I happened to meet an interpreter there. He told me to say *equa*.

[English]

This is the Italian equivalent of water.

[Translation]

Thereafter, when I said *equa* in a hotel, I was served with water. Nobody speaks English even in France and Germany.

Sir, I am not against English as such. I am a supporter of English, but my point is that if some persons do not get the facility of studying in the public schools and they cannot express themselves in English, what is their fault in it? Why is it that they are not successful in the U. P. S. C. examinations? I would like to suggest that the U. P. S. C. should conduct interviews and personality tests not only in Hindi or Hindustani language but in all the Indian languages.

In Parliament we may speak in any language but we come to know about the views of each other immediately, because interpreters have been provided here. In case a candidate from a particular State goes there to take an examination and he likes to express himself in his own language, an interpreter should be provided there who may convey the views expressed by the examinee to the examiners. It should not be that only English knowing people should get an opportunity to advance in life and the the people knowing other languages should lag behind,

[Shri G. S. Rajhans]

particularly when we have given equal status to all the languages in the Constitution.

For taking any Central Services examination, the minimum qualification prescribed is B. A. There are many students who could not get an opportunity to pass B. A., but if they are given an opportunity, they can give a good account of themselves in these examinations. I, therefore, suggest that B. A. Degree should not be made compulsory.

Secondly, in Bihar, results are not declared even three years after the examinations are held. Perhaps you may not be aware that it so happens in Bihar that a brilliant student, who has taken an examination, cannot appear in the civil services examination simply because his result has not been declared. This anomaly should be removed. A provision should be made to enable the candidate to give an affidavit to the effect that he has appeared in the B. A. examination and in case he is selected but fails in the B. A. examination, he may be declared ineligible. He should not be debarred simply for the reason that he is not in possession of the B. A. degree at a particular point of time.

I would like to raise one or two more points. In civil services, the maximum age was 28 years previously, but now it has been reduced to 26 years. There is no justification for it. In remote areas and in the villages, people start their education quite late because they do not have the means. It is only in the villages that you find how acute the problem of earning the daily bread is. There are no schools in the villages. The classes are held under a *banyan* tree. In this way, by the time a boy passes the B. A. examination, he may be 28 years or even 30 years old. After passing the B. A. examination, he should get 3 to 4 years time to prepare himself to come at par with the students of other States. In this matter, a policy of providing protection should be followed. Sir, you are fully aware that an infant cannot fight a wrestler and that is why the infant is protected. I would like to say that the people from Hindi speaking areas should be given protection and age limit should be higher for them. This thing should apply to other States also where the medium of education is a regional language.

In have carefully gone through the three Reports to know about the Members of the Public Service Commission and the Members of the Board for personality test. In this connection, I would like to know why it is necessary to include retired I. A. S. and I. P. S. officers in the panel meant for holding personality test? Why can a press correspondent having information about the entire world not be included in it? Why can a Manager of a public sector or private sector undertaking, who has shown results in his company, not be included in it as an expert? My submission is that the bureaucracy should be realistic. The officers, should be drawn from the rural as well as the urban areas and they should be in a position to feel the pulses of the people and if need be they should be ready to work for peoples' welfare. I have got personal experience about the I. A. S. officers, who have studies in Delhi or in other big cities. They do not want to live in small towns. They approach politicians for their posting at a place where there are no mosquitoes, where there is electricity and where their wives and children may not feel any inconvenience. Nobody wants to live in the rural areas and at undeveloped and under-developed places. So, why should we not give an opportunity to the people belonging to the rural areas and the undeveloped places to enter bureaucracy? They will be in a better position to understand the feelings of the people.

As I said yesterday, even today, India is divided into two parts, i.e., India and Bharat. India means I. A. S., I. P. S. and I. F. S. bureaucrats, who feel that they are born to rule and on the other hand there are the poor and the unemployed people living in the rural areas who feel that they are born to undergo sufferings of poverty.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Have you kept the Ministers in Bharat ?

[English]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : India, that is Bharat.

[Translation]

Even now a collector is a terror in a village. If anybody calls on him, he will not be offered even a glass of water, even if he be an eminent professor of a university. If the collector wearing a suit and tie visits their

houses, they will feel pride. We would have to change this tendency.

In your report it has been mentioned that conferences of State Public Service Commissions have been held from time to time and the matter regarding effecting reforms was discussed. You might have read in the newspapers in the recent past that the post of Deputy Collector goes for Rs. 50,000 and that of D. S. P. for Rs. 35,000. I do not want to mention the name of the State. I would like to know whether the U.P.S.C. has not discussed this matter in its conference with the State Public Service Commissions? Can a poor boy pay Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 35,000 for becoming a collector or D. S. P., respectively? Where are you taking the country?

I had made a mention in the House previously also about a system prevalent in Bihar. This system is called L/4, i.e., loot divided by 4. Engineers, contractors, bureaucrats and politicians like us are associates in the loot. An engineer who draws a salary of Rs. 1000 per month is educating his 4 sons in big public schools and the monthly expenditure on each son is Rs. 1500. Has anybody tried to ascertain from where he gets Rs. 6000? Our institutions are producing such bureaucrats who will rule us. It should be looked into from where this rule begins.

I do not want to say more, but I would like to submit that the Union Public Service Commission—

[English]

—or for that matter, any Public Service Commission in the States is not doing justice to the people.

[Translation]

Justice is not not being done to the people. So, this system should be Indianised.

In America, Canada and other countries if the post of a Secretary in a department is to be filled up, it is not necessary that a Joint Secretary or an Additional Secretary will be appointed to that post. If a good professor of any university accepts the offer to appear in the interview, he is appointed as Secretary. Why not give a chance to

some good journalist to become the Secretary of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry? The present system will have to be changed. If a bureaucrat is aware that even if he becomes an I. A. S. officer, he may not retire as Secretary and if he is aware that there may be competitors also, the efficiency will increase.

The Public Service Commissions should be people-oriented and they should have social sensitivity and they should understand their responsibility towards the society.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir they can themselves judge whether the administration is functioning satisfactorily or not. Who are the Members of the Public Service Commission these days? I think persons having influence or their sycophants manage to become Members of the Commission. (Interruptions)

I am stating the fact. This is what I see daily... (Interruptions) If one is not a sycophant, he should become a sycophant of someone, otherwise he will not be successful. The people have lost faith in the Public Service Commission and nobody should think that honest people are working there. If they are not honest, how is it possible to carry out the work? Such officers select other officers who are of the same type.

I have gone through the report and it seems that the level of efficiency of the administration in India will go down further. The way the report has been written, suggests that some steno has prepared it.

[English]

On page 200 it reads as follows :

“Chief Engineer post was recommended on 2nd August, 1978 and yet not filled up. Live-stock Officer case was recommended on 6th February 1980—not yet filled up.”

In 20 cases, I have found that they have recommended but the posts have not yet been filled up.

[Translation]

This is your system. You see how the interviews are conducted. Influential people

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

exercise influence in the interviews. Previously, it was very difficult even to contact judges, magistrates and anybody who tried to make such an attempt sometimes faced prosecution. But what is happening now-days. People openly canvass for a candidate that so and so is their relative, brother or acquaintance. If the Union Public Service Commission conducts examinations then the papers should be got examined by persons who have some character. But papers are sent to such incompetent persons as fail to do justice. The method of conducting personal interview is also not proper. Full marks will not be awarded to the candidates even if it results in the failure of the candidate.

In the papers, which have been presented here, it is written that they intend to recruit more candidates belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. But from the papers it appears that they are not getting scheduled caste and scheduled tribe candidates. The figures show that a number of posts are lying vacant which could not be filled up. It is surprising how work is done.

[English]

They say 400 scheduled caste people were needed as engineers. They got only 200. When they wanted 367 they got 150, in 1980-81 for 388 they got 112; later for 255 they got 89. Earlier when they wanted 339 they got only 150. In some years they got only 350 or 268, or 190 only.

[Translation]

From the chart presented by the Government it is clear that their number has decreased. Candidates are not available for any post. A number of posts are lying vacant. Take any case in the administration. In the event of non-availability of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe candidates are other candidates not belonging to these categories taken? Their number is negligible in the scientific and technical field. There are 163 candidates as against the requirement of 299. If the vacancies are 207, not even half the vacancies are filled up. Either we are not providing good education to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people or we do not want that they should make progress. Secondly, how are we running the

administration by keeping those posts vacant? It will be interesting to read the report of the Public Service Commission. But there is the time constraint for going through the report. You see the report. I am not contributing anything from my side; it is revealed in the Report itself that if the number of vacancies is 50 or 100, they advertise it in the newspapers. Then they say the number of vacancies is 240. Learned people are sitting here. This is the lunch hour. It is good for the old people to eat less. That is why sober persons are sitting here.

[English]

The Chairman is also an old man. Therefore, he is in the Chair!

I have gone through all the four papers given by them.

[Translation]

I have gone through the four papers supplied by them. By going through them, I have come to know how the administration is being run. What has happened in the first case? One driver was awarded punishment by the department. Then the matter was referred to the U.P.S.C. The Public Service Commission recommended that he be censured.

[English]

“As the then Minister of Communications, in his capacity as appointing authority on behalf of the President, did not agree with the views of the Union Public Service Commission, the Commission was asked on 20-12-1980, after consultation with the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, to reconsider their advice.

Then the Government once again reviewed the entire case and held that since the third officer was charged only for an act of omission whereas on a charge arising out of the act of commission the first officer was exonerated by the Inquiry Authority/Central Vigilance Commission of the charge against him and, it will not be fair to hold the third officer guilty of any misconduct justifying the imposition on him of the penalty of Censure as

recommended by the Union Public Service Commission, Government order exonerating the third officer was, therefore issued on 15.7.81.....”

[Translation]

Two officer were exonerated and one officer was retired. Our Hon. Minister is a very good person. He is young but you see how much time was taken in finalising the case. It took eight years. It is the function of the Public Service Commission to keep itself busy in such petty cases ?

Take another case where a driver was dismissed from service. But due to the favour shown by someone, he was not dismissed. The reason given was that he could not be dismissed because he was not guilty. He filed an appeal to the President. His case was reopened for reconsideration. It was pointed out that he was on duty, and as such, he was not guilty and he should be pardoned. The case which was pending since 1974 has been settled now. Is it the only function of the Public Service Commission ? For cases have been quoted in the report. There was a heavy motor vehicle driver whose case was pending since 1974. You can see when it was settled. How voluminous the file might have become. It is true of this country that it is the files which gain and it is the man who loses.

Similarly, there was a case where a Control Officer was to be appointed at Nasik. They suggested that out of the five candidates, an S. T. Officer was competent and they referred the matter to the U.P.S.C. The U. P. S. C. recommended that the second Officer was more competent. Now you can see that the Government have no faith in the U. P. S. C. and the U. P. S. C. has no faith in the Government. This confrontation goes on. Why did you consult the U. P. S. C. and after consulting it why did you not heed its advice ? You will continue to write that the case may be reconsidered till your recommendation is acceded to. It will take six months' time to reconsider the matter. So, the functioning of the U. P. S. C. should be reviewed.

13.00 hrs.

Then, from which cadres the Members of the U. P. S. C. will be taken ? At present

even a petty trader is made the Chairman of the U. P. S. C. He may be totally ignorant but he will be conducting the interviews. Some norms should be laid down. Without norms, the work will not be done satisfactorily.

Besides, the information about promotion and direct recruitment has also been given in the Report.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Daga, you continue after lunch. The House now adjourns for lunch to meet at 2 O' clock.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the clock. The Lok Sabha then reassembled after lunch at seven minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Daga to continue his speech. Mr. Daga, I think you can understand the time factor also. You are criticising others that they are taking lot of time.

MR. MOOL CHAND DAGA : I will finish in 5 minutes or 7 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already you have taken sufficient time. You please try to finish in two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Pay Commission had given weightage to promotees vis-a-vis direct recruitment. But the present practice is that direct recruitment is made to the extent of 50 per cent, 40 per cent and 30 per cent, but no weightage is given to those officers in the matter of promotion who have put in 30 years or 15 years of service. The employees who have gained experience and are conversant with the procedure and have put in long periods of service are not given weightage in their offices and posts but instead direct recruitment is made to the extent of 50 per cent. In this way, in some places the direct recruitment is made upto

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

50 per cent and the rest 50 per cent posts are filled up by promotion. I want that this matter should be reviewed. Due attention should be paid to those cases where the employees have put in several years of service. It is necessary to do so.

I wanted to give one more suggestion. You make *ad hoc* appointments in your department and for how many years these *ad hoc* appointments continue? You go on extending the *ad hoc* appointments whereas such appointments can be made for certain period and thereafter they are to be referred to the U. P. S. C. I will read it out.

[English]

In paragraph 27 on page 47 of the Thirty-fourth Report it is stated :

“Cases of appointments in which consultation with the Commission was inordinately delayed or where appointments made were *ab initio* irregular, continued to occur during the year under report. In spite of instructions issued from time to time by the Government of India, the Commission regret to note that there has been no marked improvement in this regard. Particulars of some of the cases in which references to the Commission were inordinately delayed and of those where in view of the irregularities involved, the Commission decided to treat the appointments as unapproved are contained in Appendices XVII and XVII-A.”

(Interruptions)

Those Hon. Members who want to talk among themselves can go outside; the lobbies are meant for this purpose. This is not a place to indulge in talk.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You carry on.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It is for the Hon. Members, and those who want to talk, they can talk outside. Lobbies are meant for this purpose (Interruptions).

What I mean to say is, you see Appendix XVII where you find as to what is going on.

On page 279 (Appendix XVII) of the Thirty-fourth Report, it is stated that for the post of Senior Technical Assistant (Crops), Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, the date of appointment without consultation with the Commission was 31.5.82, the last date on which reference should have been made was 30.5.83. The date on which reference has been made was after one year, i.e., on 21.1.84. Similarly, for the post of Hindi Officer, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, the date of appointment was 15.4.81, the last date on which reference should have been made was 14th April, 1982, but the reference has been made after two years of the date of appointment, i.e., on 19th May 1983.

[Translation]

You are supposed to make a reference to the Union Public Service Commission within one year but it is not made even in one year. The reference is not made for as many as two to three years. Only you can understand how much damage is caused by this type of functioning in your departments.

Why does this happen? Sometimes when the Minister wants to appoint his own man, an *ad hoc* appointment is made. After making the *ad hoc* appointment, no reference is made to the Public Service Commission. The U.P.S.C. keeps on reminding them but your departments do not bother. Such is the state of affairs in your departments.

If you want to streamline the administration, you should appoint a committee which may examine all the reports and give suggestions for improvements. Honest and competent persons should be appointed in the services. If the Commission recommends that some one be removed from service, they do not comply with it. Neither the departments heed the advice of the Union Public Service Commission nor the Union Public Service listens to them. This is how the administration is being run. This is not the correct way. Such are the conditions in the Union Public Service Commission. (Interruptions) The name of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have been mentioned in the report. The name of Andhra Pradesh has been mentioned first. Andhra Pradesh is a famous name. Members from that State are sitting in the Opposition here.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY
(Midnapore) : What happens in Rajasthan ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
Rajasthan has a glorious record. Unless the situation in the Public Service Commission in the States improves, there cannot be any improvement in our services.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamtkonda) : Sir, today we are discussing the report of the Union Public Service Commission. Today, three reports are being discussed, namely reports for 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84. After going through the reports, it seems that these have been prepared by a computer. The lapses shown in the first report exist even in the second and the third reports. There should be some difference between the first and the second reports. If some lapses have been revealed in one report, whether relating to *ad hoc* appointments or rules, these should be looked into. It is not a happy thing that a case remains pending for 5 to 6 years and shuttles between one secretary and another. This is not a good thing. It happens with every report. As it is obligatory to present a report in the Parliament, so a report is drafted, but the report is prepared on the basis of the old report. Mostly the same language is repeated. Only the figures are changed and there is no change in the drafting. As it is obligatory to present the report in the Parliament, it is prepared but no thought is given to make improvements in it. This is what we think. If some thought had been given to this aspect, the lapses of the first report would not have been repeated. I plead that this report should be submitted to the Parliament every year for discussion. As this was not being done, discussion on the three reports is taking place simultaneously.

There are mainly three categories of officers who remain under the State Governments : Officials belonging to I.A.S., I.P.S. and I.F.S. The officers of these cadres are sent there on deputation or on appointment, but who has the authority to take disciplinary action against them ? I would like to give an example. The Andhra Pradesh Government had appointed an Inquiry Commission against an I.A.S. officer because that official was charged with some lapses. The Inquiry Commission submitted its report, on the basis of which the official was suspended. But the

Central Government reinstated him. How far such an action was proper ? It is beyond our comprehension how the Central Government, without looking into the matter and consulting the State Government, reinstated him. An I.A.S. official exercises pressure on the politicians. It is not proper to name him here but you should look into it. The State Governments should have authority to take disciplinary action. It is not proper to turn down the recommendation of the State Government and reinstate anyone without looking into the matter. We should look into the cases of such people. These I.A.S. officers think themselves above all; they exercise control over the Superintending Engineers and the Chief Engineer. The District Magistrate summons the Superintending Engineer and admonishes the principal of a Medical Institute by summoning him, although he does not know anything about technical matters. They try to pressurise other officers. They should not be taken on these posts ; rather technical officers should be appointed there. You should follow the example of Andhra Pradesh Government. Previously, only I.A.S. officers used to be appointed as Secretary there but now chance is given to I.P.S. and I.F.S. officers also to become Secretary. The States cannot make appointments to the engineering, medical and education services. The I.A.S., I.P.S. and I.F.S. officers are sent to the States from the Centre. By transferring engineering, medical and education services to the States, direct recruitment can be made by them. It is imperative to pay attention to this aspect so that I.A.S. officers may not consider themselves superior to other services and dictate to the technical officers. We have seen in the meeting of the Planning Board that the I.A.S. officers by virtue of their being Chairmen try to dictate to the technical officers who are more qualified than the I.A.S. officers. Being I.A.S. officers they can write adverse reports against anyone. That is why officers of technical services bow before them. My submission is that technical services should also be considered while filling the posts. The I.A.S. officers think themselves superior to others and want to boss over the others. This should not happen.

Some improvement should be made in the matter of reservation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. If any person is selected for I.A.S. on the basis of reservation,

[Shri Jagna Reddy]

the benefit of reservation should not be extended to his son, otherwise all the members of his family will become I.A.S. officers and the sons of those who work in the villages and whose children are studying in the villages will not be able to join I.A.S. service. The Son of** who studies in some good college can become an I.A.S. officer. So there should be a provision in the Constitution that once a person has secured the benefit of reservation, this benefit should not be extended to his family members, otherwise only the son of** will become I.A.S. officer by virtue of reservation.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : How many such people belong to the Harijan Community...*(Interruptions)* May I know whether being an M.P. is a sign of affluence ? It seems, he has made enough money...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA : Is the Member spelling out his own policy or BJP policy ?

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I am telling my own policy and also that of the BJP.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't mention any person's name. It is not necessary to say, so and so family.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I am unable to understand what he is telling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not necessary to understand it.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : There should be some change in the reservation policy. Members of the same family are deriving its benefit. If forty per cent people have enjoyed the benefit of reservation, their social status has risen; their economic condition has improved, and, as such, they should not be given any further benefit of reservation. They should be brought in the general category. Instead, the benefit of reservation should be given to those who are in need of it and have not availed of the benefit till today.

This is my submission to you. You can continue the reservation but it should not be limited to the few families or should not become a private limited company for them.

What is happening is that the son of an M.P. becomes an M.P., the son of an M.L.A. or his father, mother, father-in-law or son-in-law becomes an M.L.A. I can quote not one but many such examples in Andhra Pradesh. On the other hand, there are some people in our society who have not benefited from the reservation policy. So, my submission is that there is need to change the reservation policy. I am not against the reservation policy but our experience shows that it has become limited to only a few families and only they are deriving its benefit. Now the time has come that we should not allow such families to enjoy the benefit of the reservation.

The Hon. Members who have expressed their views regarding the Union Public Service Commission are of the opinion that the candidates who have passed the intermediate, B.A. or other examinations from the colleges and schools in the rural areas are not able to compete in the I.A.S. and I.P.S. examinations conducted by the U.P.S.C. Have we ever tried to ascertain the reason for it. The reason for this is that the standard of the schools, colleges, universities, engineering colleges or degree colleges in the rural areas is lower than that of the institutions in the urban areas.

Now, the child of every person cannot come to Delhi for studies, every child cannot go to the public school, every child cannot go to the model school, every child cannot go to Little Flower School for studies or every child cannot go to Madras for his or her studies. I would, therefore, like to submit to you that there should be reservation for the rural candidates who come here to appear in the competitive examinations. It should not happen that only city dwellers continue to pass in these competitive examinations and the people coming from the countryside might not get any opportunity. It appears from the report that these examinations have been limited to only city dwellers.

Hence, there must be some reservation for those students who have studied in the

**Not recorded.

engineering colleges and Degree colleges situated in the rural areas, so that they could also succeed in these competitive examinations. The competition between the privileged and the non-privileged sections of the society, which is going on these days, should stop forthwith and in its place the policy of reservation of some seats for the rural candidates should be adopted.

[English]

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL (Belgaum) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to make my observations on all the three Reports of the Union Public Service Commission.

Recruitment through Public Service Commission is not being done in the expected way, as the under-developed countries should have. First, there is a written test and then there is an oral test taken by the Commission in respect of University Degree-holders, may be in Science or in Medicine or in Engineering, as per the rules. The selection system itself is wrong because the bureaucracy which is existing now is very much indifferent to the society. It is a legacy left by the British, and it has not yet been indianised. It has to be Indianised in its complexion, in its performance, in its affinity towards the masses. In my opinion, the total system should be revamped. As Shri Mool Chand Daga has said, there should be a Committee to take a fresh look at it and have a new formula according to the new challenges that we have accepted in the modern life. When we are giving so many programmes for the benefit of the poor, they have to be implemented properly at the grassroot level. They are the people who are there, they are the main people who have to act as catalytic agents to see that all the plans are executed. Sir, actually the bureaucracy has been protected by the founders of the Constitution in regard to their service and disciplinary action, as compared to their counterparts in U.S.A., U.K. and other countries. In India, since it is a democratic country, there should be a committed cadre which should involve people, work with honesty and with full nationalistic outlook. This has been continuously hampering the progress of this country. In USSR there is one party Government, they are committed to certain things and they are implementing them. In India, we are coming

from the static society to the moving society, from traditionalism to modernism. In this course the role of bureaucracy is very important. In pre-independence days the bureaucracy was functioning according to the whims of the masters; to delay, to treat indifferently and not to help the community. Now it has come in a totally different complexion. They have to involve themselves in the programmes. After the post independence, the programmes have been increased and we have given a lot of things to the poor; but the bureaucrats are not helpful to them. There is another aspect with regard to rural and urban people Sir. As many of my friends have already stated, it is only the urban elite society who are taking these opportunities since they can afford to take education in public schools. In so far as their counterparts in rural areas are concerned, they do not even know what is IAS, what is IFS and what are the services available to them. That is the ignorance and illiteracy existing in our country. Only a few people have made it a family welfare centre, as has been told by some of my friends. Their sons, sons-in-law, daughters, daughters-in-law may have been benefitted. I do not know what is the complexion of the composition membership and how they are exercising; but actually it is unproductive. When we see in the district, still they behave like British and *Pattewallas*. They act like a king. Once in 1980, when I was duly elected, I was attending a meeting on the 20 point programmes, in which a special cup and saucer was reserved for the Deputy Commissioner and all ordinary cups and saucers were served to Members of Parliament and Legislators. This is still in existence; so indifferently they behave. They do not have affinity to the people and that is why the progress is getting hampered continuously. Therefore, the system has to be changed. In so far as the SC and STs are concerned, I request that the Government of India should train them two years earlier before they apply for the competitive examination, whether it is preliminary or final or the oral test or the personal test. Unless we train them, we cannot expect good results. If we look to the Report submitted by the Government, we will see that half of the people are taken and the other half are left out. The Report says that there is a welcoming sign and the recruitment is getting increased. About the reservation Sir, it has

[Shri S. B. Sindal]

to be continued. There should be no doubt about it. Even now, looking at the statistics, half of the people are left over. Therefore, my request is that, for SC and ST people there should be training. According to the census just now reported, there are 60 coaching classes throughout the country. They are very much inadequate looking to the graduates of this country. Also the coaching classes are inadequately equipped. For example, in the Universities where they are held, some of the Professors are asked to go and give lectures to them. Because some payment is made, they take up the work, go and give lectures and none of them could come up to the required level and get selected. Therefore, my request is that special coaching institutions should be established to train these people and special classes held. Otherwise, we cannot involve every section of the society in the Government machinery. The elitist class has been dominating in the country and the people are kept away from this instrument of bureaucracy which, though an instrument for improvement, has become an obstacle in implementation. Therefore, in my opinion, there should be a total revamping of the Public Service Commission and it should be made compulsory that each University should have an independent institution rather than just have a coaching class. Otherwise, what we want is not possible. The rules and Regulations are complicated. Many of the legislations are complex and it is the bureaucracy which frames the rules and regulations under the law and in the result there is a lot of scope for corruption. Corruption is rampant and it fattens the corruption, it breeds corruption and red-tapism is there, so also delayed tactics are there. Therefore, no developments are possible. To do away with that, we have to make it fully indigenised. By their nature, by their background most of them are totally indifferent to the programmes of the Government and they have not been committed. Therefore, we have to revamp the total system—the selection system as also the training system for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to enable them to come up to the desired level.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND
TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE

REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : I would first of all like to thank the Hon. Members not only for their impressive homework but for the keen interest they have evinced in this subject and for their incisive observations and constructive and useful suggestions.

I am one of those very fortunate among my colleagues who have managed to have privilege in this House of getting all the three reports discussed only in two sessions of Parliament, that is, in the last session and in this session. I know some of my distinguished predecessors had to wait for many sessions by which they could get this motion moved earlier on in the House.

Some of the colleagues have made extremely well-thought out and thought-provoking suggestions, inferences and sometimes innuendoes. But I am grateful that all the members have supported the motion and before I move on to answering the points raised by them, I will try, within the constraints of time, to mention one thing—that the discussion which has taken place, the observations and the comments of the members are on the reports which are from 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84, it is not the current state of affairs and from the reports it is very clear that the points made by the Hon. Members in the previous deliberations have been taken note of and certain improvements have taken place. Therefore, in the last Report i.e. the 34th laid before Parliament in May you would have found that as far as the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are concerned against the vacancies the full lists have been forwarded and the number of successful candidates have also been an improvement as compared to the previous years. That does not mean to say that Government will not take further steps to improve the performance. We are extremely conscious of the important points made by the Hon. Members and we give the highest consideration they deserve. This also, Sir, I have mentioned in my earlier statement when I moved the Motion.

It would be in fitness of things if I also, before answering the points, give you a little bit of the historical background of the UPSC. With your permission I would like to quote

from forty-seventh Report of the Estimates Committee which had gone into the working of the UPSC. The Chairman of the Estimates Committee at that time was my distinguished predecessor, Shri Venkatasubbaiah, Member of Parliament and also Minister for Personnel :

“It is a universally accepted principle of democratic Government that there should be some institution or authority, independent of the political executive, to deal with recruitment and management of public services. The basic intention is to ensure equality of opportunity and treatment for all citizens and to guard against the evil effects of nepotism or favouritism. One of the best statements of the purpose of these institutions (variously called as ‘Civil Service Commission’, ‘Public Service Commission’ or ‘Public Service Board’ etc.) is contained in the Report of the Commission on the Superior Civil Service in India, 1924 (Lee Commission). The Commission observed :

“Whether democratic institutions exist, experience has shown that to secure an efficient Civil Service it is essential to protect it, so far as possible, from political or personal influences and to give it that position of stability and security which is vital to its successful working as the impartial and efficient instrument by which Government, of whatsoever political complexion, may give effect to their policies. In countries where this principle has been neglected, and where the “spoils system” has taken its place, an inefficient and disorganised Civil Service has been the inevitable result and corruption has been rampant”.

Thus, the institution of Public Service Commission supports and advances meaning and practice of democracy in providing a shield against corruptive influences over the public services and upholding the merit system.”

I would like to quote the concluding para also :

“The growth of Public Service Commission in India as an independent body to advice the executive in service matters like recruitment, discipline, promotions etc. is of comparatively recent origin. In fact, the idea of an independent service Commission in this country has grown along with the evolution of Indian Constitutional Reforms. The Public Service Commission (India) first set up in 1926 was established in accordance with the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1919 and the Federal Public Service Commission in 1937 was a by-product of the Government of India Act, 1935. With the coming into force of the Constitution in 1950, the Union Public Service Commission displaced the Federal Public Service Commission. The institution of the Public Service Commission is looked upon as a bulwark of democracy. It is a symbol of merit system in public services and its avowed objective is to eliminate nepotism and political abuse from public administration. While the Public Service Commissions are a common feature of most of the democratic Governments today, it is to be particularly noted that the Public Service Commissions in India (Union and State) have been created by the Constitution itself and not as in most other countries by a mere Act of Legislature. Hence to assist Government to maintain and manage an efficient public service the founding fathers have endowed the Commissions with independence, status and dignity.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, how long he will read out ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister has taken the permission of the Chair to quote.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : I have taken his permission. If you kindly have the patience. I will answer your points also.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You should explain what is the purpose of quoting all these things from the Report.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : You were absent throughout the debate. Kindly have the patience to listen to me. You will know the significance.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He was not absent throughout.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : I am particularly noticing your presence.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He was present but absent-minded.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : May be, but you will know it better. (*Interruptions*)

Then, Sir, it continues like this :

“The vitally important role which the Constitution has assigned to the Union Public Service Commission underlines the need for independence in its members. It is of utmost importance that the composition of the Commission should be sound and well-balanced. The members of the Commission should not only be persons for calibre and merit but of unimpeachable reputation for independence and competence in its members. It is of utmost importance not only to ensure that the Commission discharge their complex and delicate functions—objective and correct assessment of the suitability of candidates—efficiently but also to inspire public confidence in the Commission.”

Sir, after this, some time in March this year, our Prime Minister thought it fit to write to all the Chief Ministers on 21st March 1985 specially with regard to bringing functional efficiency in the Public Service Commissions and in his letter he raised these vital points. Sir, with your permission, I would like to quote again.

“If the Commissions are properly manned, there should be no occasion to do anything that would detract from their independence or dilute the status accorded to them in the Constitution. Special measures are also necessary to strengthen the Commissions and to improve their functional efficiency :

There should be sufficient delegation of financial and administrative powers somewhat along the lines of the Union Public Service Commission.

Methods of selections are still archaic and time consuming. There

is clearly a need for much greater recourse to modern aids. Wherever feasible, computerisation could be of great help.

The State Governments should assist in ensuring that the Commission is staffed at all levels by persons of proven integrity. Special screening should be done with regard to those who have to work in the confidential branches.

The association of sufficient number of experts should be institutionalised in all selections. The State Governments should also take care to notify the right number of vacancies in advance and should scrupulously resist the temptation of asking for supplementary lists later. It would be valuable if the Commissions could evolve their own internal review of methods and techniques and also interact regularly with experts and consultants in related fields. There is always scope for creative innovation.”

The reports have been absolutely frank and have been absolutely objective. They have concealed nothing. They have brought out the weaknesses and they have also brought out strong points. Wherever lapses are, whether in Government or in any other departments or in subordinate offices or in any of the attached offices, the reports have not tried to do away with them. It is in this context that I would like to mention that the points made by the Hon. Members whether they are regarding *ad hocism*, whether they are regarding delay in various appointments and verifications, whether holding of the departmental, promotional committees, recruitment policies interviews, etc. have been well taken note of. Then, some of the Hon. Members spoke only about 32nd and 33rd Reports on the age relaxation, raising the age exemption for certain posts, etc. The other points made related to having training centres for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, examination in their own languages, confirmations, promotions, equitable distribution throughout the country, and that more than 37 Universities should have the facility for examination centres etc. These have all been taken into consideration

time and again and there has always been a continuous effort by the Union Public Service Commission and the Government to effect improvements.

Coming to the individual points made by certain Hon. Members, I would like to take this opportunity to say that neither the Members of the Public Service Commission nor the officers are present here and to make certain snide remarks about them does not enhance the reputation and credibility of the Hon. House or the Hon. Members. Very distinguished persons have been Chairmen or Members of the Commission. All of them have been experts in their own fields of administration. They have held very responsible posts, both official and non-official. There have been Chairman who have been non-officials as well as officials, as also from the scheduled castes. There have been lady Members as also Members belonging to the scheduled tribes but they retired in December, 1984. Keeping that in view, I would like to mention that the Members of the Commission are all distinguished people. If you say, I would give you the background of the present Members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not necessary.

Many Hon. Members touched the point that the reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes was being taken advantage of by the same families.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : For that I would have to look to the record for the last 37 years, and the entire lists of people who have been selected. The answer is not readily available, but I would answer some of the points which have been raised and on which information is available.

Hon. Member, Shri Rajhans said that the number of candidates selected for the IAS from the Hindi-speaking areas like Bihar, UP, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and my own State, Orissa, is not large. In this context, I would like to mention that the percentage of population of Bihar to the population of the country is 10 per cent, and the percentage of candidates selected from Bihar for the years 1980 to 1982 was 12.39 per cent. In the year 1980, they were 18, in the year 1981, they were 19 and in 1982, their number was

18. In the case of Madhya Pradesh, percentage of population of the State to the total population is 7.68 per cent, and the percentage of candidates selected from the State was 1.40 per cent. Orissa—the percentage of population of the State to the entire population is 3.88 per cent, and the candidates from the State were 4.72 per cent. Then, Rajasthan—the percentage of population of the State to the total population is 5.45 per cent, and the candidates selected were 8.18 per cent of the total number. In respect of Uttar Pradesh, the figures were 16.32 per cent and 17.12 per cent respectively. These figures would give you a fair idea of the situation.

Another point raised by Members, particularly by Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, was that ad hoc appointments should be approved at the level of the Minister. Strict instructions have been issued to all administrative Ministries not to resort to adhoc appointments and if adhoc appointments in Group A Services have to be resorted to because of certain circumstances, approval of the Minister of the administrative Ministry is normally obtained, and if it relates to appointments against posts carrying pay of Rs. 2250 and above, then it has to go to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

There was a demand for more centres for civil services examinations. It is only in 1983, three such centres have been opened in the pre-dominantly tribal areas, viz. Aizwal, Kohima and Raipur. The suggestions made by the Hon. Members will be looked into. Centres are determined on the basis of the number of candidates appearing for the examination, but we shall certainly take into consideration the points made specially by Shri Vijay N. Patil who has given the name of a new centre to be opened where three States converge and which is predominantly a tribal area. We shall see what can be done.

Many of the members mentioned that the coaching centres do not do anything for the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes and that this is only an eye-wash. They wanted to know whether any Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates through these centres have ever made any mark. In 1982, 55 candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes were selected for appointment for IAS, IPS and other Central Secretariat Services. And in 1983, 47 candidates were successful.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Were they given special training ?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Yes Sir. Figures regarding IAS candidates from various States I can lay on the table and same is the case with IPS.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Choubey referred to a circular yesterday.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : It has got no relevance with the UPSC. Hon. Members both in this House and even in the State Legislatures do complain of political interference in the matters of administration. There are various channels of redressal of grievances available to the staff, by which they can redress their personal grievance if any. It is not necessary to utilise the services of the Hon. M.Ps. and M.L.As. as far as transfers and postings are concerned. This will only lead to political interference.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Why should this be so for government employees alone ?

PROF. N. G. RANGA : With all my respect for you, I say that it is not desirable that they should be approaching us.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Many farmers approach you. Many trade union people approach you. Why cannot the Government employees approach you ? Are they slaves ?

PROF. N. G. RANGA : We should be saved from that kind of embarrassment.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Who are they going to protect by this particular rule ?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : May I have a chance to finish Sir ? You had your say. Kindly allow me to have my say. I am trying to answer your points. The Hon. Member, Shri Narayan Choubey had said that smugglers and businessmen and every one can approach MPs. They are most welcome to approach MPs. We do not hold any brief for smugglers and such other industrialists. But the government servants are bound by certain rules of conduct while they are in government service. We would like to maintain discipline and the channels of communication and the channels of com-

mand. Therefore, we must maintain certain ethics while in government service.

There was another point. It was said that only high income groups with public school background got into the IAS. I have got the figures from 1972 to 1974 which were the basis for the Kothari Committee's recommendation on the lowering of the age, which will be of distinct advantage to the rural people.

15.00 hrs.

I would like to quote from the...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can lay the figures on the Table.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : I can lay them on the Table.

There was one more point which most of the Members made. That was that the training and the selection of officers for the higher Services and for the Services should be of a very higher order, because after all, these are the people who are going to implement Government's policies, whichever Government is in the seat of power, or whichever party is in power. It is because of this that our Prime Minister has taken concrete measures to see that there is a mandatory provision for periodic training of officers, both in the field and in the Administration, so that there is a free flow of communication about the impediments or difficulties in the field, and those in the Administration.

With these words, I would like to say that the Hon. Members' points are given the highest consideration and the highest respect; and it is because of this that we have been improving from year to year. But we are not satisfied with the improvements. It is a continuous affair, and we would like to meet the aspirations of the country, and of the Members of the Hon. House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Two motions have been moved by Shri Singh Deo. Now I would put the first one, regarding the 32nd and 33rd Reports of the Union Public Service Commission.

The question is :

“That this House takes note of the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Reports of the Union Public Service Commission for the periods from 1st April, 1981 to 31st March, 1982 and 1st April, 1982 to 31st March, 1983, along with the Government’s Memorandum on the cases of non-acceptance of the Commission’s advice mentioned there in, laid on the Table of the House on 2nd March, 1983 and 2nd May, 1984 respectively.”

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now I shall put the second Motion, regarding the 34th Report of the Union Public Service Commission.

The question is :

“That this House takes note of the Thirty-fourth Report of the Union Public Service Commission for the period from 1st April, 1983 to 31st March, 1984, laid on the Table of the House on 8th May, 1985.”

The motion was adopted

15.02 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : NEW TEXTILE POLICY

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up the next item, viz. Discussion under Rule 193. I now request Prof. Madhu Dandavate to initiate the discussion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir : I rise to raise a discussion under rule 193, on the Textile Policy which was announced by the Government on the 6th June 1985. At the very outset, let me make myself extremely clear that very often when one talks of textile industry, prominently one has before one’s eyes the organized mill sector. But it is necessary to take cognizance of the fact that out of 120 lakhs of employees employed in the textile industry, 13 lakhs are employed in the organized mill sector, 32 lakhs in the powerloom sector and 75 lakhs in the handloom sector—the last of which provides the

maximum employment to the rural population in the country. In view of this fact, we have to take note of the fact that there has to be a balanced policy vis-a-vis all these three sectors, viz. organised mill sector, the decentralized powerloom sector, and the handloom sector.

Before I proceed to analyze the various premises of the new Textile Policy that has been adumbrated by the Government, I would like to recall in this House, and particularly refresh the memory of the Hon. Minister to the objectives that were laid down by this Government when it announced on March 9, 1981 the objectives of the textile policy. I would like to judge the correctness or otherwise of the present policy; on the touchstone of the various objectives which were enunciated in the 1981 textile policy document. The various objectives were— I am quoting from the document of 1981 :

- (1) Increasing the production of cloth of acceptable quality; to meet the clothing requirement of a growing population at a reasonable pace;
- (2) Promoting of harmonious and balanced growth of all sectors of the textile industry, in consonance with national priorities and targets of the five-year Plan;
- (3) Maximum possible growth of handlooms in the decentralized sector, and faster growth of Khadi, hosiery and the natural silk sectors,.. to generate more employment and raise standard or living of small weavers and other employed in this sector.
- (4) Strengthening and streamlining of infrastructure for distribution of cloth to weaker sections of the population.
- (5) While maintaining the dominant position of the cotton as a man made fibre, encouraging the use of man made fibre and yarn by different sectors of the industry keeping in view the domestic and international consumption trade, and for this purpose increasing the availability of natural and man made fibre and yarn.

[Shri Madhu Dandvate]

- (6) Generating surplus to produce fabric of acceptable standard for the world market at competitive rates.

The new policy on textile which is announced by the Minister on 6th June, 1985, must be viewed in the context of these various objectives which were adumbrated in the 1981 Document on textile industry. When this Document was released and announced by the Minister in the Press Conference, he was asked a question that your Policy Document had been prepared on the basis of Experts Committee recommendations and report. Will you release that Experts Committee report? And we are told that the Experts Committee report on textile is supposed to be a confidential document. I am surprised, in this country, important agreements and deals regarding Defence, are not considered as confidential at all; they are available; discussions go on. But, as far as the Experts Committee report on textile is concerned, strangely enough, that document is supposed to be a confidential report. So, if I am wrong, I would request the Hon. Minister to lay that document on the Table of the House so that those who want to find out what are the various contours of recommendations of the Experts Committee report, how they have processed the Experts Committee report, we will be able to derive our own conclusion; and it will also indicate the trend regarding various pressures that are exerted on the government through this report. Therefore, I would demand that Experts Committee Report on textile should be laid on the Table of the House.

As far as assessment of the new textile policy is concerned, at the outset, I can say that ship policy is a boon to the textile magnates; it is a curse to powerloom and handloom and it is a severe blow to the textile workers in the textile industry. It conforms to the general trend and policy of this government especially the new government that they would all like to pamper and appease the affluent sections of the society and comparatively neglect the interest of the consumers, the interest of the industrial workers and the interest of the kisan. I will be extremely happy if I am proved to be wrong, but, unfortunately, I may prove myself to be correct.

Now, these are the basic assessments and they are based on certain analyses of various trends in the textile industry. Let me refer to the unequal competition that is taking place in the textile industry. As I said earlier, we have organised mill sector and the decentralised power loom sector and the handloom sector. Now, the first concession that is made to the industry, organised mill industry in the country is that they are liberated from all social obligations to manufacture the controlled cloth which would give to the magnates minimum of profit. The entire responsibility has been taken away from their shoulders. They are told that there will be no constraint on your capacity expansion you can have fine product, quality product you can have high quality product manufactured; you can also export them; you can utilize them for indigenous consumption, but you need not worry about this controlled cloth. The entire burden of cloth is shifted to the handloom. At one place, the Hon. Minister is reported to have said that handloom industry itself is extremely happy that they are given the entire responsibility of producing the controlled cloth. The responsibility is to be commensurate with the resources made available to them and the level of technology. Merely saying that we are putting the entire responsibility of producing the controlled cloth on the handlooms and that it is a great boon to the handloom industry, that is not to tell the truth. What is the truth? If you just go and meet a number of organisers of the handloom industry, their associations, their cooperatives, their major complaint is, at the present technological level of the handloom industry, if you put this entire burden, and do not promise them the necessary subventions and necessary subsidies, in that case, all that is likely to happen is, just as in the past we had the sickness in the textile industry, organised mill industry, that sickness will be transfused to the handloom industry. That is all that is likely to happen. And the present thinking of the Planning Commission is, and even the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund, when they give us a big loan—there was a debate whether they were conditions or they were only suggestions, whether they were conditions or suggestions—were about subsidies. One of the important suggestions of the IMF was, that “you should reduce various types of subsidies, which are being discriminately given to various sectors

and sections." And therefore, obviously the axe would fall on the subsidies given to the handloom sector and as a result of that, at the present technological level of the handloom industry, in the absence of adequate subventions given to them it is likely that they are likely to turn sick and therefore the huge burden that is put on them, instead of being a boon it is likely that it will become a curse. All constraints on the capacity of organised mills and powerlooms are removed. I do not want actually to have a quarrel with the mills and the powerlooms. But whenever there is a clash between the handlooms on the one side and the powerlooms and the mill sector on the other side, it is always the handloom that suffers. When you remove all constraints on the expansion of the capacity of the organised mills and also on the powerlooms. In this unequal competition, handlooms are bound to be destroyed and therefore allowing all the capacity constraints on the mills and the powerlooms to be removed, that will create further trouble for the handloom sector.

I may remind you that one, Sundaram Committee going in depth of the handloom problems has said that a single powerloom displaces six handlooms. They statistically worked out the problem in terms of the statistics gathered from different parts of the country the general inference drawn was that a single institution of a single powerloom displaces six handlooms. Today, what is happening? There are many authorised powerlooms. There are a large number of unauthorised powerlooms. How is the present Government going to tackle the problem of unauthorised powerlooms? They have not said that all the looms have to be authorised.

AN HON. MEMBER : They have all to get themselves registered.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You rightly said. All that they have said is, that they must register themselves. No matter how they have come up, legally or illegally, whatever be the mode through which they have come into operation, all that happened is that they must register themselves.

I will just give an analogy of population explosion. There is no question of preventing a population explosion. All that the Govern-

ment has said is that once you are born, see that you are registered as a person that is born. That is all. Beyond that there is no restriction. Would it be a correct approach to population control or population planning? It will be an anarchical planning only. That is exactly what is going to happen in the case of powerlooms.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : But if already there are children born, what to do?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is all right. They are already born due to biological needs. They are not biological accidents.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There are accidents also.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to point out that there is no coordinated policy to maintain a balance between the organised mills, the powerlooms, and the handlooms. How many powerlooms are to be allowed? How much expansion is to be allowed? How much authorisation is to be permitted? How is the balance between the three to be maintained so that the unequal competition between the three will not destroy actually the handloom industry? That particular care has not been taken. Not only the capacity constraints have been removed but there have been physical and financial assistances that are offered to the mills and powerlooms to the detriment of the handlooms. This again, as a differential factor, causes further deterioration of the large industry in rural areas which provide employment to the largest number of rural population in the country.

Let us try to see which is the clash between the mills and the powerlooms. The powerloom sector in future will be treated on par with the mill sector. This will destroy the powerlooms by an unequal competition. Take, for instance, the question of levies. Levies will be imposed on the man-made fibre and yarn. If those who are running the powerlooms want man-made fibre or yarn, in that case, because the levy has been imposed, indirectly they will be bearing the burnt of this levy which has been imposed on the man-made fibre and the yarn. When they purchase that, their production will become

[Prof. Madhu Dandvate]

more costly. When the production will become costly, it is likely that an element of sickness will be introduced in the powerloom industry. To avoid this what will happen? There are a number of textile tycoons in the country. Today they have some sort of working clandestine arrangement with the powerloom that they will pass on the yarn to the powerloom to produce the entire quantity of cloth in the powerloom industry and they sell it at a profitable cost. The mill will put their stamp and show to the Government that this is the cloth that has been produced in the mill industry. This is the manner in which the clandestine transaction is going on. Already it was going on in the past. With the new policy it is likely that this particular clandestine practice will grow to a very great extent. When the powerloom owners find that it is not profitable to run the powerlooms because yarn has become costly because of the levy directly imposed on the yarn, they will require to purchase more costly yarn, in that case, they will have clandestine arrangement with the mills. The stamp of the mill will be put and the actual production will take place in the powerloom. And instead of powerloom working independently, I am afraid, in the future, the powerloom will act as an agent of the organised mills. And that is likely to happen. That is not to say that we are trying to build up the decentralised sector of the powerloom.

Then there is one more element to which I would like to draw your attention. You know, in our country in all the mills there is a processing department. And we have an independent processing textile industry in the country also. In the past, what were the restrictions? Formerly there was one particular restriction that cloth which was manufactured in a particular mill only that could be processed in the processing department of that particular mill. Therefore, in the past, the cloth that was manufactured by powerlooms and the cloth that was manufactured by the handlooms, that did not go to the processing department of the textile mills. That cloth for processing used to go to the processing industry which is an independent industry. With the new techniques and new policy what will happen? They have removed the bar. Now, whether the cloth manufactured is from the handloom or powerloom or from cotton textile mill, all

this cloth can go to the processing department of the textile mill. As a result, I am afraid, the independent processing industry in the country in textiles is likely to suffer. Therefore, the new textile policy, I may warn the Minister, will further transfuse sickness in the textile industry and the processing industry. That is the danger that is likely to take place.

Let us come to the cost of production. While looking at the textile policy, the consumer would like to see whether the policy is mill magnate-oriented or whether it is consumer-oriented, whether it is industry-oriented or whether it is consumer-oriented. What is our experience? We are a developing country and you will be shocked to know that in our country the varieties of cloth that are manufactured in our textile mills are more than 4,000. Can a developing country like India afford the luxury of 4,000 varieties of cloth? I can understand in an aesthetic sense but in a country like ours even the aesthetics have their own limitations. We cannot afford the luxury of more than 4,000 varieties of cloth. Some ceiling has to be introduced. In a country like China—not that I accept that as the pattern that has to be introduced here—but realising that that country is a poor one, it is a developing country, they want to develop the country and they want the gains of the development to go to the poor, they deliberately restricted the varieties of cloth to be manufactured there. In our country there is no ceiling on the varieties of cloth. As a result of that, the cost of production goes up. And when the cost of production goes up, the consumer suffers. So, this particular cost aspect, as far as non-control cloth is concerned, is not kept in mind at all. That has to be noted.

There is one aspect with which workers are intimately connected. My friend and the militant trade unionist Datta Samant will deal with that problem adequately. But I would like to indicate certain important aspect and that is the sophisticated technology that is sought to be imported in the mills. We are told that the mills must be stabilised, mills must be modernised, their quality of production must be such that we will be able to explore export markets in other countries. As a result of that, what does the textile policy suggest? They have

suggested the import of higher sophisticated technology for the modernisation of the mills. Obviously it will mean expenditure of foreign exchange. That has to be made up. Therefore, under the pretext of improving the exports, they say that they will import the sophisticated technology, they will have the modern technology, they will import computers, and in this modernised industry, the quality cloth that will be produced will be exported to the foreign countries. They have totally forgotten the fact that we are talking of augmenting the exports in our country at a time when our buyers' market is having a recession in their countries. We are not taking that factor into account. Our buyers are facing a recession in their respective countries and we are talking of increasing our exports, and for that to produce the quality cloth we are going to utilise our foreign exchange to import large number of sophisticated technology. What will be the direct result? It is not in our country, even in a country like USA, in a country like West Germany, these problems have become important problems in the context of interests of the workers. As one who is dedicated to the spirit of science, I do want the application of science to industry and commerce, but I am one among those who believe that in this land of Gandhiji, we have maintained a balance between man and machine, and that balance has to be made in such a way that there cannot be modernisation of techniques at the cost of man in the country. Therefore, if you want to introduce rationalisation in this country, it has to be rationalisation without tears. Now, what are they likely to do? They will import higher technology in the country. That technology is bound to displace labour. They have said in their policy statement, "As a result of this if the labour is displaced, we will give them compensation". It is just like saying that if there are railway accidents, we will give you enough compensation, you can die in peace. That is exactly what is being told to the workers that we will import the modern technology, we will modernise the machinery, we will import the machines and see that computerised machinery and sophisticated machinery does not require so many rustic men, we will say goodbye to their jobs and we will do it in a phased manner. When they retire, in a phased way new workers will not be taken up. Therefore, I have not the least doubt that the so-called modernisation of technology will be an invitation

to a potential and prospective unemployment in the country. Therefore, employment potential is likely to be destroyed. That is also going to happen.

Then they have clearly declared that what they consider as economically unviable units of textile industry, they will be allowed to close down. The mill magnates are extremely happy. The blind man was asking for one eye and they have offered two. That is exactly what has happened. And they say that economically unviable means that they will be allowed to close down. No doubt paltry compensation will be given. But as a result of that the closing down of the mills in the country will grow, unemployment will grow and as a result of that you will find that more discontented labour is there. Already within the parameters of the existing textile policy there are so many aberrations and distortions; a number of strikes have taken place on basic issues. As a result of that thousands of labourers have been displaced to the villages. In the City of Bombay itself, more than 60,000 textile workers have been thrown out of job. A large number of them have come to the constituency from where I come. They are working as agriculturists, they are working as landless labour. That is how the industrial labour is being converted into peasant. In modernisation the process is to be that more and more of men on the land are actually to be accommodated in the agro-industries or other industries. Here the process is that those who are already working in textile mills in Bombay and Ahmedabad and elsewhere they are put in a reverse direction. Yes, it is an anti-clockwise motion. You may say it is the counter-revolutionary motion. Anyway that motion has stated. This has to be taken note of.

Then I come to the re-structuring of industries. Formerly structuring of industries was in terms of three sectors—the organised mills, the handlooms and the powerloom sector. As a result of that independent of the problem of the handlooms and independent of the problems of the powerlooms, they were separately looked into. Of course, as far as the general machinery is concerned that is common. There is the machine moulded by the Textile Commissioner and everyone comes under their jurisdiction.

I would like to make a constructive suggestion to the Hon. Minister, and I am

[Prof. Madhu Dandvate]

sure men like Prof. Ranga who have at heart the interest of the handloom industry will support this suggestion, that let there be independent Textile Commissioners for the Handlooms, the powerlooms and the organised mill sector and let them be given full latitude to see that within the parameters of their policies they are allowed to develop these three sectors effectively. They may give a trial to this suggestion.

Now, Sir, what is the new restructuring? Now, the restructuring will not be in terms of the former mill sector, the handloom sector and the powerloom sector; they will be in terms of the manufacturing phases i. e. the spinning, the weaving and the processing. Under these three types of manufacturing processes if the restructuring takes place special type of attention that was available to the handloom and the powerloom in the past, you will find that particular attention will not be available. The distinction between the three sectors will be obliterated and as a result of that, I am afraid, all the three are likely to suffer.

I may refer to one important aspect vis-a-vis the handloom. That is the question of reservation of products. If the handloom industry is to be protected, reservation of products is extremely important. I would like to read out the extract from the Report of the Estimates Committee of 1977-78. Permit me to read out a small passage. It is not as big as the Hon. Home Minister's address. I will read it out. It is very relevant.

In 1977-78 the Estimates Committee had said :

"The Committee notes that in order to protect the handloom industry from the more powerful powerloom and mill sector, Government have been following a policy of reservation on certain items of products in favour of handlooms; and that at present production of tinned items is exclusively reserved for the handloom sector only.

"The Committee, is, however, distressed to note that these reserva-

tion orders are not being enforced effectively and that there are common complaints of large-scale violations of these reservation orders by the Power-loom sector.

The Committee feels that by allowing the violations to go unpunished, the very purpose of issuing these reservation orders have been duly defeated. Even the representative of the Ministry had admitted that enforcement of these orders has not been really effective in certain areas so far.

The Committee feels that this is a very distressing state of affairs and needs to be remedied without loss of time."

Product reservation is just a notional one. As a result of that, in reality, there is no product reservation. And that does a lot of disservice to the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wind up.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The High-powered Sundaram Committee on Handloom in 1977 had already said that the entire growth of powerloom industry should be so controlled that, say, from 1981 to 1984 the increase in powerloom should be five per cent only. Now this is not at all looked into and therefore on the basis of this analysis, looking to the interest of the working class, looking to the interest of the small scale sector, looking to the interest of the handloom and powerloom sector-I would say that the textile policy as it has been enunciated recently by the Hon. Minister favours only the mill magnates, it harms the decentralised sectors-the powerloom and the handloom, it cheats the poor consumers by their refusal to check the cost of production and it adversely affects the working class in the country. Therefore what is needed is this: I would make a humble request to the Hon Minister. Please go once again through the Plan objectives of the Plan; go through the 'priorities' that have been enunciated in the Plan and try to re-orient the entire textile policy in terms of the Plan priority that has been laid down. Only if you are able to do it courageously, then only, you will be able to subserve the interest of the workers, the

interest of the small-scale sector, and also the interest of the mills. That is the balanced attitude that is required.

I hope and trust that they will review this and properly re-orient the entire machinery and the policy.

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay-Scuth) : At the outset I would like to congratulate Prof. Dandavate for initiating this discussion on Textile policy. I often wondered why Prof. Dandavate does not stand from Bombay city for the election. Today he had given me the real reply. His lack of knowledge about Bombay city and Bombay textile workers has given the right reply. In the argument Prof. Dandavate has said 3 times, not one time only, that there should be unequal competition.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I left it to my wife to stand from Bombay.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : If she had spoken in the House she would have spoken very differently than you. You know very well.

Textile industry has a very prominent role in the economy of the country. 11 1/2 per cent of the total industrial production of this country comes out of the textile industry. As Prof. Dandavate has said, over and above, the Industry was divided into 3 sectors, powerloom, handloom and mill sector. Prof. Dandavate has said about unequal competition. What is the difference I would like to ask him between powerloom and mill loom. Mill loom is also a power loom; it is driven by power. What has been done in the new policy is to keep the handloom role of the handloom while reducing the difference between powerloom and composite loom. Prof. Dandavate has said that in Bombay several mills are closed. Sir, more than 66 mills are closed today. More than 150 mills have been taken over. The NTC losses are more than Rs 450 crores. But what is the solution ? The solution is this. There are those people who make cloth in Bombay, many times more they make in the power loom. What you said, Prof. Dandavate is, if this policy is implemented, more textile magnates will make the cloth in powerloom. It is not true. They are already doing today. At the time of textile strike in 1982-83 you know very well

why there was no slackness in the availability of cloth. It is because the mill people in Bombay city went to Bhiwandi Malegaon and Dhulia and all these places and they started making cloth there. They were processing in their own process houses or in the process houses of other private companies. What is needed today rightly is this: Let there be two sectors only as correctly defined in the textile policy, mill sector and power loom together and handloom sector separately. Sir, 7.2 million weavers are employed in the handlooms.

15.35 hrs

[SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI
in the Chair]

And it is absolutely necessary that more protection is given to them, that yarn supplied to them is safeguarded and some more incentives are given to them. The processing which they do in their small areas must be safeguarded and separate concession should be given to them.

I would like to bring one point to the notice of the Hon. Members of the House and that is, earlier these industries were divided on the basis of their fibre end-use—those who are making cotton, those who are making synthetic and those who are making viscose. All these are different sectors. This has really not led to a healthy competition and healthy growth of industry. Today after the new policy, a powerloom or handloom is allowed to manufacture whatever fibres they have. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Members here about cotton. Earlier, in the planning Commission people used to think that cotton is the fabric of the poor people and synthetic fibre is the fabric of the rich and the affluent people. It is not so today. If you see the world today, you will find that all over the world 60 per cent is the production of cotton and 40 per cent of the total production of cloth is under synthetics. In India today 88 per cent of cloth is produced in cotton and viscose and only 12 per cent is produced in synthetics. Our per capita production of cloth has gone down from 18.8 metres to 16.8 metres in the last 20 years. Where the shortfall of the cloth has come from ? This cloth has come through smuggling. If we see the advertisements and reports in Bombay papers, I can tell you that nearly 2000 million metres of cloth is

[Shri Murli Deora]

smuggled everywhere in India and this is the synthetic fibre which is smuggled in India. Why is it smuggled? It is because the price of fabrics in India is 10 times the international price compared to what it is in Hong Kong and other countries. So, what is really needed is to reduce the gap between the international price and the Indian price, which has been rightly corrected by the new Textile Policy. This will discourage the smugglers.

The second point I would like to make is that India is a tropical country. There are three synthetic fibres. One is nylon, another is viscose and the third is polyester. Nylon is not suitable to our climate, viscose cannot be available because the basic raw material of the viscose is wood or bamboo and fortunately deforestation is not allowed in future.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Bamboos are required for Defence;

SHRI MURLI DEORA : So, the real synthetic fibre which is needed for India is polyester which is most suitable for India. The raw materials for polyester fibre will be available in plenty in India soon, thanks to Bombay High Gas and other oil refineries which are coming around our country. Today 45000 tonnes of polyester fibre is manufactured in India. By the end of the next year 1,50,000 tonnes of polyester filament and polyester fibre will be manufactured. So, the production will go three times in the next four years. If the Government reduces the duty as according to the Textile Policy announced, they would not realise less because what they will reduce, they will get more by producing more quantity. One-third reduction will be the same as producing three times in three years. This will reduce the smuggling activity and more and more people will get better quality of cloth.

In Bombay several mills were closed and when the NTC took over the mills in Bombay-13 mills in all as on 19th October, 1983--the mills were taken over for the reason that they will continue to give jobs, but unfortunately, I would say that in the garb of modernisation and rationalisation these mills were also allowed to retrench

the workers. But if the mills are given a real impetus and if they are given incentives and if they are safeguarded from the unhealthy competition from unregistered, illegal powerlooms, this will safeguard their position.

Prof. Mabhu Dandavate asked: 'How are you going to bring these powerlooms to the books?' The moment the powerlooms are registered, they will have to come in the forewall of the policy and the local Director of Industries. I am happy they will pay the same excise as the other mills pay.

Prof. Daodavate has said that they will be paying more duty and more price for the yarn. It is not true. Today the composite mill is paying more duty on the yarn. But if it is used in the powerloom, they are not paying more duty. When I spin, when I weave in my own factory I pay more duty. When I get the cloth woven in a powerloom outside Bombay city, then I pay less duty. So, this differentiation must be stopped.

In one paragraph, it has been said that rehabilitation fund for the workers be created. There is some apprehension and the people in Bombay and other cities are saying that the mill owners must not be allowed to close their mills. The Hon. Textile Minister has classified several times that a mill owner will not be given the permission to close his mill. The workers rights must be safeguarded. A fund of Rs. 15 crores has been promised by the Hon. Minister. But I don't think, it is sufficient enough. What is really needed is to see that the mills do not become sick and the mill owners are not allowed to sell their land. If the mills in Bombay are allowed to close and allowed to sell their land, some of the mill owners like India United and several mill owners in the Bombay city will make more money by the sale of land itself rather than running the mills for years. So, this closure of mills must not be allowed.

I would like to suggest two small suggestions. This is the first time in the history of our country, a new Ministry of Textiles has been created. So, just like the Government's new policy of getting everything cleared in one window, I hope everything pertaining to the textiles industry, whether it is synthetic, silk, power-loom or handloom must be falling under one sector. Today

when we are saying that in the Seventh Plan, the total target of textiles is 14,500 million meters, a big role is to be played by the synthetic fibres. The Ministry of Petroloum is the sponsoring authority of the synthetic fibre unit. If the synthetic fibres are used for the textiles industry, I would suggest that the Government should think that only one Department, i.e. the Department of Textiles should look after the total Textiles Division.

My second suggestion is this. On the 19th October, 1983 when 13 mills were taken over in Bombay, even though Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was the Commerce Minister, unfortunately at that time, the Finance Ministry did not provide the money for running these mills and therefore it took nearly six to seven months for the mills to start work. I would request the Hon. Minister that such things should not be repeated in future. Whatever policy statement the Textiles Minister has made should be properly implemented, by the Finance Ministry. If the Finance Ministry do not implement, it will have a serious problem. My Hon. friend Mr. Datta Samant will say more on this. There is already slackness in Bombay textiles market and other textile markets because the reduction of duty, for which an announcement was made, has not come yet to the people. Because of that, they are not taking advantage of the cloth which is lying in the warehouse or godowns in different parts of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I come to the last point about the Handloom Development Corporation. The real purpose of this Corporation is to see that the yarn is supplied to the weavers properly. I may tell you that there are lot of problems which the people are experiencing in this regard. The National Handloom Development Corporation should see that the yarn is supplied to the handloom sector as and when required.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Varanasi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Textiles Minister and the Government for announcing the new policy and after going through this policy it

becomes quite clear that the targets and the objectives which have been envisaged under this policy are practical and correct. In this connection, I would like to read the last sentences of this policy, which, in my view, express the spirit behind the textiles policy.

The new policy would facilitate the necessary restructuring of the textiles industry in the country. The textiles industry would make maximum valuable contribution for increasing production, employment and exports in the country and this industry would meet the clothing requirements of all the sections of the society.

In brief, this appears to me the objective of this policy. Shri Dandavate while referring to the textile policy of 1978, said that this policy was against the basic spirit of the earlier policy. I think Shri Dandavate has gone to the other extreme in comparing the two polices. The main objective of that policy was that handloom and Khadi cloth would be given an important and prominent place in the textile policy and after going through this policy, it becomes quite clear that the maximum importance has been given to the Handloom and Khadi Cloth in this policy.

There was another paragraph in the policy of 1978, which said that controlled cloth would be taken away from the mill sector gradually and would be completely handed over to the handloom sector in the shortest possible time. It would neither be produced in mills, nor in the powerloom sector. Complete detail of the maximum help and incentive which can be extended for the promotion of Khadi and handloom sector is given in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the policy. I do not want to waste the valuable time of the House by reading it. I would like to say this much only that all those measures have been maintained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Textiles Policy which are necessary for the growth of the handloom industry, for increasing production under it, for providing employment to the maximum number of people, for providing marketing facilities for the products of the handloom sector, for increasing the earning of the weavers and the workers as also for implementing the Handloom Products Reservation Act. 1985 effectively.

Not only this, with a view to provide maximum help to the weavers, the Govern-

[Shri Syam Lal Yadav]

ment are going to introduce Contributory Provident Fund Scheme for the first time. A very ambitious scheme has been formulated for the construction of worksheds and dwelling units for them, though the proposal is to construct only 50000 worksheds and dwelling units under this scheme. I think, keeping in view the large number of workers engaged in the handloom sector throughout the country, this number is very small and the funds allocated for this purpose are quite meagre. I do not think that this scheme of constructing 50000 worksheds and dwelling units would be completed within the prescribed time-schedule. I would, therefore, like to request that if this scheme has to be implemented in a proper way, maximum funds should be provided for this purpose. Only then this scheme would prove successful.

Secondly, I would like to submit that worksheds and houses for the weavers should be constructed in the cities, where the weavers reside and they should be, so located that the weavers could reach their place of work conveniently. The present residential accommodation and the handloom units are situated in very congested areas and it has become very difficult to work in those areas and to operate handlooms. In such congested areas the atmosphere is very unhealthy and it is not possible to make arrangements for drinking water for them. Mere construction of sheds and houses would not serve the purpose. The houses should also be made worth-living and arrangements for drinking water, electricity and sanitation should also be made there. Hence, their dwelling units should be constructed at new places where the weavers could live and work properly. All these items have been given prominent place in the textile policy to fulfil the first two objectives of the textile policy of 1978, stated by me earlier. If this policy is implemented in a proper manner, I am confident that the people engaged in the handloom sector and khadi units would progress and there would be maximum production in this sector.

I would like to refer to one more point. An effective machinery should be set up to implement the rules which were framed in 1985 regarding handloom production and such

machinery should be under the control of the Central Government so that the law could be implemented throughout the country in a proper manner and it could also be ensured that textiles are not produced in contravention of this law, because many people manufacture cloth which could only be produced in the powerloom sector. Such a violation of the law in the mill sector would also have to be checked.

The third important point which has been included in this policy is that for the supply of cloth, National Textile Corporation has been given an important role. Many Hon. Members have expressed their views about the functioning of N.T.C. in this House and said that it has been operating large number of mills. I would, therefore, not like to say anything more about it. It was said in 1978 that the capacity of mills or powerlooms should be fully utilised. I think this is a very commendable decision that powerlooms and mills have been treated at par and same type of cloth would be produced in both the sectors. Shri Deora has said that there was a strike in the textile mills of Bombay for such a long time and even then there was no shortage of cloth in the country, because the cloth was being produced in the powerloom sector. It would be a very good decision to treat both the sectors at par and it would also benefit the handloom sector.

I think under the current policy we would be able to achieve all the objectives. Another important point which has been included in this policy is that silk yarn has been given a special importance. Silk yarn is utilised specially in our city and in many other cities also, but its supply position is not satisfactory and its prices increase. Recently, the Hon. Minister visited our city and he himself saw the difficulties of the people and he has made proper arrangement for supply also. We would have to increase the production of silk. Sericulture would have to be given maximum encouragement. The State Governments should also provide maximum incentives in the field of sericulture in North India so that sericulture could be developed in North India also. Increase in production of silk yarn would be quite beneficial to the country. The immediate shortage of this yarn could be met by importing it from abroad (*Interruptions*)

In the end, I would like to say this much that the policy which has been formulated, is most welcome and I am confident that it would prove to be successful. But I would like to add that there are many responsibilities of the State Governments also under this policy and while implementing this policy, care should be taken that you exercise some sort of control over the State Governments also. You should, therefore, issue some guidelines so that the State Governments could also extend their co-operation in implementing this policy. With regard to the handloom sector, the State Governments are vested with vast powers. We have also made an effort to increase the responsibilities of the co-operative societies. The co-operative societies can make special contribution in the field of marketing and therefore, some sort of control should be exercised over the co-operative societies also so that they may function properly.

With these words, I support this textile policy.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Mr. Chairman, as you know, the textile industry occupies a very prominent place in this country. After the agriculture sector, this is one sector which provides the maximum employment to the people. Nearly 120 lakh people are working in this sector, out of which nearly 75 lakh people are working in the handloom sector. The Government has announced the new policy with the objective to correct certain deficiencies which were there in the previous policy statements. But unless the Government has the fullest dedication and commitment it will not serve much purpose. Hitherto the Government is giving a subsidy of Rs. 2/- per metre of cloth. In this connection, Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that even a State Government like ours, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, has taken Janata Cloth Scheme through which it wants to give to the handloom weavers full employment and take over the entire cloth produced by him and make available to the poor consumer at a very low price, i.e., @ 50 percent of the cost only. With all the welfare schemes on hand, like at Rs. 2/- a Kg. of rice scheme and spending Rs. 80 crores on housing, yet our

State Government has spent nearly Rs. 30 crores as subsidy towards the Janata cloth scheme mainly to help the poor consumers, the poor people to purchase dhotis and sarees and at the same time help the weavers also of our State. Similarly, if the Government of India is prepared to spend more amount in the form of subsidy to the handloom weavers in the entire country, then the basic objective of our new Textile Policy will become true and it will be realised. In this connection, Madam, the Government desires to give several duty concessions and I request the Hon'ble Minister to see that such concessions reach the actual consumers. Even in the previous times when certain concessions were given, they were mopped up by the mill owners themselves and the benefits were not passed on to the consumers. So keeping the past experience in mind, the Government may please see that certainly the concessions reach the consumers. The handloom sector should be adequately protected and the Government was good enough in bringing the Handloom Reservation Bill Act for reserving certain items to the handloom sector. Now the export of textiles is earning good amount of foreign exchange to our country and if sufficient efforts are made, the country will be able to earn even more foreign exchange through the export of garments and in that connection the role of handlooms should be further elaborated. Sarees, dhotis, white shirting cloth and 120 count sarees should be exclusively preserved for handloom sector. Though suiting and shirting are earmarked for powerloom, man-made fibre cloth and blended cloth may be given to the mill sector, so that these do not overlap into another sector, giving maximum employment in the concerned sectors. Though

16.00 hrs.

the Government has expressed its willingness to spend any amount on yarn banks, but unfortunately till now my recent information is that even in a place like Chirala which is very well-known for handloom weaving, there are no yarn banks. We request the Government to see that the yarn is supplied to the handloom weavers throughout the country for the benefit of the handloom weavers.

I am very happy that the Government want to take up construction of workmen's

[Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

sheds in the handloom weavers' colonies. I hope it will be taken up with good vigour and this intention of the Government is put into practice as early as possible. In this connection I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the Andhra Pradesh State is the one State where long staple and extra staple long cotton is grown in very large quantities and there is still vast potential for setting up some more spinning mills, especially in the co-operative sector. So we request the Union Government to consider and sanction necessary permission for setting up some more spinning mills in the co-operative sector in the Andhra Pradesh State. Also the regulation of the powerlooms should be done in consultation with the State Governments. Now in the new textile policy certain restrictions which were there on the powerlooms are now removed and it should not hamper the interests nor should it harm the interests of the handloom weavers. So the State Governments also should be taken into consultation in these matters.

In the implementation of the Handloom Reservation of Articles Act, the Government should make necessary rules so that any violation of this Act is dealt with very strictly. Previously also there were some rules that they should not manufacture articles which were reserved for other sectors but they were violated. It might have come to the notice of the Government also. So at least in future, after this Act comes into force, such mistakes should not recur and the Government should incorporate provisions in such a way that any tendency or inclination should be curbed even by the provisions of the Act apart from the implementation part of it.

With these words, I thank you Madam.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the textile workers have been passing through a phase of uncertainty and hardship for the last three or four years. For a long time it was being said that the new textile policy would perhaps provide some relief. But with the announcement of this new textile policy, I am reminded of the maxim, 'out of the frying pan into the fire'.

Earlier, there was merely the risk of losing the job, but with the declaration of the new policy it appears that a free licence has been given to the management to dismiss any worker they like, to close any department or to dismiss any number of workers at their sweet will. The new textile policy appears to me to be a free market policy. The big capitalist have been given a blanket permission to have monopoly openly. I think the condition of textile workers, which was already miserable, would worsen with the announcement of the new policy. It would also harm the interests of the handloom and powerloom workers.

The N.T.C. was given the responsibility to produce 650 million metres of controlled cloth, for which it was not prepared. A few years back, the textile mills of the country were given the responsibility to produce some quantity of controlled cloth, but when these mills raised hue and cry, this responsibility was shifted to the textile mills functioning under the National Textile Corporation. Nobody is prepared to shoulder this responsibility because there is no profit in the production of controlled varieties of cloth. All this burden has now been shifted to the handloom workers. Had any good been done to the handloom workers, I would have appreciated it. The gift which has been given to the 72 lakh workers out of a total strength of one crore and twenty lakh workers as a result of declaration of this policy is not a gift. It is rather a burden on them. The textile mills had shifted their burden to the N.T.C. Mills and now the N.T.C. Mills have shifted their burden to the handloom sector. In my view, a great burden is going to fall on the 72 lakh workers of the country and lakhs of workers are going to be rendered jobless as a result of this policy. I would like to submit that if anybody has benefited because of this policy, it is the textile mill owners who will be benefited to the maximum extent. They have been given blanket permission to increase or decrease their capacity or to close or open any department at will. During the last session, I had raised certain issues regarding the Birla Mills and the Delhi Cloth Mills. I do not know what will be the fate of the assurances which were given by our Hon. Minister during the last session. I do not know anything about them. The mill owners have been given the permission that they can increase or decrease the capacity of

their mills at any time and they may close down any department of their mills if it becomes sick and the Government would not intervene in it and would simply be a silent spectator. Instead of bringing about improvement in such a department or setting the things right, permission has been given to the mill owners to close the department. The mill owners want to operate only those departments which are yielding profit and they close down any department which is incurring losses and even if thousands of workers are working in that department, they expel all such workers, because the mill owners are interested only in making money. Such a blanket permission has been given to the mill owners under this policy.

During the last session of Parliament, I had raised this matter that for the last three years not even a single metre of cloth had been manufactured in the Birla Mills and that only the spinning department was functioning and the weaving department was not functioning at all. As a result of this policy, the mill owners would be free to close down the weaving department. The same thing has been provided under this policy that the mill owners may increase or decrease the capacity at will. When the mill owners find that there is demand for cloth, they would increase their capacity and when they find that there is no demand for cloth, the workers would be retrenched or laid off. The workers are going to suffer in all possible ways and if anybody is going to get benefit, in it the mill owner. I would also like to submit that to say that the Government would not intervene in a mill which becomes sick or which is not functioning properly, is very unfortunate and there could not be anything more unfortunate than this. It has created a sense of great insecurity among lakhs of workers in the country. Textile industry is the oldest industry in India and the owners of these textile mills have earned profits to the tune of crores of rupees and have set up other big industries out of this profit, thus making this industry hollow from within. Now, it is being said that we have to face the competition at the international level to promote export of textiles. Today, we find that the machinery of these textile mills has become obsolete. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the responsibility of modernisation of these mills lies with the workers or with the mills

owners? It there have been no modernisation, the owners are responsible for it who have usurped crores of rupees and did not effect any modernisation in time. And now why are the workers being blamed for it? The money was not spent on modernisation in time, modernisation was not done for years and crores of rupees were diverted to other industries. They want to close down the mills from which they earned crores of rupees by making them hollow. I think, this textile policy is in favour of the mills owners.

An assurance was given during the last session about the D. C. M. Shri Anjiah is not present here at the moment, our Textile Minister is sitting here. I want to ask that in the light of the new textile policy, what would be the fate of the assurance given in the last session that the mill would be nationalised if the mill owners resorted to closure?

Similar assurance was given in the last session about the Birla Mills and it was said that the question of nationalisation would be considered if they did not run the weaving Department. This assurance was given by Shri Anjiah on the floor of the House. I want to know what is the fate of that assurance now?

Besides, it has been said in this textile policy that more and more benefits should be given, the fiscal relief to powerlooms should be reduced, as the cloth will become cheap after this reduction and production will go up. I want to remind the Hon. Minister that sometime back, the Cement industry had promised that they would supply Cement at Rs. 50 per bag. Thereafter, they shifted their stand and made it Rs. 63 per bag. Now they are thinking to increase it to Rs. 68 from Rs. 63 per bag. That is why I am saying that its price is not going to be reduced and the people will not get cheap cloth. If you just peep into the past, you will find the prices have never gone down.

So far as the handloom is concerned, it will not be proper to say that this product is reserved for the handloom sector, because all the reserved products remained reserved only on paper. A few days back a study group of the Commerce Ministry had

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submitted a report. It was about 2 to 4 months back. It has been said in this report that neither the handloom weavers nor the powerloom weavers knew what the reserved product was. It is totally impossible to implement it in practice. To say that a particular product is reserved is only a paper work. It is not going to provide any protection to the handloom workers. The result will be that the cloth reserved for the handloom sector will be manufactured in the powerloom sector. The cloth will cost less to the powerloom sector as compared to the handloom sector. As a result of it the handloom cloth will not sell in the market.

Besides, you have fixed a target of producing 650 million metres of cloth for the N. T. C. and they have been asked to produce this much cloth on which no excise duty would be levied. The cloth manufactured by N. T. C. would be cheaper as compared to that manufactured by the handloom sector. The cloth manufactured by the handloom weavers will in no way be cheaper, because the manpower employed in the handloom sector will be more than that employed for the cloth manufactured in a textile mill. Thus, handloom cloth will cost more and will not be sold in the market. The N.T.C. is not prepared to shoulder its burden. The big mill owners are not prepared to share the burden of the handloom weavers. This new burden, which has been thrust on them. I think, will give them a severe blow.

As regards powerlooms, what has been the result of hike in excise duty at the spinning stage after the last Budget? The reason behind the rapid expansion of the handlooms achieved by the 32 lakh handloom weavers of India was that excise duty on it was less as compared to the composite mills at the spinning stage. That was why there has been a rapid expansion in the handloom sector. Now, you have brought both at par. After this textile policy and since the last Budget, there has been such a big depression in the handloom market that so many have failed to withstand it

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the most important point is that the powerloom weavers can never compete with the Composite mills because the Composite mills have advantages

at many stages. They are not required to transport Cotton. They are not required to pay octroi and sales tax. The mills enjoy all those advantages which are not available to the powerlooms. It has been said in this policy that you want Competition between the three sectors—composite mills, powerlooms and handlooms. This is such a competition as if a lame person is pitted against a well-built man on the one hand and on the other the third person in the fray does not have any of his two legs. Therefore, I request that the Government should reconsider this policy. To say that we shall not think about the sick mills, to say that more and more facilities should be given to Composite mills and to adopt the free market policy I think, will be nothing but throwing lakhs of people, lakhs of workers out of jobs. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to reconsider this policy so far as it applies to the handlooms and the powerlooms giving consideration to all the aspects. Then only, it can be set right. The objective of the Government is not only to earn profit. This should not be the only consideration. This cannot be the consideration with regard to the N.T.C. If the Government starts thinking in terms of earning profit, then Railways should also be handed over to Tatas and Birlas, since it is incurring losses. D.T.C. and P. & T. are also incurring losses, let these also be handed over to Tatas and Birlas. Today the foremost objective of the Government is to provide employment and this has been the policy of the Government. In my view, the free market policy will prove to be the policy of snatching away the employment from the lakhs of people. This is totally unjustified. It should be amended. With these strong words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Madam, before I make my remarks, I would appeal to you, because you are in the Chair and the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is not present, that the time for this debate should be extended. Many Members want to speak from both sides of the House. No specific time was fixed for it by the Business Advisory Committee. Please allow the time to be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three hours have been allotted for this motion. There is still

plenty of time. We will see after six O' clock.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : You can take the opinion of the House. The time should be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not now. We will see at six O' clock how many Members are left and then decide.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Madam, Shri Murli Doora has argued very ably the case of the Birlas, the Ambanis, the Poddars, the Modis, the Mafatlals, the Srirams and so on. I came across a statement made by Shri C. V. Radhakrishnan, Secretary-General of the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation. This is not my statement, this is not a statement of a Communist or an opposition Members. It is a statement published in the Financial Express dated 23rd July, 1985, by no less a person than the Secretary-General of the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation. It says :

"The Commerce Research Bureau has commented that 'almost all the demands of the mill sector as to parity with powerlooms, freedom of fibre use, adequate availability of fibres, liberal and concessional imports of machinery for modernisation, permission for closure of non-revivable units, etc. have been conceded by the Government'. In fact, this is so."

Secretary-General of the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation admits that all the main demands, the demands which were being put forward by the mill owners have been conceded in this new textile policy by the Government.

Any textile policy in a country like India should be judged first and foremost by which community or which part of the population it is going to benefit. I have in mind crores of poor people in this country, particularly in the rural areas, who are not only ill-fed, but they are half-clad. They are half-employed or totally unemployed. If a new textile policy which is supposed to have a new look does not do something to bring cloth, may be cheaper cloth, within the

consuming capacity of these millions of people, what is the use of such a policy, I am not able to understand? If it is going to benefit only those people, whose names I read out and some more like them, we do not want a policy like that. It is not enough to say that production will go up. Production of foodgrains has gone up. We are supposed to have a buffer stock of 27 million tonnes of food grains now. That does not mean that in our country here are millions of people, half-clad, starving and hungry. Just because a buffers stock of foodgrains is there, it does not mean that every person in this country has also been able to consume more foodgrains. Because the purchasing power is not there, he cannot buy. Therefore, you must have a policy for the textiles also, which provides more employment. If it provides more employment, it will generate more income. If people have more income, their purchasing capacity will go up. Then only, they can benefit from some textile policy, which the Government may be thinking of devising. But, here we find it the other way round. I do not want to repeat the points of criticism which have been made by many of the other speakers who spoke before me. I agree with those points. I do not want to repeat because of shortage of time. But, I would appeal to the members of the ruling party to consider one thing. I know that in the course of implementation of the Government's new policies, as we said at the time of the discussions on the Budget last February and March, many things which are traditionally parts of the country's policy, which have become traditional symbols of something in this country are being given the go-by, because you are talking about a new look, new technology, modernisation and so on. And judged by that criterion, many things which the Government—and I should say, to some extent, the country as a whole—has stood by all these years, are quietly being jettisoned, consciously being jettisoned.

Now, regarding these handlooms, I have never been a great votary of the handloom as an instrument of production because by modern standards it is not so. Those, who talk about 21st century and all that, may even feel a bit contemptuous about a thing like handloom, which is a primitive thing, after all. But we are talking about conditions

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in our country. This is India. This is not Japan. This is not any other foreign country. In this country, during the National Independence Movement led by Gandhiji at that time on this question, it was clearly explained to the people that this handloom itself had become a symbol of something at that time. Partly, it was a symbol of resistance to cloth the deliberate dumping of foreign in this country at that time when we were fighting for our Independence. But it also became a symbol that in a country like ours where there is so much unemployment, where in the rural areas people do not have other avenues of employment and where there are so many unemployed people, in conditions of rural India, this handloom is something which permits millions of people to earn some sort of a livelihood and survive and also to provide cheap cloth for the people. You are trying to destroy that symbol now. If the ruling party wants to destroy it, I have no objection. It is for them to go and explain to the people.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is not their property !

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It may not be their property. But it is there. On the Congress Party's flag, the symbol of the handloom is there. I think it means something to them. It should mean something to them. The idea has always been in our country that man-made production and machine made production should be balanced in such a way that until our country which is still developing, reaches a certain stage, there should be a sort of optimum balance which will help the poorer sections of the people in our country. Now, this policy, of course, is going to help the mill sector very much. There is no doubt about it. As I just now quoted, all their demands have been met and all the sins committed by these mill owners in the past in ruining this industry and in declaring the units sick have been forgotten. Shri Deora talked about the National Textile Corporation's taking over of 150 mills. Why did they have to take them over ? Who declared them sick ? Who was closing down those mills, which forced the Government to step in, and take them over ? All those sins of these mill-owners have been white-washed. Who prevented

them from modernizing these mills ? Why did they not take the money offered to them by the IDBI ? Just like the jute mill owners, these cotton mill owners also never bothered about modernization. They siphoned off the money, and used it for other purposes, somewhere else; and then they took it from the Government financial institutions, ruined those companies, declared them sick, closed them down. All these things have been forgotten. Now, all the demands put forward by this mill sector are swallowed hook, line and sinker. And who are going to be the victims of it ? Are the poorer people going to get their cloth, which is going to be made from this man-made fibre, synthetic fibre and all that ? They will not get it. They have not got the purchasing power to buy that cloth at all. They can only hope for that controlled cloth, the whole of the burden of which, as it has just been said, has been shifted on to the handloom sector. That means, the handloom sector is going to be made sick now. This is the way of making the handloom sector sick. These big textile mills, organized mills, refused to make this controlled cloth, because it brought them no profit. They say it imposed losses on them. Then they shifted it on to NTC mills. NTC mills were all going into losses, they said, because of this controlled cloth. Now, the whole thing has been shunted on to the handloom sector. Therefore, This is a way of making the handloom sector sick. Nothing else; and the cloth which is going to be produced now in larger quantities and varieties by the mills is meant to cater only to elitist sections in towns and cities; or may be, to the export markets abroad. That should never be the criterion of textile policy in this country.

One gentleman who is a former Chairman of the All India Handicrafts Board has calculated that in about 5 years' time, may be one million, i.e. about 10 lakhs of handloom workers will be rendered unemployed.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : That is his calculation.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Everybody has his calculation like you also have, Mr. Minister. You have not been able to give accurate calculations about how many people are employed in the handloom sector. The minister of Textiles says, 70 lakhs. The 6th Plan document says: 84 lakhs.

The Secretary of the Ministry of Textiles, in his broadcast in the month of May said: 100 lakhs. The 1980 Economic Census said: 18.68 lakhs. The 1981 Census says: 14.4 lakhs. There must be some sense of proportion. These things all cannot be correct. ...*Interruptions*) Are we to take the average?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What does the computer say? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : This handloom sector has been providing cloth; we also encouraged it because of the low capital cost and big employment potential of this handloom sector. Now you are really going in for an anti-handloom policy; and an anti-Khadi policy also, I suppose. I do not know how our Congress friends look at it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The new Congressmen do not put on Khadi.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I would only say one thing, and no more about handloom, i.e. if you are really serious about handlooms, why is it that—when your new policy is repeating in so many places of that document that if mill workers are displaced, dislodged, retrenched or unemployed, they will be given compensation and they will be rehabilitated, for that a Special Fund will be set up, and so on, and that they will not suffer; you have repeated it so many times—you do not extend that assurance to those handloom workers also, who are likely to be thrown out of their jobs? Why should they not get compensation?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : They are not going to be thrown out at all. On the contrary, they are to get additional employment. There is no need to put that clause there.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They will never get additional employment.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : The simple fact that the production of controlled cloth is being transferred to the handloom sector, is going to give additional jobs to nearly one-half million to one million people in the handloom sector alone.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They are likely to die under the burden of that very cloth.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : You may wish them so, but they are not going to suffer like that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I wish them long life.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : No; You do not have that understanding of the handloom problem.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : About 120 crores worth of handloom products only in one State Tamilnadu are lying accumulated. Now, they cannot be disposed of. After all, there is a cloth market and that one market is being competed for; in that one market in which we have got to sell cloth, you are trying to protect, give some protection to the handloom; now, that protection is knocked out because there is no further restriction on the mill sector or the powerloom sector; they can produce as much as they like with any kind of fibre they like. There are no restraints, nothing on them now. Therefore, handlooms are bound to be elbowed, out from the market.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about the controlled cloth?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They will either sink under the weight of the controlled cloth; nobody will buy anything.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : I will explain.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : As far as powerloom sector is concerned, many things have already been said here. The main problem with the powerloom is the fact that the organised mill sector should not be allowed to get into this power loom by illegal means, by *benami* means, by the backdoor and all that which they are doing. You have brought parity in everything except the conditions of workers on the powerloom. You have brought parity with the mills, as far as levy, duty and taxes, everything are concerned. But worst sufferer are the workers on the powerloom who get miserable wages, starvation wages for whom there are no service conditions, no labour laws are implemented for them. You have not promised anything. This powerloom should not be registered after coming into existence; there is nothing to prevent power loom being

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set up and then coming for being registered. We know how they get registered. So, I would suggest that if you want to save this power loom from functioning as *benami* agency of the mills, because in spite of restraint which you have removed on the mills, it will still be cheaper for them to get proxy production done through the powerloom, and therefore, if you want to prevent that, there are two or three ways of doing it. This powerloom should be helped and encouraged to get into cooperatives. There are no cooperatives at all at present. There are handloom cooperatives; there are no power loom cooperatives. They must form powerloom cooperatives. The workers must also be given equal wages, good service conditions and labour protection as workers in the organised sector get. As I said, unregistered powerloom should not be allowed to come up like as a *fait accompli* after they have been set up. But you have not said anything about this in your policy.

Then, finally, I would say sickness in the mill sector has been attributed in this policy as mill owners themselves have argued to plethora of controls and regulatory measures. The same thing that the tax payers have said, the big tax assessees, who always evade income tax. You remember, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, said, the whole trouble is that there are too many taxes, too many regulations and so on and so forth. So, remove everything. Now, the same thing has been done in this case also. And what is the green signal which has been given ?

New technology for modernisation. But nothing is said about those employers who made these mills sick. Are they to be modernised also ? People for whom assurance was given here that this bad management will not be allowed to continue (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :
It is written here.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Anything can be written.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :
It is very clearly written that bad and inept management would be removed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I want to know how many have been removed after February ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :
This policy is being discussed after the announcement. There are only two months. How can you expect me to give you an example to remove the bad management ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : This modernisation with the help of new technology is going to mean a large scale rationalisation and displacement of labour. You are only promising that they will be given some compensation. That is all. A radical change in the product mix. For whose benefit ? Not for the common poor man in this country. For elitist sections of the community, and for that foreign market which you are thinking of hopefully that you will be able to penetrate, but you will never be able to penetrate. No obligation to produce for the poor sections of the people. Virtual elimination of all statutory restrictions on closure or retrenchment. There are statutory measures at present, but you are indicating in your policy that these things will not be allowed to stand in the way. Closure of non-viable mills, even though they are in the public sector is necessary. Who will decide why they became sick, why they became non-viable whether they are potentially viable or not ? And, therefore, you have washed your hands clean of any responsibility of looking after these so-called non-viable or sick units.

Therefore, Madam, I may humbly say that this policy taken as a whole is an absolutely retrograde policy. It is an absolutely retrograde policy, which will not help the poor people of this country to get cloth at cheap prices as thought of. And the only solution, because Mr. Murli Deora said, "What is the solution ?" is—my solution he will not like, and my solution is—that all the sectors of the textile industry, the whole industry as a whole in India can only be saved from ruin if the Government has the courage to take over the whole thing.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : The whole thing ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Yes.
Nationalise the whole thing and run it.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : China is de-nationalising now. Even in China they are de-nationalising.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why are you worried about 'even in China'? You are the only one haunted by China.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There should not be any side talk like that. I do not permit. Please conclude now.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Quite right.

There should not be any kind of piecemeal or this kind of a solution which they are trying, through some short cut or which is a half-hearted or partial solution. All this means again that the whole textile policy can never be geared to the real concrete requirements of India and they are sacrificing the poorer sections of the masses in favour of some little elitist sections which is the same budget philosophy behind their policies and everything else. It is exactly the same thing there. It is the same thing being repeated here, I find.

Therefore, I would request that this policy be rejected and a new policy be evolved, in consultation with all the interests which are concerned. Did they consult all the interests concerned? I do not mean in this House. I mean the people who are concerned with the various aspects of the industry. We do not know because the export committee report has not been made available to us. Who did they consult? Whose opinion did they take? Why is this policy after being announced getting such a hostile reception from everybody—except the big mill owners everybody—the handlooms, powerlooms and all the sectors? Everybody is complaining that they are appensive, everybody feels that they are being sacrificed for the sake of a handful of big mill owners. What kind of reception is this policy getting in this country? The Government should give it a second thought and they should, in deference to the views expressed largely in this House. They can have a second look and still find time to review it and re-fashion it in a way which will be in the interests of the people of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kumaramangalam.

AN. HON. MEMBER : What about the consumer?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am only a consumer of cloth.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You are guided only by Shri Murlid Deora.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem) : Madam Chairman, so far as the object of the new textile policy is concerned, it is very laudable one. This is so because making available cloth of acceptable quality at reasonable prices is the need of the day. We all know that the price of cloth has been sky-rocketing, especially in the past few years. Any reasonably good cloth, not necessarily as Mr. Indrajit Gupta just now said non-Khadi alone, even Khadi cloth, has been going up in cost at a very fast pace. Therefore, this object of the policy was essential and necessary and I welcome it, whatever be the other small points which are pointed out and in fact blown out of proportion.

Madam Chairman, so far as the three main dimensions that have been taken into consideration in this policy are concerned, the first being that the industry shall be viewed in terms of its stages of manufacturing process, namely, spinning, weaving and processing, —well whichever way you look at it—whether you look at it from category view is the powerlooms or the handlooms mills point of view, you look at it from the point of view of spinning, weaving and processing it really does not matter. It is the root which is important. What is the object behind this? It says that the industry shall be provided with fuller flexibility in the use of various fibres. I think, it is a welcome change. It is high time that India catches up and we do not stay back in those days on insisting that it shall only be khadi and khadi alone that India shall produce.

So far as the third is concerned, I have a small reservation. It says that the industry shall be subject to more pragmatic policies regarding creation or contraction of capacities by units in order to increase competition and promote healthy growth in the industry. It sounds very nice, but when it comes to implementation we find that those innocuous soft-spoken words are used by

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capitalists to exploit the workers. This, I feel, is one of the dimensions which will be exploited unless the Government is extremely careful to ensure through, regulation and through conscious conduct that it will not be treated as a manner of getting rid of labour, exploiting labour and ensuring that it is only the elite who make the money out of this textile sector. The other two important dimensions, according to me, are not really harmful and they are welcome. Even the main object is laudable.

So far as the weaving sector is concerned, the act of equating and clubbing organised powerlooms, that is mills with the unorganised powerlooms and saying that their various inherent strengths and capabilities would be the basis on which they shall be allowed to compete, I feel, is wrong to say the least, for the simple reason that it is like saying that the middle-class in India must match the tycoons. It is a very important matter. It is a situation like asking an average middle-class in India that when a rich, who earns lakhs of rupees a month, can afford tomato at Rs. 13/- a kg. why cannot he? It is rather unfortunate to say the least. Here I would like to warn the Minister that this attitude is soon going to create a situation wherein in addition to subsidy being given to the 75 lakh handloom workers, we will have now to start thinking in our Seventh Plan of creating a provision for subsidy for 32 lakh powerloom workers also. And this sick handloom industry is also going to have a partner or brother in progress of having a sick powerloom industry unless specific attention is going to be paid to the powerloom industry.

The powerloom industry should be encouraged through cooperatives. In fact, Mr. Indrajit Gupta mentioned it. I welcome it whole-heartedly. I would like the Minister to consider it. There must be powerloom cooperatives not only for marketing but for processing and various other factors also in order to protect that sector; otherwise, we are going to have a day soon when the modernised handloom is going to have the status of a sick sector.

I do feel a little sorry when I see Opposition Members emphasising on handloom and not knowing the fact that the textile

policy has noted and laid emphasis on modernisation of handlooms. I presume modernisation of handloom does not just mean improving the beam of the loom but it would also mean improving the various ways of technological processes that we have got and in addition, may be over a period of time, moving them in to, what is called in the textile policy, the unorganised powerloom sector. If I may humbly submit the major problem really seems to lie in the fact that in the textile arena we have the wealthy, powerful, elite mills and their owners. We have the minions of the mills, a small portion of the powerloom, and we have the handlooms moved into the powerloom arena, and, lastly, we have the poor handlooms which have not been able even to dream of moving into being a small powerloom. If I may humbly submit, this policy as a whole, as it stands now, does not need to be rejected for the simple reason that it has not yet spelt out the details. It has given indication to all the sectors, it has told the mills that it wants them to improve, it wants them to be efficient, it will not tolerate sickness, they should not think that they can do what they did in the past—siphon money from the mills, make it sick and then make NTC take it over—they will not be allowed to do that. If they are a bad management they will be thrown out. So, we have to welcome this statement. Not only that, it has categorically said that they could contract their capacity but they have to protect the interests of the workmen. It is there where I feel that the Minister should especially be extremely careful. It should not be that they should be allowed to contract their capacities without prior arrangement of what is going to happen to those workers, whether they are going to be retrenched or whether they are going to be adjusted anywhere else. Before any mill is allowed to contract its capacity, it must prove to the Textile Ministry that not a single worker will be affected. It is not sufficient to say, "I give you retrenchment compensation". Unemployment is a disease. It has affected our country. Let not that cancer take over the rest of the country. Unemployment will kill us economically.

May I just add that there is another point and that is that technology seems to be spoken only in terms of the mills. I would request the Minister to think of tech-

nology also in the field of powerlooms, in the field of handlooms, in terms of using power even for handlooms. There is a method and it has been done in the South.

Finally, before I close there is a factor which I would like the Minister to take note of, which Mr. Indrajit Gupta just now mentioned, and that is that Rs. 9 crores worth of stock is there in the cooperative handloom sector available in Tamil Nadu. There is nobody to offtake it. My constituency has both powerlooms and handlooms. Both the sectors today are determined that this policy is out to finish them. It is necessary for the Minister to clarify that the policy is being mis-interpreted, wrongly presented, and that this policy would genuinely help in bringing both the sectors out of the gloom in which they have been for quite some time. At the same time, I would like to add that it is unfortunate just because a few powerlooms have been used as *benami* by mills, the whole powerloom sector is treated as untouchable, like a step child, in fact, like an illegally born child who is now being given legality by registration but still who is untouchable. I would request the Hon. Minister that while saying that this policy should be accepted, when details are being worked out, the various sectors be consulted and their future looked after. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give some suggestions in respect of the new textile policy. The need for a new textile policy was being felt for quite some time and our Hon. Textiles Minister announced the new textile policy last month and attracted attention of the nation towards it. The new policy envisages on the one hand modernisation of the textile mills, increasing productivity, providing quality cloth to the countrymen and on the other, it also speaks about protecting the interest of the handloom sector. It would have been better had the opinion of the House been taken through a debate in the House before coming out with a final statement.

While supporting the priorities spelled out by the Government in this new policy, I would like to draw the attention of the

Government to para 19.6 which says that it will be ensured that the interests of the workers are properly protected while implementing the programme of modernisation. I think this is a commendable step which shows that while we are installing modern equipment for modernisation of the mills and inducting new technology for increasing productivity, at the same time we shall also see that the interests of the workers are protected.

Besides, it will also have to be taken care of that which cloth will be manufactured by the mills after effecting modernisation. Will this cloth be according to the needs of the socio-economic structure of the country or will more and more cloth be produced for export? They might not just switch over to manufacturing such cloth which might not protect the interest of the common consumer. Therefore, it is necessary that keeping in view the socio-economic structure and climatic conditions of our country, clear-cut directives are issued to the mills indicating the type of modernisation to be effected and specifying the variety and quantum of cloth to be manufactured.

I also want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Hon. Minister has given special concessions to the handloom industry. By making a special mention about protecting their interests, he has shown that our Government are committed to promoting manufacture of the handloom cloth in the country. It gives priority to the handloom sector because besides manufacturing quality cloth, this sector has also been providing avenues of employment for centuries. Your gesture that 650 million metres of cloth which was being manufactured in N.T.C. mills and powerlooms hitherto will now be manufactured in the handloom sector thereby generating employment for one million additional hands is certainly a commendable step. But, on the other hand if we go by the minimum needs of the poor people, taking 10 metres of cloth as the per capita requirement, 650 million metres of cloth will suffice only for a population of 6.5 crores, whereas even today 3 crores of people are such who live below the poverty line, then who will manufacture cloth to meet the requirement of this section of the population? It will need another 3,000 million metres of cloth to meet their requirements.

[Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

Whereas you people to manufacture 650 million metres of cloth through the handloom sector, there is still scope to manufacture cloth through the powerlooms and controlled cloth through N.T.C., as in view of the rising population, we need 3,000 million metres of cloth to meet the requirement of the country. This fact has been revealed through a survey.

The second thing which has been said in the new textile policy relates to the planned development of the powerloom sector by imposing restrictions on powerlooms. You have protected the interests of the handloom sector by imposing restrictions on the facilities available to the powerlooms which were being misused by the big mill owners. This is certainly a commendable step. We should also see to it that the concessions which we have withdrawn do not adversely affect either the production capacity or the employment potential of the powerlooms. For this, it is essential to protect their interests. I also want to suggest that controlled cloth can also be manufactured there or a programme for manufacturing special quality cloth in a planned manner under a new policy can be included in the next Five Year Plan.

In the end, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister because it is for the first time that he has given special attention to the production of silk and silk garments and has also reflected it in the new policy. Our Government certainly deserve congratulations on this score also. It will provide material for cottage industries in the rural areas and encourage entrepreneurship under sericulture, based on a new type of forest, on the one hand and on the other hand, the produce, the raw material from it can be supplied to small and cottage industries after getting it processed by our weavers and, thus, we shall be able to pay attention to the manufacture of quality products. Today, the need is to have modern techniques, skilled and efficient weavers and to supply them good quality raw material in time so that these policies may be implemented. There is need to maintain coordination among them all. Raw material is produced but it does not find any market. They (the weavers) long for raw material for handloom and khadi cloth. Due to non-availability of

raw material we are unable to utilize their capacity. Therefore, the National Handloom Development Corporation set up by you, and the K.V.I.C., which is also engaged in this work, should work as Central agencies and these should be utilized as marketing consortia. It will help in generating employment potential and manufacturing quality cloth, besides exporting cloth in substantial quantity, because there is demand not only for silk cloth but also for handloom cloth abroad and foreign exchange can be earned from it.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Madam Chairman, on going through this new textile policy, one thing which strikes me is the total absence of statistics of all kinds, so that we have to go to other documents to find out how many people will be effected either by the mills sector closing down or part of the handloom sector closing down for lack of any market because of the fall in the price of millmade cloth as is expected. There should have been some indication, at least, in the policy document—as it is being stated that it is going to make a very drastic change in the Indian textile scene,—as to how it is going to affect the different types of people and workers working in the mills. What is their number? What is going to be the retrenchment possibility if these mills are allowed to modernise, as they are being allowed in this policy? What will be the effect on the handloom workers? How many workers will be affected? These things have not been given. Just now we heard from the Textiles Minister that '5 to 1 million more handloom workers, additional workers, will get jobs. This is something which could have been suitably incorporated in the policy itself. Then we could have taken a different look at the policy, and try to see whether it is a correct conclusion or not. But the assumptions on which these conclusions are based are not stated. One assumption appears to be that if the man-made fibres are made cheaper by decrease in the levy of excise duty, then the price of the blended cloth or the artificial fabric will go down. This is an erroneous assumption. Secondly, if it does go down, then the market will increase, more of it will be sold. That again, is an erroneous assumption because we all know that the sale of textiles

does not depend so much on the price, but on the purchasing power of the people. If the purchasing power is not there as we know, 50 per cent or more of our people are below the poverty line, they can never think of buying the artificial fibres of any variety. Naturally they will only be confined to those at a higher income group level and they are already purchasing it. If the price goes down by Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 per metre, they are not going to purchase any more of it. So this assumption that the price going down will mean more sale of this cloth and therefore, the revenue will remain constant and there will be more people employed is a totally erroneous assumption. Nothing is said about the kind of technology that will be allowed. Some reference is made to automatic looms, to spindleless looms and so on. If in the place of non-automatic looms automatic looms are allowed, how many workers will be displaced? Supposing all the mills today are given finance to go in for this kind of automatic mills or spindleless mills, how many people will be affected out of 7 lakh or so people who are working in the mills? How many of them will be displaced? That is not stated. How do we make a knowledgeable criticism of the policy without this data? So, we are reduced to only looking at what other people have said about this particular policy? Coming to that, we find that it has been publicised with great fanfare and welcomed by the people at the top end of the textile production world. The Birlas, Mafat Lals, Tatas and all these people have welcomed it because they are given absolutely liberty to close down the textile mills to go in for modern technology, to retrench people, whatever they like. Therefore, they liked it very much. Now it is said that this liberty is given to every sector also. Supposing the powerloom people are told that you can also go in for modernisation. you can go for processing etc. But do they have the resources to do so? If they are independently working on their own, they do not have the resources. If they are working as agents of mills only then they have the resources. So, either you make the looms again more dependent on mills or in any case you are giving them only an illusory liberty which they will never be able to utilise. So, when it is said that we are not going by the traditional division of handloom, powerloom and looms, but we

are dividing it by the stages, namely, spinning, weaving and processing, it is really that this distinction is being taken away only in the case of mills and not in the case of handloom and powerloom. Because of the necessities of the economic compulsions, they will be confined to only the process in which they are at present engaged. Tall promises have been made regarding making available adequate cotton for the handloom sector. How is it to be done, that is not stated. When the time comes and when we try to call the Textile Minister, he will say that the Agriculture Minister has not put in enough money for growing cotton and the Government has not given enough money to give remunerative prices to the cotton growers, so, production of cotton has fallen and the prices have risen and therefore, there is less cloth produced in the handloom sector. Sir, I am coming to this because there is a very definite indication that when they were considering this policy they have also considered the financial implications of it. They had asked the Planning Commission for allocation of Rs. 550 crores in the Seventh Five-Year Plan. The Planning Commission has given only Rs. 117 crores, only 20 per cent of what the Department has asked for. Now, I would ask the Hon. Minister to explain to us—we are laymen and we do know—what is the requirement of finance for each category. Since for an amount of Rs. 550 crores, they got only 20 per cent of that amount, are they still in a position to implement this policy? Previous policy also was not a bad policy because the main object of that policy was also to make cloth available to the mass of the Indian people at reasonable rate. That is the first objective of the 1981 textile policy. The Minister is trying to put it out as through this policy is one which he has thought out for the first time. It is not so. It has been the object of all textiles policies for all time. In 1978 also, that was the main objective of the textile policy. But those policies have not been implemented for various obstacles. How are they going to remove the obstacles? One of the obstacles standing in the way if you are giving total liberty to the mill owners particularly tycoon section of the mill owners to go in for any kind of modernisation, any kind of technology and import it from wherever they want. They do not even give this particular work of building new machine

[Shri Amal Datta]

to the domestic textile machinery manufacturers. They are not even in favour of those manufacturers. They are telling the mill owners that they can go for import from any country, no matter what degree of sophistication the machinery would be. Probably, it is known to everybody that in some countries like Japan and Korea, the textile mills employ a very few employees because they are all automatic and controlled by electronic micro processors and so on. So, in our country, a mill which employs about 3,000 or 4,000 people today, may only employ about 300 or 400 people and the mill may be run even less than that number. Have you ever thought of this possibility? How will you ensure that the workers get their dues when they are retrenched? At the moment, I have asked the Hon. Labour Minister, how are you going to see that the arrears of provident fund and other dues are paid to the workers. The Bombay textile strike has thrown out lot of workers and lot of workers are out of employment. They have not yet got their dues, not to speak of any additional facilities, or compensation.

The Minister is now saying that he may put something like about Rs. 15 crores in the rehabilitation fund. But after the Planning Commission reduced the allocation to this Ministry to 20 per cent of its original demand, the amount of fund will also be reduced to only Rs. 3 crores or something like that. So, we would like to know, how he will make the handloom sector employ about a million or half-a-million more people? How will he make more cotton available to the industry? How will he see that the people retrenched from the mill sector are adequately compensated? Where is the money to do all these things?

And then, it is calculated that modernisation of the mills will cost about Rs. 2,500 crores. Where is the money to come from? This soft loan is already there from 1976. For 8 years, from 1976 to 1984, only about Rs. 350 crores were disbursed by IDBI. Where is the money going to come from and how is this modernisation going to take place? As already so many people have pointed out, this modernisation, if it takes place, will only benefit a very small section

of the elitist people in our country and probably the export sector which also belongs to the elitist group. Even so, I don't think that you have got the capacity and financial wherewithal to implement the policy.

17.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, whatever the Hon. Senior Members have said, the textile policy formulated by the Government recently is an important policy statement and no single policy change by the Government in the last two decades has been as sweeping as the textile policy statement.

While supporting the new textile policy, I would like to confine myself to the handloom sector which has been intimately woven into the history of handloom before and after Indian independence movement. The history of handloom before and after independence has been a crusade against underemployment as well as unemployment of the rural population of India.

This traditional cottage industry is highly labour intensive and spread over various parts of the country. More than 10 million people directly or indirectly depend upon this industry for their livelihood. This industry ranks next to agriculture in terms of its impact on rural employment and income.

In Kerala, handloom occupies a predominant place among the traditional industries. One lakh families are dependent on this industry in Northern Kerala alone. How can we afford to neglect this traditional industry since it gives job opportunities to the entire family members?

According to 1976 Census of Handloom conducted in Kerala, there were 90,030 looms in the State, consisting of 63,169 looms in the Household Sector and 26,861 in other establishments. 44.50 per cent of the total looms in the State were in Cannanore district alone. The total production of handloom cloth in Kerala in 1980-81 is estimated to be about 90 million metres valued at Rs. 45 crores.

The exact figure of quality and value of the handloom exported from Kerala is not

available since bulk of exports is made by exporters based at Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Bangalore etc. However, Kerala Handlooms worth Rs. 25-30 crores are exported annually.

Attracted by a lower wage and better industrial relations, Cannanore type of handloom products are being manufactured in Tamil Nadu. This is a major threat posed to the industry in Kerala.

Strict enforcement of a national minimum wage policy is one of the solutions to rejuvenate handloom industry in Kerala.

The textile policy statement has made it categorically clear that the responsibility for entire production of controlled cloth shall be transferred to Handloom industry. This is a major policy decision which is to be appreciated by all. With regard to this major step to revive the industry, one doubts whether any serious attention has been paid to guarantee continuous job for the weavers throughout the year.

Timely availability of adequate quantity of yarn at reasonable price is a pre-requisite for continuous employment. The Handloom Apex Societies and the Handloom Development Corporations should be entrusted with the task of proper and timely distribution of yarn to the weavers. To facilitate dyeing and processing yarn cloth by weavers, more common service centres are to be opened.

Another important problem faced by the industry is the accumulations of stock at the hands of weavers and the distressed situation created by such accumulation. It is important to establish an efficient market intelligence system in importing countries to find out consumer preferences in the type of fabrics signs etc. The accent should be produce according to the requirements of the consumers to his design and specifications.'

Thrust given for the development of Handlooms through cooperatives and Centre/State-level Corporations is indeed laudable. Credit facilities to the Cooperative sector are to be ensused by the Reserve Bank of India, and timely availability of credit is an important factor in this direction. Complete restructuring of the Industry during

the 7th Plan should be treated as one of high priorities. At present, only 40 per cent of weavers in Kerala are covered by the Cooperative network. A majority of the looms are outside the purview of Cooperative sector and Government sector various efforts must be made to bring the industry under the cooperative sector.

The provision for the contributory Thrift Fund to provide assistance to the Handloom weavers during times of need will definitely take the industry ahead.

A Workshed-cum-housing scheme to provide better place for work and living to Handloom weavers also is a serious step to alleviate the difficulties faced by the weavers.

On the whole, it is beyond all rays of doubt that the new Textile policy is a bold and innovative attempt to revive and promote the traditional cottage industry which provides maximum employment opportunity to millions of rural population. It also would help to satisfy the clothing needs of all section of the population.

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have to appreciate the intention and the main aim of our Government under the new textile policy; it is to achieve production and productivity in such a way that we produce cloth of acceptable quality and at reasonable prices to meet the cloth requirements of the growing population of our country. When we welcome this policy, the intention and aim of it, we must also carefully study the implementation of this policy.

In the pre-Independence period, the spindles were running at 8,000 revolutions per minute. Now they are running at 13,000 r.p.m. The open-end spindle, which is used in West Germany, is spinning at 90,000 r.p.m. So, modernisation is a must. Whether it suits our country or not, we have to make the sacrifice and move forward. Therefore, modernisation is a must. But, at the same time, we must see that employment is not affected by that.

The Father of our Nation selected khadi and took to the weapon of *thakli* or spinning to oppose the white man. The whole economic condition of the people

[Shri Kadambur Janarthanan]

depends on the textile policy. The textile industry was minting money like anything from 1942 to 1974. But now it is a sick industry in this country. Why? Government should go deep into it. The millowners say that it is because of the Government policy that the mills have fallen sick. We have to study as to what is the cause.

The aim, under the new textile policy, is to give to people cloth of acceptable quality and at reasonable rates. That is alright. But at the same time we have to see as to what is the condition of the poor growers who are producing cotton. As Members of Parliament, we should know as to what is their condition. This year the cotton-growers have suffered like anything. The price of 20's cotton was Rs. 6,000 per candy last year. But this year it is Rs. 4,200/- per candy. That means, the grower has suffered a loss of more than Rs. 100 per quintal. What are we going to do for them? In the policy the Hon. Minister has stated that the CCI and the NTC will come to their rescue. Have they come to their rescue? What is the quantity that the CCI bought in Tamil Nadu? I come from Tirunelveli. There, they have not bought even 50 bales. That is how the CCI is functioning. Prof. Madhu Dandavate has said that we must divide it into three sectors—handloom, powerloom and organized sector—and that three Commissioners should be appointed. There are office bearers appointed in CCI. There are office-bearers appointed in NTC also. I want the Hon. Minister to see how the NTC is working in Tamil Nadu, how the NTC is working in West Bengal, how the NTC is working in Andhra Pradesh. There are mills in the NTC which are producing 20 per cent waste *bonda*. But in Tamil Nadu, that is not the case.

I will give my suggestion as to what can be termed 'mismanagement'. If a mill does not make the payment to cotton-growers within 30 days, then it means that the mill is being mismanaged. Till 1974, there was no delay in making payment to the cotton-growers. But now it is not so.

I would request the Hon. Minister not to treat the powerloom and the organized

sector at par. We are not able to digest it. The powerloom people are buying semi raw material, that is, yarn, from the spinning mill. So, they have the cost of cotton spinning plus the profit of the mill plus sales-tax plus the trade interest plus commission. The four extra burdens fall on the powerloom weaver. I am talking of the real powerloom weaver; I do not mean the benami powerloom owners. But the composite mills, that is, the mill which is spinning, weaving and processing, do not have these four burdens. I would, therefore, request the Hon. Minister not to treat the powerloom weavers at par with the organized sector. The organized sector is a big sector. Are we going to treat the three powerloom owners or five powerloom owners at par with the organized sector? So, regarding all these things, I request again the Minister to see that the cotton growers interest is safeguarded. At least 50 per cent of the indigenous cotton production should be covered by the Cotton Corporation of India. Unless and until we make it compulsory there is no way for us. Whether through the federation or through Cotton Corporation of India at least 50 per cent that means 40 lakhs of bales of cotton should be covered by them. The policy is strict and hard here. In this pattern the cotton grower cannot be protected because you are going to increase from 50000 tonnes to 1,50,000 tonnes of the man-made fibre. There is a competition between the man-made fibre and God made fibre. I request the Minister to protect the cotton growers from the competition of the owners of man-made fibres. When you are reducing the excise duty on the synthetic fibres, you should also reduce the excise duty on the cotton fibres. Excise duty on counts below 60 cotton yarn should be exempted. Then only the cotton trade, the cotton grower and the cotton spinning mills will be rescued. Then I come to the modernisation of ginning machines. It is a very essential point and it is a must for our country. Today, when Japan and China buy cotton from Tamil Nadu, they complain of ginning defects. When we come to the modernisation of ginning factories, even factories with one or two ginning machines should be given licence. Now, ginning factories which are having less than 6 ginning machines are prohibited to run the factory. We have got a old Plot Brothers ginning factory of 1904 in Akhola, or Amaravathi, or Guntur or

Gadanchi or Tamil Nadu. Therefore, Government should give complete help for the modernisation of ginning and so much so the new policy should safeguard the cotton growers and I wish the new policy all success by giving good and acceptable quality of cloth to the people of India. I must tell the Minister about the big Mettur mill which was producing and supplying cloth during the war period. My father was also a cloth dealer. That mill is a sick mill now. The production is now closed. Things like this should not happen and I therefore, request the Minister to see that the payment is made for raw materials within 30 days after they come to the premises because where the payment is delayed there is mismanagement. With this I welcome this policy, but at the same time I request the Minister to safeguard the cotton growers policy also.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad) : Sir, we are all grateful to the Minister for undertaking a painful exercise in formulating a policy with a view to stabilising the textile industry. However, some care will have to be taken in the implementation of this policy to ensure that the workers do not suffer. Sir, one of the directive principles of our Constitution enjoins the State to make effective provision for right to work. In fact, it was in disregard of this article, viz., article 41 of the Constitution that the Supreme Court, in one case (Excelwear case) held that the employer has a fundamental right to close down his units as and when he chooses. Now to concede the right of the employer to close down his unit is in clear conflict with to the State's obligation to effectuate the right to work. May I request the Hon'ble Minister to re-examine the policy from this point of view, namely, what is the effort thereof on the obligation of the State to take effective measures for providing the right to work. Is it not possible to modify the policy a little extent by placing a curb on the employers in the matter of closing down their units? That is one aspect to which I must draw the attention of the Government.

The second aspect relates to treatment of the powerlooms at par with the organised sector. Art. 14 of the constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court implies that equal treatment of unequals is an inequality. If you say in the name of equality that you

can approach and stay in Ashoka Hotel, it is not equality. In order that unequals can compete you should first create equal conditions. Are those equal conditions present here? One of my friends here remarked—what is the difference between a powerloom and a textile mill? The difference is that in the case of a textile mill, surplus value is concentrated with the organised private capital. It is not so in the case of powerlooms. Therefore, this may also be examined from this point of view—whether the powerlooms do require further protection in the shape of protective tariff or other things as they used to get in the past.

Now the third aspects. This pertains to National Textile Corporation. The policy allows the sick mills non-viable units to close down. Similar thing has also been permitted in respect of the National Textile Corporation. Retrenchment of workers or closing down units is not consistent with our constitutional obligations. If NTC is also permitted to do so, what would it amount to? We are reminded of the

Anya kshetre kritam papam,

Teerth kshetre vinshyati

Teerth kshetre kritam papam,

Vajralepo bhavishyati

After all one of the objectives of the setting up of the NTC was to take care of unemployment aspect. If NTC is also allowed to retrench workers or resort to closing down their units, what would happen to the workers? Therefore, I would humbly request you to have one more look into the new textile policy with a view to ensuring that there should be no added unemployment on account of the new policy.

Sir, the Minister has mentioned the objectives of the new policy. I am sure that when he mentioned the main objective of providing cloth at a reasonable price to the mass of the people he was not subordinating the other objectives like that of providing employment. He has said that in the pursuit of the main objective, the employment and export potential of the industry would also be kept in view. This objective of provision of employment should not be subordinated to the objective of making cloth available at a reasonable price to the poorer sections,

[Shri Haroobhai Mehta]

Creation of employment opportunities should also be considered as a very important objective which can not be lost sight of. The policy mentioned about the obligation of controlled cloth being transferred to the handloom section. In this connection I must point out that the Government will kindly take serious note of the fact that the organised textile mills have never carried out the said obligations laid on them. What happened in the matter of controlled cloth? They went to the court and obtained interim relief in respect of their obligation to carry out the manufacture of controlled cloth. When they were required to pack yarn in hank form in order to provide raw material to handloom industry they did not carry out the obligation. Government imposed an obligation of that 50 per cent of the yarn packed for sale should be packed in hank form. Even this obligation, they did not carry out, and resorted to courts.

Sir, if the textile mills go on flouting social obligation, how long shall we go on extending to them unilateral facilities and giving them benefit of doubt. When the Government has chosen to give some relief and benefits to the textile industry why not expect from them a condition of social discipline that they will try to behave in a manner which will not add to the burden of unemployment. Only those mills which undertake not to retrench any worker or close down any unit should be provided with these benefits. Incentives must be accompanied by social obligation. I trust that the Government will implement the textile policy in such a manner that economic Darwinism is not encouraged thereby and that all the social obligations laid down in the Directive Principles are faithfully carried out.

[Translation]

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know how much time I would be getting to speak on this subject. I would, therefore, mention only those aspects of this textile policy about which doubts and apprehensions are being raised.

Sir, before the policy was drafted and announced, an enquiry committee was constituted. The main consideration for this

step was that mills were closing down one after the other in the country during the past many years and some of the mills were running just in an unstable way. The unemployed workers staged demonstrations and raised their voice throughout the country and as a result thereof the enquiry committee was constituted, and thereafter this policy was announced. But it seems that the workers still remain unfortunate in that the policy does not categorically state what their future would be. Merely saying that their interests would be protected will not do. If a unit is not viable, how will it protect the interests of the workers? I am unable to comprehend the principle. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a universally acknowledged principle that it is not possible to cure a disease till it is properly diagnosed. It is most unfortunate for the textile industry in this country that either we have not been able to diagnose or I would say that even after the diagnosis, the malady has not been cured, which has brought the industry and the economy to this pass. One wonders how an industry which is the oldest in the country and which has no problem in getting raw material, cheap labour or a ready market and whose profits were utilised to finance many new industries, suddenly starts incurring losses and the whole responsibility to run them is thrown on the Government. No serious attempt was ever made to find out the real malady. Need for modernisation has been continuously emphasized. There are no two opinions about it and all of us agree to it.

The second cause was given out to be that the textile industry was labour-oriented. The third cause was attributed to mismanagement. In this policy, wherever a reference has been made to the management, it has been termed as incompetent and negligent.

So far as the number of workers engaged in the industry is concerned, I would give figures which would prove that though it can be said to be more than sufficient yet it can not be said to be surplus in any case.

There were 378 mills in the country with one crore spindles, 1.95 lakh looms and 8 lakh workers in 1951. In 1961, the number of mills rose to 479, of spindles to 1,36,63,000 and that of looms to 1.98 lakhs while the

number of workers remained the same, that is, 8 lakhs. In 1981, the number of mills further rose to 664, the spindles to 1.80 crores and looms numbered 2 lakhs, while the number of workers remained 8 lakhs. Now there are well over 700 mills in the country with 2.25 crore spindles, 2.220 lakh looms but the strength of workers is the same.

The losses are not due to the number of workers but due to incompetent, negligent and dishonest management which has brought the textile industry to this pass. The figures given as cost price are always manipulated. They have indulged in malpractices both in the case of purchase of raw material as well as in selling the finished products, thereby leading the industry to this condition.

Had the Government been conscious of their responsibility, they would have imposed some kind of restrictions on the corrupt managements by not helping them in siphoning off profits to set up other industries. Our financial institutions have been financing them, which was helpful in diverting the profits. I would say that even now if the policy is implemented with the realisation that these capitalists have an upper hand and the workers are not capable of protecting their interests, it would definitely bring about a change.

The main directive of the policy is in para 4 of the policy statement.

"There are many objectives in the present textile policy. Though each one of the objectives is important, yet the diversity of objectives has overshadowed the main objective of the textile industry, i.e., increasing the production of cloth of acceptable quality at reasonable rates to meet the clothing requirement of a growing population. From now on this main objective will be the guiding principle of the industry. To achieve this objective, the export potential and the employment opportunities would be kept in view."

About the employment opportunities, apprehensions have been expressed to the handloom and the mill sectors.

As regards the 'controlled cloth', when this cloth was in the mill sector, mills

became sick and latter on when it was handed over to the NTC, it suffered losses, and now the burden is being shifted to the handloom sector. It is a futile process wherein the burden was first put on an elephant and when it was not able to bear it, it was put on the horseback and when even the horse could not bear it, it was dumped on a lesser animal, knowing well that the poor and helpless animal will not protest. In a country like India, which has immense population, no policy would be successful till employment is given due importance.

[English]

SHRI R.S. MANE (Ichalkaranji) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I congratulate the Hon. Minister for the new Textile policy, though it has got a lot of deficiencies and has done injustice to powerloom sector.

In view of industrial production, employment generating capacity and revenue collected from cloth export, textile industry occupies the important role in the national economy.

In the new Textile Policy, it has been made clear that the aim would be to supply more and more cloth of acceptable quality to more and more people at reasonable rates. The new policy has been declared recently to correct the aberrations and to give new orientation to the textile industry.

In March, 1981, the textile policy has been announced. At that time, the textile industry was divided into three sectors, namely composite mills, powerlooms and handlooms. Now, in this policy the textile industry has been divided in three sections, namely spinning, weaving and processing. This itself has threatened the very existence of the powerloom sector in India.

As you know, there are about 7 lakhs and 40 thousand registered powerlooms in this country. About three million persons are directly employed by the powerloom sector, and not less than 20 million people are getting means of livelihood through the powerloom sector alone. In view of this, I would say that this is not a new textile policy, I would define this textile policy as a National Mill Welfare Policy. This is

[Shri R. S. Mane]

because, financial assistance has already been given to the organised mill sector.

As regards 7 lakhs and 40 thousand registered powerlooms in the country, which are in the disorganised sector and in the rural areas are concerned, nothing has been provided to them.

Powerloom sector has been treated at par with the mill sector as far as taxation is concerned. This is a very great injustice. Powerloom sector has been clubbed with the mill sector for purposes of imposition of tax; this is a great injustice to our powerlooms. Because of this clubbing, the powerloom sector will be completely finished.

As for handloom sector, much has not been given to this sector, but the interest of this sector has already been safeguarded by the new textile policy. Why this protection? This is because ours is a country of Mahatma Gandhi. And public opinion, public sympathy will not tolerate any injustice to the handloom sector. But what about powerloom sector? Nothing has been given to them. Slow poisoning has been given to the powerloom sector, and every injection of tonic has been given to the mill sector in this policy. As regards spinning mills, I may say, in my district of Kolhapur in Maharashtra, about 19 proposed spinning mills have been registered. Crores of rupees have been collected by the management. The chief promoters of these proposed spinning mills are the agriculturists and members of that society. But only 4 licences have been issued and others have been treated only as registered. The money is pending with the Banks and NCDC, Northern India and the Northern State Bank of India do not provide anything to these spinning mills. This is a great injustice. Powerloom sector is a national industry of importance in this country. Next to agriculture, powerloom sector in India is of considerable national importance. Care must be taken of this industry.

About the expansion of the licences, I may suggest to the Hon. Minister that compulsory registration of powerlooms itself breeds corruption and brings harassment to the small powerloom holders. This compulsory registration should be withdrawn from this new Textile Policy.

As regards rehabilitation fund and thrift fund, I welcome these concepts and I compliment the Government and the Hon. Minister. As far as our demands for powerloom sector are concerned, I request that a special committee should be appointed to study the percentage of handicaps. The powerlooms suffer *vis-a-vis* mills. Secondly, this handicap must be made good in the excise structure.

Creation of yarn banks is an absolute and dire need of the powerloom sector. This bank should be just on the style and fashion of the NABARD which provides loans to the agricultural sector. Some sort of reservation in certain field of production must be spared for the powerlooms sector. Funds should be made available and sufficient working capital should be provided to the small powerloom holder through the establishment of a national bank for the powerloom sector. Creation of an Export House is an essential thing for the powerloom sector.

So, with these suggestions and recommendations, I welcome this new Textile Policy and compliment the Hon. Minister.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI G. K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on June 1985 Textile Policy and say a few words.

My parliamentary constituency Coimbatore is known as the Manchester of India. There are more than 100 textile mills in Coimbatore with several lakhs of workers. As their representative I know the problems confronting them. I would like to highlight some of their problems.

In the total export 20 per cent comes from textile industry. About 1 crore and 20 lakhs of people have their livelihood in the textile industry. India has the largest number of spindles. There are 595 spinning mills and 280 composite mills in our country.

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

At the outset I would say that sickness in textile industry is not a problem of today. Even in 1951 there were 151 uneconomic textile units. In 1968 the National Textile Corporation was set up for the sole purpose of reviving such sick textile units. In 1968, 16 sick textile mills were taken over by the NTC. In 1985 125 sick textile Mills are under the charge of NTC. In 1983-84 the NTC incurred a loss of Rs. 137 crores and during the period April 1984 to December, 1984, the loss incurred by the NTC was Rs. 131 crores. This indicates the continued sickness in textile industry. It has become widespread even during these 17 years of existence of NTC. In 1978 the Government of India enunciated a Textile Policy, which was followed by another in 1981. Since these two Policy Statements did not yield any positive results, the Government has declared on June 6, 1985 the new Textile Policy.

I would like to enumerate two or three fundamental causes for the sickness in textile industry. The textile industry is the oldest in the country. The textile machinery has become outdated. I am happy to point out that the I.D.B.I. has disbursed Rs. 355 crores for the modernisation of textile mills. The Government have also reduced the import duty on textile machinery. Yet much more remains to be done in textile industry's modernisation.

Secondly, after having fleeced the textile mills, the mill-owners have closed them and they have started powerlooms throughout the country. That is the main reason for the phenomenal growth in powerloom industry. I am happy to find that the 1985 Textile Policy has stipulated the registration of all powerlooms. This will bring to light the powerlooms which are in benami names in the unorganised sector. I would suggest even licensing system for powerlooms. The mill-owners should be taken to task for starting powerlooms in benami names.

In Coimbatore, several mills are closed, particularly big mills like Vasantha Mills, Hari Mills, Janardhana Mills and so on. 10,000 textile workers have become the victims. Since the textile mills that have been taken over by NTC are running profitably, the NTC should have no reluctance to take over these textile mills also. The NTC should rescue 10,000 textile workers

and their families from becoming destitutes. If that is not feasible, I would suggest that Co-operative Societies comprising of workers of such Mills should be formed immediately and they should be entrusted with the task of reviving these mills. For the rehabilitation of workers of closed textile mills, a Rehabilitation fund should be constituted forthwith. The workers should be given training also to run such mills. Immediately, the Government of India should set up a Training Institute exclusively for the purpose of training the workers of closed mills in the management of such units. According to the new Textile Policy, a national advisory committee will be constituted for modernisation of textile mills. This is not enough. I would suggest that a Regional Advisory Committee should be constituted in Coimbatore. On this Advisory Committee there should be representatives of textile workers also.

Coming now to handloom industry, which has given employment to 75 lakhs of people and which produces 30 per cent of total cloth production in the country, I would say that the handloom industry is in a mess. In Tamil Nadu there are 20 lakhs of handloom weavers. They are fighting for their survival. They have waged a war between survival and death. On the one hand the handloom cloth worth several hundreds of crores is stagnating and on the other the handloom weavers are not getting yarn at reasonable prices and in adequate quantity. They have to compete with power-looms. The power-looms are playing deceit on handloom weavers. The cloth produced in power-loom sector is marked as handloom cloth and sold in the market. The export of handloom cloth has also gone down considerably. I demand that the new textile policy should be implemented with verve and vigour; it should not be confined to paper. The branch offices of National Handloom Development Corporation should be set up in Coimbatore, Erode, Salem and Madurai.

Before I conclude, I would refer to the hosiery industry in Tiruppur which has become internationally known because of export of banians etc. There are 1300 banian making units in the small scale sector. They contribute substantially to our foreign exchange earning. The Textile Committee Act, 1963 was amended in 1973, enabling the Textile Committee to levy a cess on the

[Shri C. K. Kuppaswamy]

cloth and on the yarn. Under the rules formulated in 1975, 1 per cent cess is being levied on the value of the production. The powerloom product and the handloom cloth are exempted from this cess because the required yarn is subjected to a cess. When the banian cloth is being produced in mills, there is no cess. The hosiery industry is paying cess on the banian yarn, banian cloth and on banians. Only 10 per cent of the yarn produced in the country is banian yarn. The banian industry requires small investment but gives jobs for many. There has been persistent demand for the removal of this cess from banian manufacturers. The Textile Committee in its letter dated 24.5.1984 has assured the exemption of banian industry from this cess. The Vice Chairman of Textile Committee has again reiterated in his communication dated 4.2.1983 that such an exemption to banian units from this cess would be accorded. But unfortunately, the Notification in this regard has not yet been issued. The Former Commerce and Industry Minister has assured the hosiery units that exemption from this cess would be recorded. Yet, the Government of India have not notified this exemption. I urge upon the Hon. Minister to ensure the issuance of this notification exempting banian units from the payment of this cess. With these words I conclude my speech.

17.54 hrs.

**MOTION RE : CONTEMPT OF
THE HOUSE BY A PERSON
FROM THE VISITORS'
GALLERY**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : As the House is aware, at about 12.00 Noon today, a visitor calling himself N. Devasahayam, son of Shri Solomon, threw some papers on the floor of the House, and shouted from the Visitors' Gallery. The Watch and Ward Officer took him into custody immediately and interrogated him. The visitor has made a statement, and has expressed regret for his action. He has also begged pardon for the same.

I bring this to the notice of the House for such action as it may deem fit.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT):
I beg to move :

"This House resolves that the person calling himself N. Devasahayam, son of Shri Solomon, who threw some papers at about 1200 noon today on the floor of the House and shouted from the Visitors' Gallery and whom the Watch and Ward Officer took into custody immediately, has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of this House.

This House further resolves that in view of the unqualified regret expressed by him, he be let off with a stern warning on the rising of the House today."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House resolves that the person calling himself N. Devasahayam, son of Shri Solomon, who threw some papers at about 1200 noon today on the floor of the House and shouted from the Visitors' Gallery and whom the Watch and Ward Officer took into custody immediately, has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of this House.

This House further resolves that in view of the unqualified regret expressed by him, he be let off with a stern warning on the rising of the House today."

The motion was adopted

**DISCUSSION RE : NEW TEXTILE
POLICY—Contd.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT):
Since there are a large number of members to speak on this national textile policy, I would suggest that after sitting upto 6.45 p.m. we can carry forward this discussion tomorrow so that some more members can be accommodated. So, with the consent of the members present in the House, we have

extended the time of the House upto 6.45 p.m.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So, the House will sit upto 6.45 p.m. to enable more members to speak on this subject. In view of the time factor, I request every member not to take more time.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Workers in Bombay and Ahmedabad are waiting for the last 7-8 months for something to come up. Due to strike in Bombay, many mills are closed in Ahmedabad. An assurance was given by the Prime Minister at a public meeting — because a lot of workers attended it—that we were going to find out something in which the interest of all the people including the workers will be protected. We went on telling the workers to wait. I think in the last President's Address, in the last six months, we are waiting herein the Parliament House and hoping that some thing will come out which will definitely protect the interest of the workmen because it is a large number; it is not only the textile workers in cities, as rightly said, about 12 lakhs, but it is next to agricultural industry, about one crore and 20 lakh workers are involved in power-loom sector.

I got a suggestion made by the Mill Owners Association and the Cotton Mills Federation. Your policy papers are old but they are put in a very nice place. So, the mills are sick. (*Interruptions*) But they are worth reading ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :
And yours also.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : They have suggested that they should be given full diversification from cotton to man made fibre synthetic. Then full technology; import of machinery. They have made a representation to the government on the rationalisation of the workmen since workers are more, they can be removed. Then they say the power-loom industry is also coming in their way. So, there should be equal taxes for both. I think, whatever demands they have made or suggestions made to the government, I am afraid, this is not the policy of the

government of this country, but this is the textile policy of the Mill Owners' Association which the government is adopting. It is really shocking and surprising that I have to mention it. (*Interruptions*) Shri Kanti Kumar, Manohar Lal Shah, all these people have welcomed it, and they have very rightly said that the industry has gone sick; in ten years, 100 mills have gone sick and the government have taken them. (*Interruptions*) They say, the mill owners say and the government is accepting it. What I am telling is the same thing. The policy which the government is just recommending is really shocking.

18.00 hrs.

As far as the textile industry is concerned, Sir, this Government has no respect for the individuals of working class people. About one crore and two lakh workers are involved. The Government do not feel like paying even a single paisa to the workers. The Minimum Wage Act and the Factory Act which were started in the British times are not properly implemented. Even though they have been started 50-60 years ago, that type of protection is not given to the poor working classes or backward class workers in the handloom industry. You are not even prepared to give any assurance to protect the workers.

There is another point which I would like to elaborate. I have got all the records about Bombay's companies and factories. There are 13 mills which have been nationalised. Out of 43,000 workers about 23,000 workers are still out of job. Even in the mills nationalised earlier, about 10,000 workers are not taken to work. Out of one lakh and nine thousand workers about 20,000 workers are not taken back. Three mills, Mukhesh Mills, Sitaram and Bradbury Mills are permanently closed. They are now constructing an industrial estate in the place where Sitaram mills were. Of course, we must have that flexibility also. But the mill-owners in the cities are running the mills. But I honestly submit that in Bombay even now about 70,000 workers are out of job. I have no time to go into details.

In Ahmedabad 50,000 workers are out of job. One union which is there, the INTUC, is not able to bring them round. In Maharashtra also some unions are forcing the

[Dr. Datta Samant]

workers to join them even though even one per cent of the workers do not belong to them. Even at present 30 mills in Gujarat are closed and the Chief Minister is asking you to take over these mills through the NTC. I do not know the details, but it has come in the Press that about Rs. 150 crores are going to be spent to take over those mills. Such things are happening. I am happy that even the Congress members have agreed with this.

In Kohinoor mills a profit of Rs. 76 crores was made, out of which Rs. 20 crores was given for Maruti cars, and a loan also was taken from the Central Bank. With the result, the liability is Rs. 50 crores. Because of all this 20,000 workers are out. What are you going to do them? Mukhesh mills have already been closed. I have raised this matter earlier also. Three or four employers, Sitaram mills, Bradbury mills and others have collected the money towards the provident fund but they have not deposited the same. Half of the area of Sitaram mills is being used for constructing an industrial estate. The mill owners are exploiting the average workers. They are deceiving the workers and also deceiving the Government.

I would like to know from the Government how much money has been spent during the last 20 years on nationalisation. The millowners in Bombay do not pay the taxes properly. How much income-tax have they paid? They are not paying even a single paisa to the Government by way of taxes. It is a national loss. And at the same time they are depriving the workers of their rights. This is the condition in about one hundred factories in Bombay.

The last point which I want to mention is about the fraud that these people play upon the Government. I ask the Government, why are you protecting them? On the contrary you should expose their frauds. You are encouraging these people. You are now allowing them to shift from textile to man-made fibre. You are allowing them to close the factories. You are allowing them to remove the workers. Here in the policy the Government should have been good enough to accept the fraudulent attitude of the mill owners. They have not said a single

sentence. They are keeping the old machinery on the plea that funds are not there. Government should not allow them to go away with these fraudulent practices. Even some Congress members have mentioned the fraudulent activities of the mill owners, who are deceiving not only the workers but are also wasting the public money. If such things are continuing, you are expecting that the mill owners are going to run the mills properly. How are you going to allow such things in future? I am afraid that as far as the workers are concerned at present one lakh fifty thousand workers in the textile mills are out. The Government has published a report. All that they have shown in the report is that in 1984 there were only 11 lakh workers who were out of job. In 1985 they have shown 9 lakhs. 2 lakh workers have gone. In Delhi 15,000 workers are out in DCM, in Birla Mills 5,000 workers are out, in Modi Mills 10,000 workers are out and in Kanpur many thousand workers are out. I am asking the minister as to what provisions you have made in your policy for the workers. Provision of not a single paisa has been made either by the Government or the mill-owners. But they are talking sweetly to show that the Government is for the labour.

Four times you have mentioned about compensation and rehabilitation. But no money has been provided so far for that. The workers have been dying for the last three years. This money for compensation and rehabilitation will be collected as a levy when all these mills start running after all these modernisation, changing of process, etc. This is just feeling the textile workers of the country who are dying literally not because of their weakness but because of the fault of the management.

Then you say that you will give one month salary to the workers. Is this the amount the Government is proposing for compensation and rehabilitation? I think, it is surprising. That shows that the Government has not the slightest respect for the working class of this country. There is no application of Minimum Wages Act, Factories Act, etc. You are not accepting any principle for the workers who are dying. Whatever the mill-owners are suggesting, you are encouraging them with all types of such things.

The total loss in NTC mills is Rs. 619 crores by March, 1985. And you have spent

Rs. 300 crores for modernisation in these mills. How are the NTC mills running? Who is responsible for that? In the name of modernisation it is a fraud. In 99 per cent of the cases the sickness is man-made. After they ruin the industry, you take it over. Now you say that henceforth you will not take over any mills. What about the workers? And you have said that if somebody is going to make the mill sick, he will be thrown out. During the Budget debate also, such a speech was made. Have you thrown away any single mill-owners? If such things are going on, the workers are going to suffer and I do not think, you will do justice to the people.

In this policy you are saying that handloom will be given a lot of importance, cooperatives will be formed, etc. The cloth which is produced by NTC is going to the handlooms. The NTC is losing eight annas per meter. I feel the handloom with such a slow and old technology, will be going into loss. Again you are going to encourage man-made fibre. If that will be a little cheaper, I do not think the handloom is going to be sick. As has rightly been said by many Hon. Members of this House, you are going to encourage powerlooms. But if same duties are there, I do not think it will be fair. There is always a difference in excise duty and other levies leviable on the big mills and the small industry. I do not say that you leave the powerlooms free, but have some difference in the duties; otherwise the big houses will exploit them. They are saying that they are going to produce cheap cloth for the public and the fine cloth for export. I think they are neglecting interests of the workers and whatever they have done, you are not going to consider anything. If that is the thing, are you sure that after giving all the concessions to these millowners who have done the fraud, they are going to behave properly? If the things are proved, if the State Governments have agreed, why not to prosecute them, why not to initiate criminal proceedings against the millowners for their fraudulent attitude? These are the economic frauds. Even the provident fund of the workers has not been paid. You are again believing these big houses—Mafatlal, Reliance and other big millowners. The same type of economy you are going to follow again. What happened in the case of cement? You have given three licences. Your production

has gone up from 30 million tonnes to 33 million tonnes but the prices of cement have been rising. Therefore, I am afraid the whole policy which the Government has put up here, is the mill-owners' policy, encouraging all these black-marketeers and fraudulent people, and it is demaging to the working class which is already suffering in this country. The purpose of this policy will not be served. Therefore, I request the Government to give are thinking to the policy. I know they are not going to bother about our criticism because of their majority, but I will request the Hon. Minister to have the respective committees and see that the interests of these people are protected.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : You have already assured me of your full cooperation in implementing this policy.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Not in this way. If the workers are dying, how can I support you? You give them something.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : We will devise the way.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Sir, he has violated the officials Secret Act.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : I would plead guilty to Mr. Datta Samant.

[*Translation*]

***SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the textile sector plays a vital role in the economy of the nation. It has greater responsibility in establishing and in strengthening the economy. This is a very old sector in which lakhs and lakhs of people are earning their livelihood. The Government is changing the policy textiles now and then sometimes to cater to the palato of workers and other times to please the big-wigs of textile industry. It has occasionally helped the handloom weavers, besides the mill owners and many others. Now, the new textile policy has been announced on 6th June, 1985.

Several Hon. Members have ventilated their views elaborately and therefore I do

***The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.**

[Shrimati Basva Rajeswari]

not want to go into greater details. I want to highlight the problems faced by cotton and silk growers in my State of Karnataka.

The change in the textile policy has hit hard the cotton growers. About the hurdles being faced by powerloom and handloom sectors we are receiving representations from various quarters of the country. All these days there was some compulsion to use certain percentage of raw cotton in the mills and powerlooms. But now there is no such restriction. This is a severe blow to the farmer who produces cotton. Now for example we see that synthetic cloth is dominating in our country. It is being smuggled into our country to a large extent to put an end to it. Government has revised the policy and mills have been permitted to use any material they like as per the new policy of the Government. Cotton is the second important cash crop after sugarcane in our country. To safeguard the interests of the cotton grower, the textile policy should be changed immediately.

There was a time when the mills and handlooms were using maximum quantity of cotton. But suddenly there is great change and the demand for raw cotton has declined considerably. This factor is really breaking the backbone of cotton to growers, as they cannot switch over to grow some other crop. Therefore, I urge upon the Hon. Minister to look into the matter seriously.

Secondly, I would like to concentrate on sericulture. My State is the home of silk industry. It produces larger quantity of silk. In Karnataka one more than 25 lakhs of people are engaged in this agro based industry. The Government through the Central Silk Board and with the financial assistance of World Bank has expanded this industry enormously. But this proclivity of the Government to import silk has proved to be the bane of silk industry. The Government says that they are importing raw silk since sufficient quantity of silk is not available here. I do not approve of this argument. I feel that the Centre should formulate the import policy of silk only in consultation with the silk-producing States.

Silk centres should be opened in different parts of the country. In Banaras the condition of the weavers is really deplorable.

The Central Silk Board should open silk centres in Banaras. The Government should also ensure prompt supply of raw silk to such Centres. This would enable the weavers to overcome the problems and to make progress.

Thirdly, the Hon. Minister in his statement has mentioned about ginning and processing. The farmers in my constituency are facing frightening problems in this regard. In Bellary and Raichur of Karnataka where long staple and extra long staple cotton are grown, there is a great demand for ginning and processing facilities. This is a genuine demand of the farmers and the Government should do the needful. Otherwise the cotton that is produced would remain unutilised for several months. In summer it is susceptible to fire and there would be heavy loss to farmers.

Karnataka Cotton Corporation has fixed the price for the purchase of cotton. Its support price is Rs. 600 per quintal. The Cotton Corporation of India should come forward to purchase cotton from these farmers. Today we find lakhs and lakhs of quintals of cotton stagnating. The farmers do not know what to do. No body is interested in buying it. In this regard I had requested our Hon. Minister to buy cotton. He tried his best for the purchase of cotton. But unfortunately this is a perennial problem. Every year the farmer is facing this difficulty. If the cotton is less than 80 counts, then no body buys it. Even the Cotton Corporation of India is not willing to buy. Throughout Raichur and Bellary the purchase of cotton has come to a grinding halt on account of this reason. The District officers have asked the Banks not to advance any loans to farmers. These farmers are in a fix. Neither they are getting fresh loans nor they are in a position to pay back the old loans. Now the sowing season has begun. Some kind of confidence has to be created among the cotton growers. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to procure cotton at reasonable prices.

Many farmers from my State have deposited money in the cooperative sector and are waiting for spinning mills licences. Arrangements have to be made to issue licences to them as early as possible. All other facilities also have to be made available to the farmers. This will facilities the

achievement of the objective of maintaining the dominant position of cotton as the main fibre, and encourage the use of man-made fibres and yarn by different sectors of the industry. Keeping in view domestic and international consumption trends, and for this purpose increase the availability of natural and man-made fibres and yarn.

To avoid huge losses due to fire it is very essential to maintain a fire brigade in the areas where cotton is grown abundantly. I hope the Hon. Minister would look into all the points raised by me and help the farmers who are the backbone of the economy of our country. Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI VISHNU MODI (Ajmer) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the new textile policy and would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister for the same. This important industry had become unstable for the past many years and was becoming sick. This industry has made so much progress in respect of technology, quality and production capacity as no other industry has made. The new textile policy has been announced keeping in view the prevailing situation and it is indeed a wise decision and would rid the industry of so many obstacles which were rendering the mills sick. I would say that it is a bold step. This policy is indicative of the practical and pragmatic view that we have taken of the progress made in the world market and how far we can compete there.

The manner in which the powerlooms and the processing centres have been demarcated and classified is a farsighted step. The main question is whether it would be possible to achieve the main objective of promoting the textile industry and to enable it to compete in the world market. The problem is that our administrative structure is not attuned to it and the persons entrusted with the responsibility of implementing this policy are not professionals. I would like the Hon. Minister to pay special attention to the spirit behind the policy lest it should meet the same fate as our earlier policies had met with, in spite of your pragmatic approach. You were the first person to feel that nationalisation is no solution to the sickness of an industry. It was right to an extent because we were taking over sick mills

and thereby bearing losses and that is why we were not able to complete our schemes. Besides, you will have to pay attention to the NTC also because all the sick mills taken over by the NTC have been incurring losses.

I would draw your attention to the working of the mills under the NTC. Hon. Minister, Sir, in my constituency, the Edward Mill is being run in Beawar by the NTC. When I was not a member of this House, I had been drawing your attention for the past three years to the continuing irregularities in the mill, through the offices of the Youth Congress. When Shri Sangma was the Minister concerned, I wrote to him many times and when you took over from him I have reminded you about this mill, but to no effect. You asked those very people to report, against whom we were complaining. Those very people were asked to conduct an enquiry against whom we had levelled charges. Hon. Minister, Sir, your intentions are good. You have aptly found the remedy that merely taking over the sick mills will not do. Before taking this decision, it must have been seen that due to mismanagement the factories were incurring losses and your decision must have been influenced by this factor because your mills have also been incurring losses. I would like to clarify that even today the condition of many mills is the same. Take for instance the Krishna Mill Beawar. Previously, its condition was good but the mill-owners worsened it to the extent that it had to be closed down. As a result thereof, 2600 to 3000 workers are facing starvation. We tried several times and the State Government also wrote in this connection to provide security to them, but in vain. Even today, if that mill is taken over, I assure you, on behalf of the workers, that it will earn profit. But, there are vested interests in the NTC who get commission and, therefore, they do not want any mill to earn profit. It was probably due to this reason that you decided not to take over any mill henceforth.

We hope that this policy would be implemented in letter and spirit. Doubts and apprehensions have been expressed in the House regarding the handloom and the powerloom sectors. In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to Kishangarh in Ajmer Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan, which is the biggest

[Shri Vishnu Modi]

powerloom centre today. So far as the question of imposition of equal levy and duty on the powerlooms and the handlooms is concerned, I would request you to keep some difference in that duty, otherwise, this industry will also turn sick. With these words, I thank you.

*KUMARI D. K. THARA DEVI (Chik-kamagalur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The Textile industry in our country is agro-based industry. In addition to this, 70 per cent of the basic demand of the textile industry comes from the people living in rural areas. The new textile policy would definitely enable the sick mills to revive. The textile policy has several programmes for the development of composit mills, powerloom and handloom sectors.

We have seen various reactions coming from different parts of the country after the announcement of the new textile policy. Many people have expressed doubts and apprehensions with regard to powerloom and handloom sectors. The production in these two sectors may not improve and therefore the Government has to think seriously about this.

The most important objective of the new textile policy is to increase production of cloth of acceptable quality to meet the clothing requirements of a growing population, at reasonable prices. Government has taken various steps like expansion, modernisation etc. to improve the condition of the sick mills.

As per statistics an individual requires about 13.7 metres of cloth every year. There is sufficient demand for the textile products. But, on the one hand we see crores and crores of people in our country who do not have sufficient cloth to cover body; on the other hand hundreds of mill are becoming sick. A situation has arisen where several of these mills are at the verge of closture. The cloth produced by the mills is lying in the mills. In this way we find two contradictory trends in the country. If the acceptable quality of cloth is produced and is ready for sale at reasonable rates one would feel that the common man would buy it. But unfortunately there is no purchasing capacity among

poor villagers. This kind of situation we see in many other fields also. At present we see several sick units in textile sector. Therefore if the restrictions are removed then these units may function properly and they can come up. This will also help to achieve the first and the most important objective of the new textile policy. But which section is going to benefit? This may protect the interest of a particular group and create a particular type of consumers.

Today the composite mills produce about 30 per sent of the total demand whereas the other 70 per sent of the demand is being produced by powerlooms, handlooms and Khadi industries. The new policy therefore should concentrate more on the development of such sectors which would provide jobs to the maximum number of persons.

We speak of high technology and modernisation in textile industry. But will this help the poor masses? We have achieved laudable objectives in many fields like agriculture, science, industry etc. In spite of this the benefit has not reached the lower strata. Only a particular group is deriving the benefit. Therefore, priority should be given to handloom sector.

But one thing we should not forget that once upon a time our handloom sector cloth was competing with Manchester textile. It is not enough if subsidy is given to handloom sector, on the assumption that it will perish. The objective of the Government should be to provide job opportunities to thousands of hapless unemployed persons.

For the proper development of the handloom sector I would like to offer certain suggestions.

1. Certain good quality of yarn should be exclusively reserved only for hand spinning looms.

2. Marketing facilities are to be provided for the produce of the handloom sector.

3. For various purposes like tourism centres, schools, hospitals etc. The Government should purchase handloom cloth worth of crores of rupees. This tendency should be further accentuated, and both State Governments and Central Government should come forward to purchase only the handloom goods.

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

4. Yarn should be made available to handloom sector at cheaper rates. In addition to this, Sales depots have to be opened for providing yarn.

Finally I would like to point that there is a great demand to handloom products in the international markets. Printed and dyed material of handloom also attracts the foreign consumers. A special fashion and design cell should be opened by the handloom Corporation. This cell should apprise the weavers about the new designs, colours etc. which have great demand in the international market I urge upon the Government to have an indepth look into this matter and do the needful for the handloom sector.

*SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, clothing is one of the basic necessities of man and is next only to food. Our country was known for its handloom industry and its craftsmanship. The weavers could weave a saree that could be easily incerted in a match box and presented it to the British Queen. That very weaving community which is known for its unparalleled skill is starving and leading a miserable life. This rule is responsible for the gradual deterioration of the conditions in the past 35 years. It has virtually done nothing for the weavers and the handloom industry. At a time when our rural sector is on the threshold of a change, it is strange to see that the textile policy now announced is in no way different from the Budget speech of our Finance Minister delivered on 16th March and the textile policy announced on 6th June. They are one and the same. There is no difference at all between them. Sir, all these documents are helpful only to the capitalists and big industrialists. These policy statements are not at all helpful to the down-trodden, weaker sectors, harijans, girijans and handloom workers. The handloom workers who are a part of the rural set up were forced to leave their looms and seek livelihood elsewhere. Nearly 20,000 of such workers have migrated to Bombay in search of their livelihood. They are nearly 30,000 in Calcutta. This is the condition of handloom workers and it speaks volumes about their pitiable condition.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh is known for its cotton production and a large quantity of cotton is produced there. In the policy statement the Hon. Minister has mentioned that the cotton growers will be given remunerative prices for their produce. But what is the actual position? Last year the price of cotton was Rs. 650 per quintal and this year it has fallen to Rs. 450. Perhaps this is what the Government means by remunerative and support prices. Strange are the ways of Government. There is no correlation between what they say and what they do. You must understand one thing. Unless you go to the rescue of our farmers and other people living in rural areas, the situation in our rural set up cannot change. You must not forget the fact that nearly one crore and twenty lakhs of people are indirectly engaged in this industry. The cotton growers must get a remunerative prices which commensurates with the labour and pain they have taken to grow cotton. The agricultural workers must get proper wages. The textile mills and powerlooms must have to be established in the rural areas with the help of handloom cooperative societies. Only then there will be some rejuvenation in our rural economy. Only then Government can think of helping the handloom sector. The Government's policy of helping only the big industrialists who stay in cities and lead luxurious life, cannot, in any way, help the long neglected handloom industry. This policy will not improve rural economy. This policy is not within the reach of poor handloom workers. I want the Government to think over whether such a policy will help these workers in any manner. Sir, now what is happening is, that these big industrialists take loan from the Government worth several crores in the name of establishing new units and then cheat the Government on the one hand, and the people on the other saying that their industries have gone sick. The Government with its over enthusiasm, without any loss of time takes over these sick units ending up with a loss of crores of rupees. That is how this policy is working. Who is to be held responsible for this? Why this Government is helping the capitalists in the country? Why no steps have been taken so far to rescue these poor workers from their miserable conditions? Just now Hon. Dr. Dutta Samant was saying that thousands of textile workers in Bombay who been thrown out of employment are struggling hard for their survival due to closine of

*The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

[Shri M. Raghuma Reddy]

textile mills. They have not been given any alternate employment by their mill owners. I want to know from the Government what it is going to do in this matter. Is there no remedy for all these ills? What action Government proposes to take against such mill owners? I want to know? The Government should come forward, and if necessary to enact a new legislation in Parliament to prevent the exploitation and misdeeds of such mill owners. There should not be any scope even to think of playing with the lives of workers. The exploitation of the faulty mill owners should end once and for all.

Sir, in my State, the N. T. Rama Rao Government have taken up 'Janata Programme' under which 40 lakhs of sarees and 40 lakhs of dhoties will be distributed to the poorer section at half the price. The Central Government is giving a subsidy of Rs. 2. But that is not at all sufficient. States have very limited resources. The States cannot think of taking up programmes which are beneficial to the poor unless the Central Government help them. Every one of us knows that 52 per cent of our population is below the poverty line. What the Government is going to do for them? Sir, this Janata Programme which is being implemented in A. P. to distribute cloth at cheaper rates, must be implemented in every State and throughout the country. Every one needs a piece of cloth irrespective of the place where he or she resides. Cloth is a primary necessity of the man and is next to food. So the Government endeavour to supply cloth at cheaper rates to the poverty stricken people in our rural areas. Hence the Janata programme to distribute cloth at half the price should be extended to every nook and corner of the country. Every help and encouragement should be provided to establish new mills in the rural areas. Handloom workers must get sufficient financial help from the Government in time. Subsidies must be offered to them. If all these steps are taken, the rural economy will rejuvenate our rural areas hum with activity.

Sir, it must be the policy of the Government to establish new mills or powerlooms only in the rural areas. The Government

should take a decision that under no circumstances it will permit these new units to come up within the 50 KM range of a town or a city. I earnestly request the Government and especially the Hon. Minister to adopt this policy and implement it strictly.

Sir, we have more number of spinning mills when compared with other countries, many more are coming up now. But that is not sufficient. With the increase of quantity, there must also be improvement of quality. For improving the quality we need training institutes which can train our workmen in the latest methods. Thus the latest technology must be made available to them by training them properly. The institutes which can impart training in the latest methods must be established in every State. Sir, our State, Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of our beloved N. T. Rama Rao, has shown the way to other States by establishing "Telugu Handloom Industry training Centre" where training is being imparted to the Handloom workers. I hope such training centres will come up in every other State. The latest technology should be made available through these training centres. Also, there is every need to develop a technology through which cloth can be produced cheaply by handlooms. Only then it will help the handloom workers and the industry. So also, the Government should not forget the people who are indirectly involved in this industry, namely farmers and agricultural workers. The interest of these people also have to be safeguarded zealously. The establishment of spinning mills and power looms in rural areas is a must. I hope Hon. Minister will take note of all these points. Sir, I conclude my speech by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.44 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday,
July, 31, 1985/Sravana
9, 1907 (Saka)*