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TENTH LOK SABHA

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 6, 1991/Sravana 15.
1913 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Fleet Renewal by Air India and Indian Airlines

+

*307. SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-
SHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have expressed serious concern over the aged fleet of the Air India and the Indian Air-lines;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal for the fleet renewal programme on a long term basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK): (a) to (c) The fleet requirements of Air India and Indian Airlines are kept under constant review. Both Air India and Indian Airlines have been directed recently to prepare a long term perspective plan for fleet renewal. A decision will be taken after the plan is submitted and considered.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Sir, sometime back, the Minister has expressed his serious concern over the ageing fleet of the Air India and the Indian Airlines. Now in his reply also he has stated that he has directed the Air India and the Indian Airlines to prepare a long term perspective plan for fleet renewal. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what exactly are the necessary steps that are going to be taken by the Air India and the Indian Airlines for the renewal of the ageing fleet.

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: Sir, the plan will be submitted soon and we will take a decision.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: What are the steps...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: The decision is yet to be taken.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: My second supplement is regarding Airbus A-320. I would like to know whether the Government is evaluating the performance of the A-320. It already had a tragic crash in Bangalore and it had a couple of emergency landings at other places due to technical fault. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken to improve the performance and safety of airbus A-320.

MR. SPEAKER: This is unconnected to the main question. If you want to answer, I have no objection.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): This is not relevant to the main question. But I would certainly use this opportunity to put at rest any misconception about the A-320. As far as its performance is concerned, it is known all over the world that this aircraft is the latest in the state of the art technology and there is nothing wrong with the aircraft. The Ramdas Committee went into all the aspects after the tragedy that took place in Bangalore and the Committee had mainly put in down to pilot error. But there are other recommendations regarding infrastructure support that is required. Almost all those items have been implemented. In fact, as far as the aircraft is concerned, there are no major problems in the aircraft. Small snags appear in every type of aircraft and there is nothing to worry about. A-320 is a very safe aircraft and as I have said just now, it represents the latest in the state of the art technology.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the normal lifespan of an aircraft at the international level, when compared to our standards. Also, how is the age of an aircraft determined? Is it in terms of years or in terms of its total flying hours?

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: Sir, we have a mixed fleet. The international standard varies from country to country. As far as we are concerned, we are keeping it from 15 to 20 years. We want to keep it within 15 years. That is our target.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKAR SINGH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the period for which the air-buses were grounded and the loss

incurred by the Government as a result thereof. What is the present position and the number of airbuses lying idle and the reasons thereof; whether it is because of dearth of pilots or the trained pilots. For how long A-320 Airbuses were grounded till today, and the total loss suffered because of the same and the reasons for keeping these airbuses idle. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, again I don't think this is really related to the main question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about the planning of the capacity utilisation.

SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA: Sir, it relates to the aged fleet of the Air India.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I can very much answer this question now when we are throwing the whole subject open. I agreed to answer the supplementary put by the hon. Member just now, though it was not related to the main question. In this way if I start answering every supplementary...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK: When you can answer the supplementary put by the other hon. Member, why cannot you answer this one?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: As this question is not related, I don't have the notes ready to support me. I stand to be corrected. But I think A-320 was grounded between the period of 8 to 10 months. After examination they were put into operation first on the evacuation of the Gulf and later they were brought into service sometimes in November or December. The Hon. Minister of Power informed me that it was in November. As he has a store of information, I would like to rely on what he is saying. The fact of the matter is that we have 18 A-320. Normally, on an average two are al-

ways in maintenance by rotation. The rest of 16 are in flying condition but at no given time more than 12 are in the air because one of the recommendations of the Ramdas Committee was that our pilots should be even more vigorously trained to be able to handle the latest technology that the cockpit has got. We do not in any way want to compromise with the safety of the passengers. So, until we are certain that the pilot is fully trained, we will not put him in command or we will not put him in the cockpit of A-320. So far we have enough crew to handle 12 A-320. Intensive training is going on and by December we should have enough crew to man the entire fleet of 16 which will be in the air at one given time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know whether it is a fact that three out of 11 Air bus 300 have been lying idle for the last several months at Bombay Airport because the Indian Airlines engineers are demanding parity in wages with the Air India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about aging of aircrafts and augmentation of the fleet capacity.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, my question relates to capacity utilisation as three aircrafts are lying idle for several months. I would like to know whether the Government will take up this matter with the Indian Airlines Engineer.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, the question refers to the fleet renewal.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you don't have to explain.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: My supplementary relates to capacity utilisation also.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point. The ambit of the ques-

tion should not be so wide that you don't get pointed reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he is ready to reply. I have said that three aircrafts are lying idle.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, as this is not a matter of age but of wage, I would require a separate notice.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, during the past Congress Government, headed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi there used to be a flight from Delhi via Bhubaneswar to Port Blair. But subsequently this was withdrawn. Then, again permission was given to private aircraft to fly to Port Blair.

MR. SPEAKER: This does not pertain to this question. You are a very good friend of the Civil Aviation Minister. You can talk to him privately.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is due to the ageing of the aircraft, the aircraft were grounded. When is he going to restore the air services? This is my pointed question.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very simple question.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sorry.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I have asked a pointed question. I wanted to know whether it is due to ageing of the aircraft that they are grounded. It comes within the ambit of this question.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants a separate notice.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: It is nothing to do with the ageing of the aircraft.

SHRI RAM NAIK: There is a particular age for every aircraft. It depends upon the company which is producing or manufacturing it. I want to know how many aircrafts are in use at present which are overaged? I want to know the number and why are they being used?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There is no particular specification as far as my knowledge goes, laid down for the use of an aircraft, the ageing of an aircraft...

SHRI RAM NAIK: It should be there.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Because throughout its life, every single part of an aircraft is under constant renewal. But every Airlines, normally, ensure that maintenance costs are kept down and the useability goes up. Because with age, naturally, all of us tend to wear a little quicker. Therefore, it is not that the aircraft was unsafe to fly beyond 15 years or 20 years. The hon. Member will be surprised to know that a quarter of the total fleet in the world is above the age of 20 years. So, it is not that it cannot fly, it can fly but the commercial viability becomes very low.

SHRI RAM NAIK: That is what we want.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am just marshalling the facts. Therefore, the commercial viability does certainly go down because the maintenance effort required is all that much greater.

Moreover, our Indian Airlines' fleet is fairly now young in age. Because we have eighteen A320s which are almost new and we have 12 which will be coming in I think some time in early, 1995. It will bring down the average age considerably. Apart from that, we are also going into a long term perspective plan so that a

uniform policy is laid down over the future 20 years in order to see that there is no ad hoc and arbitrary decision taken. Of course, the decisions will have to be changed depending on the market conditions and technology changes. But generally, we will try and follow that and bring the average age of an aircraft down. But none of our aircraft are unsafe. That is what the Member is meaning and no particular age is laid down...

SHRI RAM NAIK: What about the economic viability?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Naturally, the economic viability goes down. Why do we want to keep the aircraft? Not just because they are good looking and that they are young. It is because, the commercial viability goes down.

So, we have 4 Boeing 737s which, we are going to retire. In fact we have already advertised for sale. I think most of them are over 20 years old. We are considering also, further phasing out of another eight which are ranging between 15 years and 19 years so that we can bring that age down. So, about 12 aircraft will be phased out very soon of which 4 Boeings have already been advertised. These are Boeing 737s.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: Mr. Speaker. Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, Tirupati Balaji is one of the most scared places. Earlier, a 48 seater aeroplane Avro used to ply there, which is now replaced by a 18 seater Vayudoori aeroplane and because of the lower capacity the passengers are facing great difficulty. I would like to know from the Minister through you whether there is any proposal under consideration to resume operation of 48 seater Avro Aeroplane.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Disallowed.
(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the places where Vayudoot services have been introduced...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Disallowed.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: In view of the ageing of the aircrafts and in view of resource constraint, will the Minister think of withdrawing some of the domestic flights which are not essential so that both of us can be saved?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: These schedules and flight destinations are matters which are under constant review.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Apart from the economic viability of the old aircrafts, there is a factor which is known as metal fatigue of the aircraft. Is the hon. Minister aware of that aspect and has that aspect also been taken into consideration?

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: All the aspects have been taken into consideration.

[*Translation*]

Mailani-Shahjahanpur Railway Line

*308. DR. P. R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a railway line was in operation between Mailani-Shahjahanpur long back;

(b) whether it was promised recently to operate the said line; and

(c) if so, when this line is likely to be restored?

[*English*]

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

DR. P. R. GANGWAR: A railway line was in operation between Mailani and Shahjahanpur which has been abandoned now. May I know whether that area is not inhabited by human beings? The entire population of that area is worried because that railway line has been removed. When this line is likely to be restored and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Actually, this line had been abandoned before Independence. Now, at the moment, the land is with the State Government; and in that land the construction of National Highway No. 29 is going on.

[*Translation*]

DR. P. R. GANGWAR: I mean to say that this abandoned line may kindly be restored so that the common men may get some relief. May I know by when this line is likely to be restored?

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: There is no question of constructing any line. However, for the facility of the passengers, there is a service from Mailani to Pilibhit and from Pilibhit to Shahjahanpur.

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

Damage to Railway property

+

*309. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL
KATHERIA:

SHRI B. L. SHARMA
'PREM':

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been unprecedented increase in the number of train accidents and the cases of damage to railway property by terrorists during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent of damage done to railway property so far in both circumstances during the last two years and the current year (till date); and

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

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) While there has been no increase in the number of train accidents during last few years, there is an increase in terrorists' activities.

(b) The extent of damage to Railway property due to terrorists' activities and accidents is nearly Rs. 64 crores.

(c) Security arrangements have been tightened in co-operation with the State Governments.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether

there has been unprecedented increase in the number of train accidents and cases of damage to railway property by terrorists during the last few years? If so, the reasons therefor and the extent of damage caused to railway property during the last two years as a result of accidents and terrorist activities and the current year; and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Because of the terrorist activities mainly in Punjab, Assam and Andhra Pradesh—as the hon. Member desires to know about it year-wise—this has been mostly taken in Northern Railway, North-East Frontier Railway and South-Central Railway. In Northern Railway, in 1989-90, there were 29 cases; in 1990-91, there were 54 cases; and upto July 1991, there were 14 cases. The total number of cases is 97. And the property lost is to the tune of Rs. 28,70,158.

On the South Central Railway in 1989-90 there were four cases, in 1990-91 there were 23 cases and in 1991 up to July there were six cases, totalling 33 cases. The extent of damage was to the tune of Rs. 1,56,82,482.

On the Northeast Frontier Railway in 1989-90 there were 21 cases, in 1990-91 there were 12 cases and in 1991 up to July there was only one case, totalling 34 cases. The extent of damage was to the tune of Rs. 79,82,000.

On the Western Railway there were two cases in 1989-90, in 1990-91 there was only one case and in 1991 up to July there was no case, totalling three cases. The extent of damage was to the tune of Rs. 50,000.

The total amount of all these cases is Rs. 2,65,84,940, that is, almost Rs. 2.66 crores. These things have been happening particularly because of sabotage activity, bomb blasts and firing on trains. In this connection I would

like to say that the property lost so far as the Railways are concerned in 1989-90 was Rs. 12.86 crores in respect of rolling stock and Rs. 6.18 crores for Permanent Way; and in 1990-91 the loss of rolling stock was to the tune of Rs. 35.58 crores and that of Permanent Way was to the tune of Rs. 7.11 crores. It totals Rs. 64 crores.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is saying that no accident took place during the last few years but it appears from the answer that there have been 134 train accidents during three months in which 41 people lost their lives. If it is a fact, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: The accidents have taken place. That is a fact of reality. But as such, the rate of accidents is coming down compared to the previous years. The real reasons for such things are, human failure which accounts for 65 per cent, 10 per cent due to road users and 25 per cent due to failure of equipment.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether it is a fact that 70 per cent accidents have taken place due to the negligence of Railway employees and only 3 per cent because of sabotage?

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: That is what I have mentioned, that about 65 per cent is due to human failure.

SHRI RAM-KAPSE: While replying to the supplementary the Hon. Minister has given the figures of accidents and deaths. Actually, I would like to know how many accidents occurred and how many of them were due to terrorist activity. Separately, I would like to know the number of

cases in which the accidents occurred due to other failures and the number due to terrorist activity. I want the bifurcated figures.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: So far as the terrorist activity is concerned, on the Northern Railway, during 1989-90 there were 18 accidents on track, one at station, and five in trains, and altogether 91 people were injured and 20 were killed.

In 1990-91 there were 28 accidents on track, two at station, and one in train resulting in the death of six people and injuries to 93.

In 1991-92 up to July, there were 15 accidents on track, one at station and there was no accident in train. Three people were killed and 19 were injured.

Due to derailment there was one case in 1989-90, there were four cases in 1990-91 and two in 1991-92, up to July.

Due to firing on trains there was no case in 1989-90, there were sixteen in 1990-91 and three in 1991-92, up to July. These resulted in five deaths and 31 injured in 1990-91 and 75 deaths and 44 injured in 1991-92 up to July.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: What is the number of deaths due to accidents and the number due to terrorist activity, separately?

[*Translation*]

SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, rail accidents in 1988-89 have.....

SHRI RAM KAPSE: He has stated it in the reply.

SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM: led to a loss of Rs. 551.1 lakh whereas the loss suffered in 1989-90 has increased to Rs. 1285.7 lakh. Nearly 65%

of these accidents occurred due to negligence on the part of the railway staff. I want to know, through you, as to what action the Government has taken against those responsible for the accidents. Apart from this, 20% of the accidents have occurred due to failure of equipment. What steps have been taken by the Government to replace the faulty equipments?

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, so far as the human failure of the railwaymen is concerned, necessary instructions have been issued that the railwaymen should be very cautious. And they have been subjected even to medical tests, periodical checks and so on and so forth. Sometimes the drivers are also subjected to periodical checks.

So far as the equipment failure is concerned, the concerned mechanical, electrical and all these divisions have been given firm directive that should be cautious and use the standard materials and not the substandard materials for want of funds even for signals and telecommunications.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NATAM: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what special safety measures the Ministry has taken in the states of Punjab and Assam in view of the terrorist activities there?

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, we have taken the following steps:—

1. Vulnerable railway stations, vital installations and important bridges are being provided protection.
2. All important trains are being escorted in affected areas.
3. Track patrolling is being undertaken in identified vulnerable sections.

4. Patrol specials have been provided before important Mail/Express trains for piloting in Punjab and other affected areas.
5. Sniffer dogs have been deputed in certain places in order to detect explosive materials in the trains.
6. Travelling public is being alerted through public address system to be careful about suspicious articles/unclaimed luggage.
7. Random checking of passengers' luggage at important stations have been introduced.
8. Ticket checking staff have been instructed to prevent entry of unauthorised persons in coaches.
9. Control rooms have been opened for better coordination and taking immediate steps in affected areas.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is too long you can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: This matter concerns everyone, Sir. That is why, I have been giving all these details.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister just told us....

SHRI KESRI LAL: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister....

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you to speak. This will not go on record.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: ... that the Railways have suffered damages to the tune of Rs. 1266 lakh on account of terrorist activity and nearly 250 accidents took place.

st Just 15 days back a train from Barcelona kept running without driver up to 140 kilometres. Other incidents like failure of Locomotive and robbery occur frequently on the North Eastern and Northern Railway. What steps are being taken by the Government in this regard and how much loss (in crores of rupees) has been suffered by the Railways?

MR. SPEAKER : This is human failure. He has already answered that.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, because of increase in Naxalite activities, several times, they are damaging the properties of the Railways. Sometimes it so happens that passengers are also suffering and a large number of people died in a fire accident, caused by the Naxalites. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of similar such incidents taking place in other parts and recently near Bheemavaram, where an incident had taken place in which one first class passenger died. Will the Minister take suitable steps to compensate such victims who are travelling in the Railway trains? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot make a speech Shri Rao, during the question hour. There are others who want to ask questions.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : We do have a scheme that if any passenger dies during an accident or in any similar such manner, compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs is paid for the dead by the Claims Settlement Tribunal.

Late Running of Mail Trains

*310. DR. SUDHIR RAY : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Express, Mail and Superfast trains often run late, throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures contemplated by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Maintaining punctuality of trains is an ongoing continuous effort.

DR. SUDHIR RAY: The Minister has made an evasive statement because for the last six months, almost all the superfast Express trains are running and arriving six or seven hours late, everyday. In fact, they have doubled the Rail fare. These Express trains do not run even at the speed of 50 Kms per hour, but the Government is raising the surcharge on the passengers. I would like to know from the Minister what steps he is taking so that the trains run punctually?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered that question.

DR. SUDHIR RAY: No Sir, he has not answered and he has to reply to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Apart from your taking regular steps, are there any extra steps being taken to see that the trains run on time?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, the punctuality depends on various factors. The hon. Member has said that the punctuality is suffering. From first of July, we have started monitoring the punctuality of the trains. Now the punctuality has improved. But, we are not satisfied with this improvement. We want much more improvement on the punctuality and this is the position.

DR. SUDHIR RAY: Sir, because the trains run late sometimes over five to six hours, everyday, long distance passengers, particularly the second class passengers face difficulties. I would like to know from the Minister what steps he is taking about the insanitary conditions in the toilets... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing this.

SHRI ANANDGAJAPATI RAJU POOSAPATI: I am a regular Railway traveller and one day, the train went late and it had arrived early in the next morning. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether they will give any compensation for taking the train late, because, the passengers are losing money with regard to time and other factors. What is the compensation? Atleast you can refund the ticket, in case, they take the train beyond a particular time.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very revolutionary demand. If the Minister wants to reply, he can reply to it.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : At the moment, we do not have any such proposal for refunding it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you Sir, whether it is a fact that for callous and negligence attitude on the part of Railway staff, most of the trains run late. I would like to know whether any responsibility has been fixed on late running of the trains on any of the officials and what action has been taken against them? During the last one or two or three or six months, has any attempt been made in this regard, if not, what is the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): I do appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members since all of us travel by trains. But for the information of the House I would like to give comparative figures of June and July 1991 of long distance trains in the matter of punctuality.

	<i>June 1991</i>	<i>July 1991</i>
2621 Tamil Nadu Express	56 per cent	80 per cent
2622 Tamil Nadu Express	23 per cent	77 per cent
2723 A.P. Express	36 per cent	67 per cent
2724 A.P. Express	40 per cent	71 per cent
2625 Kerala Mangla Exp.	10 per cent	74 per cent
2626 Kerala Mangla Expr.	36 per cent	93 per cent
2627 Karnataka Express	46 per cent	100 per cent
2628 Karnataka Express	53 per cent	87 per cent
2391 Maghadh Express	zero per cent	45 per cent
2392 Magadh Express	10 per cent	80 per cent

I can go on reading out the figures like this. From this, I hope, the Members will appreciate that there is a marked improvement in the punctuality of the trains. In all the railways we have nominated senior officers not only to monitor the trains but also to look after the railway stations. For any failure in this regard, the specified designated officers will be responsible hereafter.

[*Translation*]

Modernisation of Railway Units in Ajmer City

*312. **PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various railway units in Ajmer city and the arrangements made for their maintenance and safety;

(b) the amount spent on modernisation of loco shed and carriage factories in Ajmer during the last three years and the modifications carried out accordingly;

(c) the nature of the works being performed at present in those units; and

(d) the number of workers and officers working there at present and the details of their profit and loss during the last three years?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Seven—consisting of Workshop and attached units. Maintenance of assets and safety of workers is by respective Railway departments i.e. Civil, Electrical, Mechanical etc.

(b) In the last three years Rs. 19.11 crores have been spent in expansion and improvements to Diesel Loco, Carriage and Wagon POH and support facilities.

(c) Overhaul of steam and diesel locomotives, coaches, wagons; repairs and manufacture of sub assemblies and components and other supporting activities required for Railway workshop operations.

(d) 10534 workers and 35 officers. The above Railway units function as service departments and there is no system of their separate profit & loss accountal.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, previously Ajmer was a very important station from the point of view of the Railways. Its Locoshed and Carriage factories were next in importance to Bombay only on the Western Railway. But this station has been neglected for the past some years. Previously the number of workers employed in the Locoshed and Carriage factories was high but it continues to come down now. Presently only 10,534

workers and 35 officials are left there. Will the hon. Minister tell me why this has happened?...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot make a speech. Ask your question.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, my question is what are the reasons for the continuous disregard of Ajmer city by the Railways which is leading to constant decline in the Locoshed and Carriage Factories situated there?

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, whatever personnel are required that have been employed. There is no shortage of the workers, as hon. Member has expressed.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was stated that Rs. 19.11 crore have been spent. I want to know how much funds have been allocated this year and for the next two years for the expansion of Loco and Carriage facilities and in what way these facilities would be expanded?

MR. SPEAKER: The amount of funds allocated this year can be seen in this year's Budget. He cannot say anything now about the amount of funds to be allocated next year.

[English]

I am disallowing it.

Development of Oil Fields

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*314. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI LOKANATH CHAUDHURY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Information on petro-

leum wells suppressed by ONGC" appearing in The Statesman dated July 12, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof and the reasons for suppressing the information with the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the action taken against the persons involved; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to develop these fields and the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b) There has been no suppression of information by ONGC. The news report is speculative and not based on facts.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Kathana-Kalamsar area is already under oil production producing about 100 tonnes per day.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, is the Minister aware about the exploration of oil in West Bengal? There was a meeting between Shri Praddep Dasgupta, the Dean of Geology, Calcutta University and ONGC and it was promised that exploration of oil by ONGC will start again. May I know what is the situation prevailing now?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, I have already answered in the main question that the prognosticated research which Shri K. C. Roychoudhary has claimed through newspaper reports and statements are highly speculative and figment of imagination. As far as West Bengal is concerned, we have already drilled 40 wells...*(Interruptions)* Three are under drilling Golf Green-one, Rajganj-one and Ichapur-one. There has not been any clear finding of commercially exploitable hydro carbon research. The drilling in West Bengal is continuing.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: My second question is whether the Minister is aware of it that in West Bengal one has to go deep down because of peculiarity of the oil formation rocks under the sea. It is like Saudi Arabia. Therefore, finance needed is a little more. This is where you are failing. Shri Satya Prakash Malviya is not here. He gave me a word that this will be taken up. I would like to know whether the present Government will continue that and go deep down, and supply of financial resources can be augmented by us.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that the ONGC has taken all the parameters in consideration, in maximising results in the West Bengal explorations. Even then experts have recently suggested that the drilling be stopped in a particular well, the ONGC itself has taken the decision to drill the well deeper. But the prognosticated resources as indicated in the main question are widely exaggerated. Within the technical parameters under which the ONGC functions, it shall be our effort to see that all prognosticated resources in West Bengal are fully exploited. We have already dug forty wells, as I said, and we have already spent in West Bengal around Rs. 594 crores for exploration, even though we have not been able to commercially exploit any oil or gas in the region.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, in the same news item, it is said that drilling was done in 24 Parganas and that well was destroyed and no inspection according to the standards had taken place. I want to know whether this fact is correct or incorrect, and also whether the Minister has looked into it. In the news item itself, he has said that two wells were drilled which were destroyed and no inspection was made. I want to know what is the fact. Part (b) of my question is that if at all in that area the geology study indicates that there is enough of oil, then what is the difficulty to go beyond the parameters and find out and drill oil which is so

scarce in the country today, as the news reveals?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, as regards the hon. Member's supplementary part (a) his information is incorrect. All necessary technical inspections have been conducted in this particular case. As regards the second matter, the hon. Member is basing his query on the newspaper report. This particular gentleman Shri Roychoudhary, who is a retired Superintending Geologist of the ONGC, has been talking to the Press and according to technical experts and what according to practical realities as found during explorations, is hypothesis on figments of imagination he is airing them through the Press. Prognosticated resources in West Bengal, for instance in this particular belt which he claims, is more than the prognosticated resources which have been identified in the whole of India. Similarly, he is making claims with respect to Gujarat in a particular well which is more than what is in the whole of that basin. So, his statement is highly exaggerated...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: How does he know that? This is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Well, I will answer this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair and you will avoid that difficulty.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: We are also addressing you, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you a supplementary.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, the ONGC as well as the Ministry of Petroleum have gone deeply into whatever claims have been made by this Mr. Roychoudhary. We have got detailed reports of all the exploratory

activities with all the technical data. We have got the opinion of the Soviet experts, we have got the opinion of several technical committees which have gone into this whole question. I have got sound technical opinions in this file which show that the claims made by Shri Roychoudhary are exaggerated. I have all the records with me.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am not speaking about any particular claim regarding K. C. Roychoudhary or Pradeep Dasgupta or for that matter any other geologist of great eminence of our country, I am speaking about the reports coming out since early 50's. Experts have declared that West Bengal is floating on oil. Even very recently a seminar was held at Calcutta which was attended by the then Minister of Petroleum Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy. In the presence of the hon. Minister and the Chief Minister of West Bengal and all other dignitaries all the scientists present there said that there is a crude reserve in West Bengal and Gujarat. I am mentioning the preliminary estimates according to which the oil reserve is around 28.5 billion tons which means that 2,850 crore tons of reserve. That much of reserves can make India an oil-exporting country instead of an oil-importing country. May I know from the hon. Minister that in view of all these claims made by all these great and eminent geologists of the country, whether he is prepared to submit a White Paper in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will address the Chair.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: I do not want to disappoint the hon. Member. Nor do I want to be disappointed nor does the Ministry want to be disappointed. I have already said that drilling is continuing in West Bengal. *(Interruptions)* The capacity of 28.5 billion tons of exploitable reserve. The figure mentioned by the hon. Member is the same figure given by Shri K. C. Ray Chaudhury in 'STATESMAN'. I have

already said that it is more than the total prognosticated reserves in all basins of the country. (*Interruptions*) We are giving special attention to West Bengal and we shall spare no efforts to see that if there is any oil in West Bengal it will be exploited by the ONGC. West Bengal will get very high priority. That is one of the States where drilling has been continued in spite of the fact that no commercial oil has been found so far. But the drilling is continuing in full strength. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: It seems to me that the hon. Minister, the Ministry of Petroleum and the ONGC are all very much allergic to the very name of Shri Ray Chaudhury. How can the hon. Minister dismiss that all the claims of Shri Ray Chaudhury are highly speculative? How can you claim that the quantum that he has mentioned is highly excessive and that is why you should dismiss it? It seems to me that there is a certain vested interest that seems to ensure that India remains in perpetual deficiency. You are drilling elsewhere than the specified areas mentioned by Shri Ray Chaudhury. Why it is so? This is a very important question. In view of the petroleum crisis and the excessive payments we are making for the import of oil, I think that if such kinds of claims are made, it is the duty of the House to see whether there is any truth in it and go deep in it and the claim should not be dismissed.

AN HON. MEMBER: And even deep into the soil. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Did you ask a question?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will put that suggestion into a question form.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Sir, I made a very specific question. Shri Ray Chaudhury has suggested that a particular area has to

be drilled. My question is whether the Government is going to undertake drilling in that area?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this country needs more oil. We need oil. All that the country expects is, O.N.G.C. or any other organisation in the Government, should be interested in producing oil from this country other than importing from abroad. I very much appreciate the concern of the hon. Members of West Bengal. (*Interruptions*) May I say one word? If wishes were horses everyone would ride. (*Interruptions*) This gentleman, Shri K. C. Ray Chaudhury was an official in ONGC. He retired. To my information he was just an ordinary employee. He was not an eminent journalist. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: You denigrate somebody as you do not want him to probe.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I am coming to that.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: What is the need of saying that he was an ordinary employee? (*Interruptions*) How does that matter whether he was a common employee or not?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Because on his press statement the House is engaged in this discussion, it is very important.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: It is a very serious matter. Why the Minister is allergic to that man, I want to know. (*Interruptions*)

You have to go yourself. You call a meeting of the Ministers and the Members concerned.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, you allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: You give a notice, we will see.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Mr. Speaker, as I said, he was an employec of the ONGC. Nobody disputes that he was an employee of this organisation. We go on the surveys, investigations, observations and studies made by the ONGC experts, no less than the Soviet experts and French experts. They have gone deep into the matter. According to their own tasks, they have gone deeper into the matter and according to that survey, drilling is going on in West Bengal. Let there not be an impression carried in the minds of the Members from West Bengal that we are discriminating as far as the exploratory activities are concerned with regard to this area of the country. I totally refute the allegation made by the hon. Members that we are not taking proper steps as far as exploratory activities there are concerned. I totally refute it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: What is the way out, you tell me. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Prof. R. C. Fuloria of the Oil India has also said the same thing. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Give notice for Half-an-Hour discussion. Now, Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Of the two oil wells that were mentioned by the hon. Member Shri Lokanath Choudhury, one was in Diamond Harbour which was abandoned in 1984, and the other is in Boral, South 24-Parganas, which happens to fail in my constituency.....

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Another well is in my constituency. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: I am not depending on

newspaper reports. I have got direct knowledge of this. So, I would like to know when these two oil wells were abandoned, whether the ONGC made inquiry about it and if there was enquiry whether that report will be laid on the Table of the House. Let it be made public. If there is no underhand dealing here, there should not be any objection to these papers being laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR: There is no under-hand dealing or anything at all. The Diamond Harbour well was dug.....

MR. SPEAKER: If you have a report, are you ready to place it on the Table of the House?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: He is explaining.

SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR: I am explaining that the Diamond Harbour well was dug up to a depth of 5,500 ft. and the available drilling and seismic data indicates that this particular strata is too tight to hold any commercial accumulations of oil. That is the finding in the report. Similarly, drilling in no well has been stopped in West Bengal except on proper technical conclusions. As the Cabinet Minister has said, it does not mean that drilling in West Bengal is not continuing on a vigorous basis. We have been drilling in West Bengal *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, the hon. Minister has told the House that drilling would be continued in the West Bengal basin. That is a good news. But may I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that a number of wells which were drilled have been abandoned recently, namely, Bodra, Deganga and some other wells in Nadiya district. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is agreeable to place the report about all those wells which have been abandoned for the information of the House?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, a well is abandoned only when it is conclusively proved that it is dry and any further investment will be a waste.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, I have asked about some specific cases.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, we can make available to the hon. Members the information that we have on this matter.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Availability of Lignite

*306. **DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN:** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the places where lignite resources are available in the country;

(b) the quantity available in different places and when these are likely to be mined;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a National Commission for Lignite Mining and the allied thermal generation at Neyveli; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The important known occurrences of lignite in India, by and large, are confined to Neyveli, Jayamkondam and environs in Tamil Nadu, Bahur in Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu, Panandhro in Gujarat, Palana, Gurha, Barsingsar, Kapurdhi, Jalipu, Merta Road in Rajasthan and Nichahom in Jammu & Kashmir; besides sporadic occurrences reported in certain areas of Tanjore and Ramnad districts of Tamil Nadu, Alleppey, Varkala, Cannanore, etc. in Kerala and Rathnagiri, Sindudurg districts in Maharashtra.

The lignite reserves in the country has been currently estimated at about 6500 million tonnes. The state-wise distribution is as follows:—

State	Area	Million Tonnes
Tamilnadu	Neyveli	3,300
	Jayamkondam	1,150
	Bahur-Pondicherry	580
Gujarat	Panandhro, Lakhpat, etc.	585
Rajasthan	Palana, Barsingsar,	
	Kapurdhi, etc.	870
Jammu & Kashmir		90
Kerala		100
	(to be proved by detailed exploration)	
	Total	6,473
		say
		6,500

The lignite resources at Neyveli are exploited by Neyveli Lignite Corporation, a public sector undertaking, mainly for pit-head power generation. The existing projects of NLC are Mine-I (6.5 m.t. capacity/annum), First Thermal Power Station (600 MW), Mine-II stage-I (4.7 m.t. capacity/annum), Thermal Power Station-II, stage I (3×210 MW), a fertilizer plant having an installed capacity of 1.52 lakh tonnes of urea per annum and a Briquetting and Carbonisation plant with installed capacity of 3.27 lakh tonnes of briquettes (leco)/annum. Besides, there are a number of projects under implementation and also new projects in the pipeline.

Detailed geological exploration for lignite in Jayamkondam area in Trichy district and adjacent areas of South Arcot district of Tamil Nadu and Bahur area in Pondicherry is at present being carried out by N.L.C. feasibility report/project proposal can be prepared only after completion of detailed geological exploration and hydrological investigations.

Lignite reserves in Panandhro in Kutch district of Gujarat is being mined by Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation. In Panandhro area, there is total reserve of about 90 m.t. out of which about 60 m.t. have been proposed for effective mining for a mine of 1.5 m.t. for use in pit-head thermal power station of 2×70 MW to be later expanded to 3×70 MW.

Lignite is also mined in Jagadia in Baroach district.

For exploitation of lignite resources in other areas like Akrimota, Umarsar, Bhavanagar, etc., further exploration may be necessary for firming up the reserves.

In Rajasthan, the Barsingsar deposit is already being considered for exploitation by NLC. A lignite mine (1.7 m.t./annum capacity)-cum-power project (2×120 MW) has been sanctioned by the Government of

India at a cost of Rs. 828.04 crores in April, 1991. Gurha deposit in the neighbourhood is also likely to be later considered for concurrent mining with Barsingsar for possible expansion of the proposed power project at Barsingsar using lignite.

The lignite deposits at Kapurdhi, Jalpa and Giral in Barmer district, Kashnau-Igari in Nagaur district and Palana in Bikaner district could also be considered for exploitation using appropriate technology. Palana lignite was mined earlier by underground method and was abandoned because of fire outbreak.

Lignite deposits have been proved in Nichahom district of Jammu & Kashmir. The combustion of the lignite has been tested at Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., Trichy and the possibility of preparing a feasibility report for the installation of 2×10 MW Thermal Power Station based on the fluidised bed combustion at Nichahom is being considered.

For lignite deposits in Kerala, a task force has been constituted to coordinate the exploratory activities to be taken up with various agencies and to evaluate the data generated and suggest measures for utilisation of lignite deposit.

(c) There is no proposal to set up such a Commission at present. But International Competitive Bids have been invited for preparation of a Master Plan for development of lignite, power generation, other down stream industries, etc. based on it. NLC proposes to commission this study early.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Railways Expansion Programme in Rajasthan

*311. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to expand and provide

facilities for the railway traffic in industrially backward states during the last three years;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in the implementation of railway expansion scheme in Rajasthan.

(c) whether the Government propose to link district head-quarters by railway line; and

(d) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Conversion works of Phulera-Bikaner-Lalgarh, Merta Road-Jodhpur, Bhildi-Samdari and Sawaimadhopur-Jaipur and construction of parallel BG lines from Samdari to Jodhpur and from Jaipur to Phulera have been taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction work of Ratlam Division

*313. SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made and targets achieved in regard to the construction works in Ratlam Division of Western Railway in the context of Kumbha "Singhastha" to be held in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh in April, 1992.

(b) whether the facilities of inquiry, retiring rooms etc. are available at the platform of Nagda Junction in Ratlam Division; and

(c) whether the work programme has been formulated for Nagda Mandi and Birla Gram for the independent development of Nagda Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) In connection with 'Singhastha Fair' to be held at Ujjain in April 1992, following works have been taken in hand at Ujjain on Ratlam Division of Western Railway:—

<i>Sl.</i>	<i>Name of work</i>	<i>Progress</i>
1.	Facilities in connection with Singhastha Fair—providing new station building with waiting hall, booking and reservation Office	5%
2.	Provision of Pilgrims platform additional foot-over bridge, extension to cover over platforms and circulating area	15%
3.	Provision of a 50-bedded rail yatri niwas	45%

These works are in various stages of progress and will be completed before the Singhastha Fair.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Works regarding provision of waiting shed, booking office and improvement to circulating area have already been completed on Birla Gram side of Nagda Station. Adequate facilities already exist on the Nagda Mandi side of the Nagda Station.

[English]

Suburban Services to Calcutta and Howrah

*315. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the need for additional rakes/coaches for increasing the suburban services to Calcutta and Howrah;

(b) the details of the present stock of rakes/coaches, the number of rakes/coaches actually available for service and the number needed for service in the Sealdah and Howrah divisions of Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway; and

(c) the number of overage coaches/rakes still in service?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present holding of EMUs on Eastern and South Eastern Railways is 135 rakes/1245 coaches, both for traffic service requirements as well as for running maintenance and periodic overhaul.

(c) 157 coaches as on 1-4-1991.

Railway Line from Ambaguda to Kesinga (SER)

*316. SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a railway line from Ambaguda to Kesinga in Waltair Division;

(b) if so, whether the survey for this project has been completed;

(c) the cost of the project and when it is proposed to be constructed; and

(d) the places in Koraput and Kalahandi districts likely to be connected by this railway line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Though no survey has been done from Amagura-Kesinga, a survey was done in 1965-66 from Lanjigarh Road to Amagura. Keeping in view the proposed Alumina Plant near Bhawanipatna, survey for part of the route from Lanjigarh Road (Near Kesinga) to Junagarh has been

updated in 1990-91. Construction of the line from Lanjigarh Road to Junagarh (54 km) at a cost of Rs. 80 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission for being taken up subject to the coming up of the Alumina Plant. The surveyed line passes through Bhawanipatna.

ONGC Complex at Ramanathapuram

*317. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount to be spent on drilling operations in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up an Oil and Natural Gas Commission office complex at Ramanathapuram;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) Two wells have been drilled in the past at a cost of Rs. 0.7 crores. Four wells are to be drilled at an estimated cost of Rs. 13 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Oil Exploration and Production by Indian and Foreign Companies

*318. SHRI MORESHWAR
SAVE:

SHRI INDARJIT
GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invite tenders from the international and national oil companies for accelerating the pace of crude oil production and exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the companies/countries proposed to be invited;

(c) The details of the blocks identified which are likely to be handed over to those companies; and

(d) The terms and conditions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has decided to invite the Fourth Round of bids from international and Indian companies for exploration for oil and gas in India. 72 blocks—39 offshore and 33 onshore—in 17 basins are proposed to be offered, subject to environmental clearance. Companies possessing requisite financial and technical expertise can bid. The contracts would be production-sharing contracts.

Cancellation of Train between Samastipur and Khagariya

*319. **SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger trains running in the morning and evening between Samastipur and Khagariya junction (North-Eastern Railway) via Rosda have been cancelled for the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore this train; and

(d) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) The run of 415Up/41Dn Samastipur-Banmankhi train has been cancelled between Samastipur and Saharsa.

(b) This was one of the 83 trains that had to be cancelled due to dislocation caused by extensive civil disturbances and damage to railway property during anti-reservation agitation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Khurda Road-Bolangir Railway Line

*320. **SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to conduct resurvey for the construction of a new railway line from Khurda Road to Bolangir on the South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Vayudoot

*321. **SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:**
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot is incurring heavy losses every month;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last one year and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to privatise the Vayudoot; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI (MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The accumulated losses of Vayudoot up to 31st March, 1991 are estimated to be of the order of Rs. 128 crores. The major reasons for the losses are: Short-haul nature of the operations, obsolete and un-economic fleet, unremunerative fare structure.

(c) and (d) Government is considering various options regarding the future set up of Vayudoot. No final decision has been taken in the matter.

Railway Lines in Marathwada

*322. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set during 1990-91 for the construction of railway lines covering Marathwada;

(b) whether the target has been fully achieved; and

(c) the details of the plan for construction and conversion of railway lines in the area during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No target was set for opening of lines covering Marathwada during 1990-91.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Conversion of Manmad-Aurangabad MG to BG and construction of Adilabad-Pimpalkutti (Partly in Andhra Pradesh) are targetted for opening in 1991-92 in the Marathwada region.

Power Plants in Kerala

*323. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a diesel based power station

at Brahmapuram and a gas based power station at Vypeen, Cochin in Kerala;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) A Feasibility Report for setting up of 90 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Brahmapuram envisaging installation of 2 × 30 MW Gas Turbine + 1 × 30 MW Steam Turbine based on the LSHS or Gas as fuel at an estimated cost of Rs. 106.66 crores was received by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in April, 1989 from the State Electricity Board. The proposal can be processed by the CEA for techno-economic clearance after the fuel linkage is confirmed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, other requisite inputs are tied up and necessary clearances are obtained by the State Electricity Board.

NTPC examined the possibility of putting up a Liquefied Natural Gas based power station at Vypeen (Cochin). Gas linkage is not available for setting up this Power Station.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification of Jahanabad District in Bihar

*324. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in Jahanabad district in Bihar;

(b) the time by which the rest of the villages are likely to be electrified;

(c) the details of the allocation likely to be made during the Eighth Five Year Plan, village-wise;

(d) whether any increase in this allocation is likely to be made; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) As per the available information, out of the 870 inhabited villages in Jahanabad district, as per 1981 census, 744 villages have been electrified by the end of March, 1991.

(b) to (e) District-wise electrification programme is finalised at the State level, based on the availability of funds and relative priority fixed by the State Government. Overall targets for electrification in respect of Bihar during Eighth Plan period has not yet been finalised.

Oil and Natural Gas Reserves in Uttar Pradesh

*325. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge reserves of oil and natural gas have been found in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places where oil has been struck?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Transfer of Waltair Division

1726. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to transfer the Waltair Division from South Eastern Zone to South Central Zone; and

(b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has made any request in this regard; and if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

However, in view of operational and administrative imperatives, the transfer of Waltair Division from South Eastern Railway to South Central Railway has not been found to be feasible.

Vayudoot Service to Assam

1727. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any air service for the two hill districts of Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hills of Assam;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to link these two districts with the rest of the country by Helicopter or Vayudoot service in the first phase; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway/Projects in Balasore

1728. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: the details of works completed and

target dates fixed for the completion of the ongoing railway projects in Balasore on the Kharagpur-Khurda Road Section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Hard Coke in Bihar

1729. SHRI BHUVNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the quantity of Hard Coke supplied during 1990-91 and upto June '91 in Hazaribagh and Ranchi districts of Bihar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): According to information furnished by Coal India (CIL) the quantity of hard coke supplied by CIL sources during 1990-91 and 1991-92 (April-June) to Ranchi and Hazaribagh Districts of Bihar is as under:—

District	(Figures to tonnes)	
	1990-91	1991-92 (April-June)
Ranchi	1556	287
Hazaribagh	Nil	Nil

Transfers of Officers at Samastipur

1730. SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway officers/employees, posted at one place for more than three years in the North Eastern Railway particularly in Samastipur division;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of the officers/employees posted at the stations, near to their home, village or city in Samastipur division?

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

[*English*]

Direct Train Service from Thane to Bombay V.T.

1731. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Direct train service from Thane to Bombay V.T. (via Harbour line) was discontinued a few years back; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) In order to run more suburban services on the main line.

Kotah Thermal Power Plant

1732. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to start a second unit of N.T.-P.C. in Kotah (Anto);

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the second unit was recommended to be set up at the said place keeping in view all the relevant factors; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the name of the other recommended place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The National Thermal Power Corporation recommended in September, 1988 the addition of a module of 430 MW capacity to the existing plant on variable load basis after taking into consideration all relevant factors. A decision has since been taken that gas power stations should operate on base load. The project requires tying up of gas linkage for operation under base load.

Railway Projects in Maharashtra

1733. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has recommended to the Union Government for the construction of some railway projects in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action thereon;

(c) whether the State Government has also proposed to share the cost of construction of some railway lines in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Following railway projects have been recommended by the Government of Maharashtra:

- (i) Conversion of Manmad-Aurangabad MG section into BG and subsequently extending it upto Parli Vajinath and Adilabad.
- (ii) Conversion of Latur-Barsi-Pandharpur-Miraj NG section and extending it upto Latur Road and laying a new railway line joining Osmanabad with this line.

(ii) Construction of a new broad gauge line from Ahmednagar to Parli Vajinath via Beed.

(iv) New BG line from Khamgaon to Jalna.

(v) Conversion of Chandrapur-Gondia-Jabalpur NG to BG.

(vi) Conversion of Daund-Baramati NG line to BG.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of Maharashtra had proposed setting up Corporations for (i) to (v) projects above. Survey reports for the projects at (i) to (iv) indicate that these would not be financially remunerative. Survey for project at (v) has been taken up. No survey for project at (vi) has so far been done. However owing to acute resource crunch it is not possible to consider this project for the present. However, while sanctioning Konkan Railway Project, Ministry of Finance had laid down that no more corporations would be considered during the 8th Plan.

Earlier, Maharashtra Government had proposed issue of debentures for funding the Marathwada gauge conversion projects.

Railways had agreed that such contribution could be in addition to and quite separate from Railway's Annual Plan outlay and that no additional financial liability would come on Railways as a result, thereof, whether in the form of interest payment or redemption of debentures, or in any other manner. Proposal on these lines has not been received from the State Government. In the meanwhile the Ministry of Finance in a communication has opined that if such schemes are to be financed by raising of debentures outside the plan, the Central Government should agree to a pro-tanto reduction in the borrowing programme to accommodate such requests. Further they have suggested that the only way to expedite execution of these gauge conversion projects is to make adequate provision for these schemes within the Plan outlay for Railways.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification in Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh

1734. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAYAN TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding full electrification in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh during 1990-91;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of electrified and non-electrified villages in the district;

(d) the number of villages electrified during 1990-91; and

(e) the time by which the non-electrified villages are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Rural Electrification Programmes are formulated and executed by the respective State Electricity Boards. District-wise electrification programme is finalised at the State level based on the availability of funds and inter se priority fixed by the State Government.

(c) As per the available information, the number of electrified and unelectrified villages in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh as on 31-3-1991 were 944 and 1099 respectively.

(d) During 1990-91, 33 inhabited villages are reported to have been electrified in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh.

(e) All the remaining villages are likely to be electrified in future subject to the availability of funds and other inputs.

More Train Service from Cochin Terminal to Alapuzha

*1735. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce more trains from Cochin Terminal to Alapuzha in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Air Services between Gwalior and Jabalpur

1736. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines flights between Gwalior and Jabalpur have been cancelled;

(b) if so, the time by which these services are likely to be resumed;

(c) whether the Government propose to link Khajuraho with Delhi and Bombay via Bhopal by the Indian Airlines services with a view to promoting tourism; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Indian Airlines has not operated services between Gwalior and Jabalpur.

(b) Jabalpur airport is suitable for operation of Avro/Fokker-27 type aircraft only. They are no longer in the fleet of Indian Airlines.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The traffic demand does not justify operation of a service linking Khajuraho with Delhi and Bombay via Bhopal.

[*Translation*]

Development of Buxar Railway Junction

1737. SHRI TEJ NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop the Buxar Railway Junction in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Development of stations is a continuous process and the same is done as per norms, based on volume of traffic dealt with, subject to availability of funds etc. Work of extension of shed over Down Platform, at a cost of Rs. 2.34 lakh at Buxar has already been taken up.

(c) Does not arise.

Promotion of Tourism in Bundelkhand Division

1738. SHRI V. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any central plan for the coordinated development of tourist centres located in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results of efforts made in the past in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Formulation of plan for development of tourist centres (and tourism infrastructure therein is primarily the the responsibility of the concerned State

Governments. However, the Central Government extends some financial assistance in respect of specific proposals received from the State Governments.

In respect of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the Central Department of Tourism has extended financial assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure at Kalinjar, Auriya, Jhansi, Khatraho, Panna, Datia and Orcha.

[*English*]

ITDC Hotel Projects in Kerala

1739. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to the Union Government for setting up of any project of Star Hotels under the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHARAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh

1740. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan is under consideration of the Government for the development of Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Department of Tourism, however, extends some financial assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure to the State Governments. Accordingly, discussions have been held with the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh and projects for Central assistance during 1991-92 have been identified for development of tourism infrastructural facilities.

Priority allotted to Trains of Western Railway

1741. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether local trains on suburban section of Western Railway at Virar and other stations are given lowest priority in clearance against fast running (long distance) trains, and the local commuters get late in reaching to their working places as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to revise this system and give first priority in clearance of local trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir, In fact, local trains are given priority over long distance trains.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increase in Passengers on Cochin-Bombay Sector

1742. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the flights in Cochin-

Bombay Sector in view of heavy increase in passengers traffic there;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide modern aircraft with higher passenger capacity in this sector in order to meet the passengers traffic; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The existing runway at Cochin is not suitable for operation of A-300/A-320 type of aircraft available in the fleet of Indian Airlines.

Conversion of Line between Bangarpet and Kolar Gold Fields

1743. SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRI-YAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway line between Bangarpet and Kolar Gold Fields in Karnataka is very old;

(b) whether the Union Government have received representations from the State Government in this regard, and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The project was not found to be financially remunerative and not considered for being taken up.

Import of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

1744. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of crude petroleum and petroleum products imported during 1990-91;

(b) the average cost per metric tonne of crude petroleum imported;

(c) the estimated quantity likely to be imported during 1991-92;

(d) the average estimated cost per metric tonne therefor; and

(e) the quantity out of the (c) above to be imported under existing long-term contracts and the quantity likely to be purchased from International Market as well as the quantity likely to be purchased on Government-to-Government basis, with the names of the country concerned?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a)

(i) Crude oil—20.7 million tonnes.

(ii) Petroleum products—8.66 million tonnes.

(b) Approximately Rs. 2956 per M.T. (F.O.B.)

(c) to (e) At present Government has approved imports of 19.6 MMT crude oil and 9.626 MMT products for 1991-92. Average cost will depend on prices in 1991-92. Under existing term contracts 12.427 MMT crude oil and 3.367 MMT petroleum products is expected to be imported in 1991-92. Spot purchases are decided from time to time. There is no Government to Government contract.

Employees of Akbar Hotel, New Delhi

1745. **SHRI ROSHAN LAL:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees, category-wise, working in the Akbar Hotel at the time of its closure in 1986;

(b) the number of employees, category-wise; absorbed in other departments/ministries and hotels etc.;

(c) whether the employees absorbed in other establishments in general and in the Ministry of External Affairs in particular have been placed in the pay-scales that they were drawing in the Hotel; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to protect their service interest?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) All the erstwhile employees of Akbar Hotel were paid retrenchment compensation by ITDC as per the Industrial Dispute Act. They were also offered alternate employment in different ITDC units at various places or in the Ministry of External Affairs. Their last pay drawn has been protected Ministry of External Affairs has not fixed the pay scales of these employees as the requisite posts have not yet been created.

STATEMENT

<i>Category/Name of post</i>	<i>Total number of employees</i>	<i>No. of employees offered re-employment</i>	
		<i>Ministry of External Affairs</i>	<i>ITDC</i>
1	2	3	4
Sr Maitre de hotel	1	01	
Demi Chef de parte	1	01	

1	2	3	4
Sr Commis de rang	9	09	
Commis-de-rang-Gr II	51	03	48
Life Guard	1	01	
Commis-I	10	02	08
Commis-II	25	04	21
Commis-III	1	01	
Commis-IV	7	Nil	07
Commis-V	7	Nil	07
Commis-VI	14	Nil	14
Driver	2	02	
Assistant	7	01	06
Storeman Gr-III	7	01	06
Sr Telephone Operator	2	02	
Telephone Operator Gr-I	3	02	01
Telephone Operator Gr-II	5	Nil	05
Sr Technician Gr-I	19	14	05
Sr Technician Gr-II	16	04	12
Sr Technician Gr-III	4	02	02
Technician Gr-I	5	01	04
Technician Gr-II	2	Nil	02
Swimming Pool Attendant	1	01	
Gardener Gr-I	1	01	
Gardener Gr II	2	02	
Gardener Gr III	5	05	
Helper	20	20	
Sr Housekeeper Gr-I	3	03	
Housekeeper Gr-II	2	01	01
Housekeeper Gr-I	1	01	
Jr Housekeeper Gr-I	4	Nil	04
Jr Housekeeper Gr-II	3	Nil	03
Floor keeper Sr Grade	11	04	07
Floor keeper Gr-I	19	Nil	19
Floor keeper Gr-II	19	Nil	19
Houseman Gr-II	1	01	
Clock Room Attendant Gr-II	1	01	
Houseman Gr-II	9	08	01
Houseman Gr-III	16	16	
Houseman Gr-V	24	11	13
Lady Clock Room Attendant	2	02	
Supdt Gr-I	3	Nil	03
Sr Front Office Asstt Gr-I	3	Nil	03
Sr Front Office Asstt Gr-II	2	Nil	02

	1	2	3	4
Sr Assistant Gr-I		7	Nil	07
Supdt Gr-II		1	Nil	01
Jr Assistant		19	Nil	19
Front Office Asstt Gr-III		1	Nil	01
Front Office Asstt Gr-IV		1	Nil	01
Front Office Asstt Gr-V		4	Nil	04
Sr Clerk Gr-I		6	Nil	06
Assistant		1	Nil	01
Sr Clerk Gr-II		10	Nil	10
Clerk		10	Nil	10
PA to GM		1	Nil	01
Stenographer		3	Nil	03
Hindi Steno		1	Nil	01
Jr Steno		1	Nil	01
Dafti		1	Nil	01
Messenger Gr-III		1	Nil	01
Chef-De Partie Gr-I		1	Nil	01
Chef De Partie Gr II		3	Nil	03
Chef De Partie Gr-III		2	Nil	02
Demi Chef de partie		3	Nil	03
Canteen Supervisor		1	Nil	01
Chef de rang (kitchen)		3	Nil	03
Chef de rang		19	Nil	19
Utility Worker		18	Nil	18
Selection Gr Maitre de hotel		1	Nil	01
Sr Maitre de hotel Gr I		1	Nil	01
Jr Maitre de hotel		7	Nil	07
Demi chef derang		18	Nil	18
Restaurant Hostess		1	Nil	01
Darban Gr-II		3	Nil	03
Security Hawaldar		4	Nil	04
Security Guard Gr-I		10	Nil	10
Security Guard Gr-II		4	Nil	04
Security Officer Gr-II		1	Nil	01
Asstt Security Officer		2	Nil	02
Telephone Supervisor Gr-II		1	Nil	01
Telephone Monitor		1	Nil	01
Asstt Bell Captain		2	Nil	02
Page Boy Gr-II		1	Nil	01
Page Boy Gr-III		6	Nil	06
Page Boy Gr IV		6	Nil	06
Page Boy Gr V		1	Nil	01

1	2	3	4
Foreman Gr II	2	Nil	02
Helper	2	Nil	02
Linen Helper Gr II	2	Nil	02
Linen Helper Gr III	1	Nil	01
Trainee Housekeeper	1	Nil	01
Tailor Gr III	1	Nil	01
Tailor Gr IV	1	Nil	01
CRA Gr V	1	Nil	01
Commis de rang Gr II	1	Nil	01
	551	128	423

[Translation]

Employment to Oustees by NTPC

1746. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide service in the National Thermal Power Corporation besides giving compensation to the land oustees;

(b) if so, whether jobs have been provided to the displaced persons of villages Nifori, Langhai and Digner of Viroli and Ahir blocks of Agra district in Uttar Pradesh, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Besides payment of compensation for the land, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has a policy to provide employment to land oustees limited to its requirement and subject to suitability of the incumbents.

(b) and (c) No private land has been acquired by NTPC in Dhignar village. Consequently, there is no per-

son of this village who qualifies as land oustee. In respect of villages Naufri and Lodhai, where private land has been acquired by NTPC, jobs have been provided to 17 land oustees.

Electricity connections in East Delhi

1747. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the residents of various colonies of East Delhi have deposited the development charges several year back to get the electricity connections and if so, whether they have been given electricity connections;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of persons of Blocks A, B, C, D, E in West Vinodnagar who have deposited development charges the number of persons who have got the electricity connections out of them;

(d) the number of remaining blocks where electricity wires are fitted on the pole for years but no electricity is supplied; and

(e) the time by which electricity connections are likely to be given in these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) According to DESU, the electric connections in some of the colonies in East Delhi where the residents have deposited the development charges could not be released due to the non-completion of the prescribed commercial formalities or handing over of the site(s) for sub-stations by the concerned Residents' Association etc.

(c) to (e) Out of 639 plot holders of Blocks A, B, C, D and E of West Vinodnagar who had deposited the necessary development charges, 445 have already got their electric connections by 30th July, 1991. Electricity mains in 8 streets of 'D' Block, West Vinodnagar have already been laid. However, the site offered by the concerned Residents' Association for the second sub-station being under litigation, it has not been possible to release the electricity connections to the remaining persons. Electric connections to these persons can be released by DESU after the sub-station site is restored or alternative site is made available to DESU.

Per-Capita Power Availability in Eighth Plan

1748. SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present per-capita availability of power in Tripura and in each of the other States and Union Territories and the contemplated addition in power supply per capita at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the financial allocation proposed to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The per-capita con-

sumption of power in Tripura and other States/UTs during 1989-90 is given in the attached statement. The 8th Plan has not been finalised so far by the Planning Commission.

STATEMENT

State-wise Per Capita Consumption of Electricity during the year 1989-90 (Utilities and non-utilities)

(in KWH)

<i>Name of the Region/State</i>	<i>1989-90*</i>
<i>Northern Region</i>	
Haryana	353.37
Himachal Pradesh	179.76
Jammu & Kashmir	178.02
Punjab	639.17
Rajasthan	201.76
Uttar Pradesh	159.16
Chandigarh	584.35
Delhi	650.56
Sub-Total	241.37
<i>Western Region</i>	
Gujarat	398.79
Madhya Pradesh	205.48
Maharashtra	404.62
Goa, Daman & Diu	396.25
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	878.76
Sub-total	333.55
<i>Southern Region</i>	
Andhra Pradesh	227.22
Karnataka	273.33
Kerala	163.62
Tamil Nadu	295.41
Pondicherry	617.95
Lakshadweep	170.50
Sub-total	240.15

*Provisional

<i>Name of the Region/State</i>	<i>1989-90*</i>
<i>Eastern Region</i>	
Bihar	102.35
Orissa	181.28
West Bengal	138.87
D.V.C.
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	105.35
Sikkim	96.11
Sub-total	128.91
<i>North-Eastern Region</i>	
Assam	77.95
Manipur	80.36
Meghalaya	108.07
Nagaland	70.19
Tripura	51.03
Arunachal Pradesh	58.02
Mizoram	56.83
Sub-total	76.38
Total (All India)	236.02

*Provisional

[*Translation*]

Platforms at Kanpur Central Station

1749. SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to construct new platforms at Kanpur Central Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

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

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

(b) Construction of a BG platform for 26 coach length train, with two

faces by dismantling two MG lines has been taken up.

(c) Rs. 50 lakh approximately.

(d) By the end of 1992-93 subject to availability of funds.

[*English*]

Doubling of Kharagpur-Midnapur Section

1750. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling the Kharagpur-Midnapore section of the South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) On the Kharagpur-Midnapore section, Gokulpur-Midnapore is already a double line. Kharagpur-Gokulpur section has only single line.

(c) Doubling of lines is done to meet the operational and traffic requirements. It is restored to when the sectional capacity of a single line with various operational improvements gets saturated. The Kharagpur-Gokulpur section has not yet come in this category.

Shortage of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Keonjhar, Orissa

1751. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Government from the Members of Parliament, societies and applicants in regard to the shortage of Petrol pumps and LPG

agencies in Keonjhar district of Orissa during the last three years; year-wise; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The information is not available with the Government.

Indo-Pak Pact on Rail Communication

1752. **SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Pak pact on rail communication has been signed in July 1991; and

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

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

(b) The Agreement relating to Rail Communication between India and Pakistan—1991 has been extended for a further period of 3 years upto 7-7-94. This Agreement provides for continued running of the daily passenger train between Amritsar and Lahore for the journey of the international passengers and regular exchange of freight traffic between the two countries.

Officers of NTPC involved in Corruption

1753. **SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:** Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given on September 4, 1990 and March 5, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 4452 and Unstarred Question No. 1475 respectively regarding officers of NTPC involved in corruption and state:

(a) the names of erring officers of the National Thermal Power Corpora-

tion (NTPC) and the details of major penalty proceedings initiated against them since January 11, 1990 and the out-come thereof;

(b) the steps taken to recover the amount by Government from the erring officers;

(c) whether the firm Modern Insulators Ltd. continued their supplies to the NTPC directly as well as through third parties like Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited etc. after January 11, 1990; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) Major penalty proceedings have been initiated against S/Shri Parmeshwar Prasad and S. K. Dua, officials of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

The type of penal action and the question of recovery of any amount from the officials can be considered after completion of the enquiry.

The NTPC has not placed any order on the firm after 11-1-90. Supplies for some 400 KV Bus Post Insulators were made by the firm for the contracts placed earlier. The following supplies have been made by the firm as sub-contractors to BHEL, etc.:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| (i) 400/200 KV Long Road Insulators | — 372 nos. |
| (ii) 400/200 KV Bus Post Insulators | — 44 nos. |
| (ii) Support Insulators | — 43 nos. |

Steam Coal Requirement of Industries in Gujarat

1754. **SHRI HARIN PATHAK:** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat gets adequate steam-coal as per the requirement for its industries;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the closure of industries due to shortage of steam-coal and to stop unemployment likely to arise due to the closure of such industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is shortfall in supply of steam coal to industries in Gujarat because more coal has to be moved by Railways to high priority core sectors like power, cement, steel, railway, fertilizer etc.

(c) In order to meet the demand of non-core sector industrial consumers, the Ministry of Coal have issued instructions to all coal companies under Coal India Limited that the requirement of these industries must be met at least to the extent of 50% of linkage by rail or by road. This will improve the position of supply considerably.

Additional Station at Surat

1755. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the construction of an additional station on eastern side of Surat railway station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) In order to relieve congestion, Platform No. 4 has been constructed recently on eastern side. Work of provision of a booking office on eastern side has been included in the Works Programme. This facility will become operational when the Surat Municipal Corporation provides an approach road on eastern side. No additional building is proposed to be constructed at present.

International Flights from Thiruvananthapuram Airport

1756. SHRI A. CHARLES:
PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the additional facilities provided to the Thiruvananthapuram airport after it was declared as an international airport;

(b) whether this airport has the required facilities for the landing and take-off of all types of aircraft at present; and

(c) if not, the details of additional facilities proposed to be provided during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 250 new passenger baggage trolleys have been provided. A doctor has been appointed on part-time basis to provide first aid to passengers and the visitors.

(b) No, Sir. This Airport has at present the required facilities to handle only up to Airbus 300/310 type aircraft.

(c) The International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) has identified the land required to extend the existing runway which is at present 9500 ft. long. The Government of Kerala is being requested to acquire this land and provision of Rs. 1.85 crores has been made in the current year for this purpose. Besides this, IAAI has made a provision of Rs. 6.15 crores in its budget of 1991-92 for completion of civil works such as the extension of the departure holding area, airconditioning of the departure holding area, provision of escalators and extension of apron and taxi track, as well as for new equipment such as crash fire tenders, LCD flight information display boards, and a new CCTV system with coloured monitors.

Announcement in Southern Regional Languages on Metropolitan Railway Stations

1757. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to start announcement of south bound trains in Southern regional languages on Metropolitan Railway Stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in non-Hindi speaking states, announcements over Public Address System are made in the regional language(s) concerned besides in Hindi and English.

Rail fare on Hyderabad-Madras via Nadikudi route

1758. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the distance of Railway line between Hyderabad and Madras via Nadikudi is less than that of the other railway routes between Hyderabad and Madras;

(b) if so, whether the fare on both the routes is almost the same;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the fare of the train running on Hyderabad-Madras via Nadikudi route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. The chargeable distance between Hyderabad and Madras via both the routes is same.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Daily running of Pune-Ahmedabad Express train

1759. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of Rajasthani Samaj and Gujarati Samaj in Pune have urged the Government to run Pune-Ahmedabad Express train daily; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

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

(b) The request was examined but not found feasible.

Bridge at Chhitauni

1760. SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated construction cost of Chhitauni railway bridge in Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh and whether the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have paid their shares and if so, the amount thereof, separately;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The estimated construction cost of Chhitauni-Bagaha Rail-cum-Road Bridge is Rs. 160 crores out of which Rs. 36 crores are to be borne by Government of Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 27 crores by Bihar in a phased manner. Of this, Government of Uttar Pradesh has so far paid Rs. 6 crores and Bihar Rs. 2 crores till 1989-90. They have

not so far paid their shares for 1990-91 and 1991-92 amounting to Rs. 23 crores and 19 crores, respectively.

(b) Rs. 16 crores.

(c) In 1994-95 subject to the co-sharers contributing their shares in time.

[English]

Financial assistance for non-conventional energy sources

1761. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance for harnessing non-conventional Energy Sources, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to allot more funds to State like Andhra Pradesh which has large potential of non-conventional energy sources; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The State-wise outlays for 1991-92 for non-conventional energy programmes in the State sector as approved by the Planning Commission are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Outlays
Andhra Pradesh	31
Arunachal Pradesh	50
Assam	38
Bihar	315
Goa	26
Gujarat	352
Haryana	70
Himachal Pradesh	100
Jammu & Kashmir	48

State	Outlays
Karnataka	52
Kerala	80
Madhya Pradesh	400
Maharashtra	125
Manipur	33
Meghalaya	60
Mizoram	34
Nagaland	50
Orissa	100
Punjab	100
Rajasthan	360
Sikkim	50
Tamil Nadu	254
Tripura	67
Uttar Pradesh	320
West Bengal	60
<i>Union Territories</i>	
A & N Islands	150.00
Chandigarh	0.30
D & N Haveli	4.52
Delhi	155.00
Lakshdweep	190.00
Pondicherry	25.00
Daman & Diu	2.00

(b) and (c) The Plan allocations are finalised after detailed consultations with the States concerned, keeping in view their requirements as well as the resources available.

DESU Billing System

1762. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "DESU's chaotic billing system" appearing in the Indian Express dated February 8, 1991;

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

(c) the steps propose to ensure time bound redressal of grievances of consumers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the DESU is holding open sessions on certain days;

(f) if so, the details in this regard;

(g) whether Government propose to set up more cash collection centres;

(h) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor;

(i) whether the present computerised billing system of DESU is defective;

(j) if so, whether it is proposed to simplify the billing system; and

(k) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The said news item, inter-alia, relates to the issue of bills by DESU on the basis of revised tariff from 1-3-1991 without actual meter readings, cases of erratic billing by DESU, the problem faced by the consumers in the rectification of wrong electricity bills etc.

According to DESU, since there are about 17 lakh consumers involving issue of over 8 lakh bills every month, it was not practicable to take the readings of all the meters on the same day on which the revised tariff became effective. The bills for pre-revised and revised tariff were, therefore, issued on pro-rata consumption basis.

(c) to (f) Suitable arrangements already exist in DESU for the redressal of grievances of the consumers. The Grievance Committees at the level of Executive Engineers hold meetings every week on Tuesday. The meetings at the level of Additional Chief Engineers are held every fortnight for speedy settlement of the

complaints of the consumers. DESU has also set up three Bijli Adalats for speedy redressal of the grievances of the consumers.

(g) and (h) DESU propose to open the following additional Cash Collection Centres:—

1. Mayur Vihar
2. Onkar Nagar/Tri Nagar
3. Bawana
4. Gopi Nath Bazar, Delhi Cantt.

(i) to (k) The computerised billing system of DESU is working satisfactorily. The position is, however, reviewed from time to time by DESU in the light of the suggestions received from the consumers etc.

Bridge at Varkala

1763. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in the construction of the overbridge at Varkala on Ernakulam-Trivandrum line; and

(b) the steps being taken to complete the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Proposal for construction of road overbridge in replacement of the existing level crossing at Km. 179/13-14 near Varkala has been received from the State Government only recently. The State Government has been requested to finalise the scheme for the work jointly with Railway, accord priority, and sponsor it for inclusion in Railway's Works Programme.

Air India Aircraft at Singapore

1764. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of passengers were kept inside an Air India

aircraft at Singapore in the first week of July 1991;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the reasons for keeping them inside specifying the time for which they had to stay inside;

(c) whether the aircraft was again got stuck at Madras Airport and if so, the time spent in Madras; and

(d) the total hours after which the passengers reached Madras and Bombay as compared to the time generally taken by aircraft flying from Singapore to Madras and Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Flight AI-415 of 7th July 1991 developed a snag in the hydraulic system while taxiing for take off. 192 passengers were kept abroad for nearly six and a half hours due to the late hour as many of the facilities at the airport were closed at that time and it was hoped that the rectification of the snag would not take too much time.

(c) and (d) The snag in the hydraulic system reappeared while the aircraft was taxiing for take off at Madras. The passengers were held up in Madras for 7 hours 50 minutes. The total delay was 23 hours 35 minutes between Singapore and Bombay and 15 hours 45 minutes between Singapore and Madras.

Purchase of Helicopters

1765. SHRI R. JEEVRATHINAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of helicopters purchased from November 1989 to May, 91;

(b) the name of the countries from where these helicopters have been purchased for the use of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(c) the total cost of these helicopters and

(d) where these helicopters are being put to use at present?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) None.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Solar Plant in Jodhpur, Rajasthan

1766. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a solar plant in Jodhpur, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has considered this proposal;

(c) if so, whether financial approval has been granted to implement the said proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which financial approval is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The proposal can be put up to the Planning Commission as a Scheme in the Eighth Plan after techno-economic clearance has been accorded by the Central Electricity Authority.

[*English*]

Absorption of Surplus Workers Engaged in Steam Locomotives

1767. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of workers engaged in steam locomotives are

being rendered surplus due to elimination of steam locomotives; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to absorb those workers in other sectors of the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Because of progressive phasing out of steam locomotives, staff engaged on maintenance of these locos is becoming surplus. The surplus staff is not retrenched, instead they are redeployed in alternative categories on Railways by imparting training where considered necessary.

Pilferage of Power in Delhi

1768. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the major factors of power crisis in the capital is the theft and pilferage of power:

(b) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has recently detected hundreds of cases of power thefts and pilferage;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to further strengthen DESU's enforcement wing to check power thefts and pilferage; and

(d) the action being contemplated against those found involved in power thefts and pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) While there is no major power crisis in the Capital as such, a large number of cases of theft of electricity have been detected during the raids conducted by officials of DESU in various localities.

(c) and (d) DESU has set up two full fledged Enforcement Divisions for checking theft of electricity in the

Capital which are considered effective. The Government has already made 'theft of electricity' a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

ONGC Share in Narsapur Bridge

1769. SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has agreed to give fifty per cent share for the construction of bridge at Narsapur between East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) There was a proposal for ONGC to share the cost of a bridge to be put up at Narsapur. It is reported that no construction work has been undertaken.

Reservation Counters of Delhi/New Delhi

1770. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the influence of brokers on reservation counters and black-marketing in sale of railway tickets and inconvenience being caused to the public at Delhi/New Delhi railway stations;

(b) whether the passengers have to wait for hours for their turn due to the slow speed of work at reservation counters;

(c) if so, the instructions likely to be issued to the staff in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) To combat the menace of touts, brokers and blackmarketeers indulging in sale of railway tickets at Delhi/New Delhi stations, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Computerised reservation system has been introduced thereby eliminating scope of manipulation by touts and staff.
- (ii) Frequent surprise checks against touts are conducted by Vigilance teams. 39 touts were apprehended and prosecuted during January—June, 1991.
- (iii) Checks are conducted in trains to detect passengers travelling on transferred tickets. A sum of Rs. 1,38,859 was realised from such passengers besides confiscation of tickets during January—June, 1991.
- (iv) The requisition slips are scrutinised and door to door verification is done in suspected cases to ascertain genuineness of the reservation.
- (v) Surveillance is kept on the activities of the reservation staff suspected to have collusion with touts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Withdrawal of Gulf Surcharge by Indian Airlines

1771. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

DR. A. K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Gulf Evacuation surcharge at the rate of ten per cent of fare was levied on domestic fares of the Indian Airlines since September, 1990;

(b) if so, the amount collected as surcharges so far;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Government on the evacuation of Indians from Iraq, Kuwait etc. during the Gulf War;

(d) whether the Gulf surcharge has now been withdrawn; and

(e) if not, the reasons for continuing this levy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount collected by way of Gulf Surcharge from 26th September, 1990 till 30th June, 1991 is Rs. 54 crores approximately.

(c) The estimated expenditure on the evacuation was Rs. 300 crores approximately.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In the wake of an all round increase in costs, it has become necessary to continue with this surcharge.

Freight Subsidy for Supply of Coal

1772. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for freight subsidy for supply of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Freight subsidy for supply of coal is not practical for the following reasons:—

- (i) Coal is a bulk commodity of low value and, therefore, freight is a major element in its cost.

- (ii) Coal is produced in a large number of locations. Freight subsidy with too many producing centres and for a large quantity would pose insuperable difficulties.

Shutting Down of Oil Wells

1773. **SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:**

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the replies given on August 28, 1990 and February 26, 1991 Unstarred Question Nos. 3262 and SQ. 60 respectively regarding shutting down of oil well and state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the report of the Committee of technical experts; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee, the action taken by the Government thereon and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAD): (a) and (b) The report is under the consideration of the Government.

Power Connections to Unauthorised Colonies

1774. **SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:** Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "JJ Power connections breed encroachment" appearing in the Indian Express dated March 22, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of action likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the survey has been conducted in Delhi to determine the number of persons who have taken light direct from the poles; if so, the details thereof, area-wise;

(d) whether employees of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking are also involved in this power theft; and

(e) if so, the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) No formal survey has been conducted by DESU to determine the number of persons who have taken light direct from the poles. However, according to DESU, there are more than 600 JJ Clusters in Delhi and the inhabitants of such areas illegally draw electricity by direct tapping from the street light poles provided by the Delhi Development Authority/Delhi Administration. Attempts made by DESU to prevent theft of power in such cases is resisted by unlawful elements of the localities creating law and order problems. DESU does not support the observations made in the said news item that the provision of power connections to JJ Clusters and unauthorised colonies encourages illegal encroachment. DESU carries out the electrification of only those unauthorised colonies which are covered under the directions issued by the Delhi Administration/Delhi Electricity Control Order, 1959. In case the unauthorised constructions/encroachments are removed by the concerned authorities, DESU can remove its service lines. Specific cases of connivance of DESU staff in the theft of power are looked into by DESU for appropriate action.

Opening of Booking Centres in Hilly Areas, U.P.

1775. **SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer the reply given on May 22, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 9819 regarding Railcum-Road reservation centres (Out

Agencies) in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and state:

(a) whether the booking centres (Out Agencies) have since been opened;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite opening of such centres and the time schedule thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out Agencies for Rail-cum-Road reservations have not been opened so far at the said places due to lack of response shown by the public as well as concerned agencies of State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Provision of Rail-cum-road reservations facilities in hilly areas of U.P. will be considered as soon as suitable contractors are found to take up the contracts as per standard terms and conditions.

Financial Assistance by REC to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board

1776. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of subsidy/loan given by the Rural Electrification Corporation to the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board for the purpose of rural electrification in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the objectives achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Rural Electrification Corporation has, upto 31st March, 1991, provided Rs. 539.51 lakhs as grant and Rs. 61341 lakhs as loan to UPSEB for the purpose of rural electrification in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) According to UPSEB, 42,840 villages in the State have been electri-

fied and 252840 pumpsets have been energised upto 31-3-91. Further, 2,17,046 single-point connections were also provided to the weaker sections utilising the grant amount.

Smokeless Chulhas

1777. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets and the actual achievement with regard to setting up of smokeless chulhas, State-wise;

(b) the details of the scheme and the implementing agencies, State-wise; and

(c) the overall progress of this scheme since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) State-wise targets and achievements for the installation of improved chulhas is given in the attached statement-I.

(b) Implementation of National Programme on Improved Chulhas is being carried out through various State Government Departments, Implementing Agencies, Autonomous Bodies and Voluntary Organisations. Actual installation is done through trained work force of Self Employed Workers engaged on contract basis by the Implementing Agencies, Financial support to users, Self Employed Workers, Implementing Agencies & Improved Chulha Technical Backup Units, is provided under the National Programme. Financial Support to the users in the form of subsidy is given in the attached statement-II. State-wise list of Implementing Agencies is given in the attached statement-III.

(c) Under the National Programme on Improved Chulha, little over one crore improved chulhas have been installed against a target of about 83 lakh since inception and upto 31st March, 1991.

STATEMENT I

Target & Achievement upto 31-3-91 in respect of National Programme on Improved Chulha

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State/UT</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Achievement</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6,19,000	7,62,598
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10,000	6,042
3.	Assam	1,82,000	1,01,357
4.	Bihar	4,75,500	5,09,886
5.	Gujarat	4,26,000	5,34,200
6.	Goa	46,100*	48,429
7.	Haryana	4,22,500	5,69,135
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3,14,000	3,60,885
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,77,500	1,58,486
10.	Karnataka	4,30,000	4,71,885
11.	Kerala	2,25,000	2,20,333
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5,80,000	8,45,023
13.	Maharashtra	5,42,000	6,62,639
14.	Manipur	26,900	21,576
15.	Meghalaya	26,500	10,200
16.	Mizoram	11,350	7,694
17.	Nagaland	14,700	7,000
18.	Orissa	2,99,000	3,39,528
19.	Punjab	5,30,000	5,15,795
20.	Rajasthan	6,68,500	10,80,764
21.	Sikkim	24,200	18,597
22.	Tamil Nadu	5,40,000	7,42,420
23.	Tripura	17,300	5,971
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9,27,000	12,09,179
25.	West Bengal	3,05,500	3,17,179
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	15,600	11,260
27.	Chandigarh	9,450	8,498
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6,500	4,981
29.	Daman & Diu	450	30
30.	Delhi	98,500	1,08,680
31.	Lakshadweep	10,350	3,405
32.	Pondicherry	14,900	14,242
33.	Others	5,31,700	7,00,061
Total		83,28,000	1,03,77,958

*Includes Daman & Diu upto 1989.

Note: The improved chulha programme was launched as a demonstration project in December 1983, which was converted into a National Programme w.e.f. April, 1985. The statement above indicates figures of cumulative target & achievement since inception till 31-3-91.

STATEMENT II*Financial Support to the Users in the Forum of Subsidy in Respect of National Programme on Improved Chulha*1. *Family Size*(A) *Fixed Chulhas*

Users pay Rs. 15 per chulha (Rs. 5 for material cost and Rs. 10 for Self Employed Workers), rest of cost is borne by the Central Government.

(B) *Portable Chulhas*

Subsidy to the extent of 50% of the cost of Portable Chulha is provided to the General Category beneficiaries and 75% to the SC/ST. However, in hilly areas, the subsidy is to the extent of 75% of cost of portable chulha for all categories of beneficiaries.

2. *Community/Commercial Chulhas*(A) *Fixed chulhas*

A subsidy of Rs. 50 per chulha is provided by the Government.

(B) *Portable chulha*

A subsidy of Rs. 100 per chulha is provided by the Government.

STATEMENT III*List of Nodal Departments implementing Agencies in respect of National Programme on Improved Chulha*

1. Government of Assam
Rural Development Deptt.
Dispur, Guwahati-6.
2. Government of Andhra Pradesh
Science, Technology &
Environment Deptt., Sectt.,
Hyderabad.
3. Government of Bihar,
Energy Deptt., Sinchai
Bhavan, Patna.
4. Panchayat & Rural Housing
Deptt., Govt. of Gujarat
Gandhinagar.
5. Government of Haryana,
Development & Panchayat
Deptt., New Secretariat,
Chandigarh.
6. Rural Development Deptt.,
Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
Shimla.
7. Deptt. of Science Ecology
& Environment Govt. of Jammu
& Kashmir, Srinagar.
8. Rural Development & Panchayati
Raj Deptt., M.S. Building,
3rd Floor, 3rd Stage,
Bangalore.
9. Science & Technology,
Environment Committee &
Ex-Officio Secretary to the Govt.
of Science & Tech.,
Environment Deptt.,
Secretariat, Trivandrum.
10. Energy Department,
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.
11. Govt. of Maharashtra,
Rural Development Deptt.,
Mantralaya, Bombay.
12. Science & Technology,
Govt. of Manipur,
Imphal.
13. Planning Department,
Shillong (Meghalaya).
14. Rural Development Deptt.,
Govt. of Mizoram,
Aizawal.
15. Govt. of Nagaland,
Rural Development Deptt.,
Kohima.
16. Science, Tech., & Environment,
Deptt., Govt. of Orissa,
Secretariat, Bhubaneswar.
17. U.T. of Pondicherry,
Pondicherry.
18. Rural Development Deptt.,
Govt. of Punjab,
Chandigarh.
19. Govt. of Rajasthan,
Jaipur.

20. Rural Dev., Deptt., (NRSE) Thashing Secretariat, Gangtok (Sikkim)
21. Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Deptt., of Rural Dev., Fort, St. George, Madras-8.
22. Deptt., of Science & Technology & Environment, Govt. of Tripura, Agartala.
23. Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Rural Dev. Deptt., Vidhan Bhawan, Lucknow.
24. Govt. of West Bengal, Relief & Welfare Deptt., Writer's Building, Calcutta.
25. Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Port Blair.
26. Rural Works Deptt., Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
27. U.T. of Chandigarh, Chandigarh.
28. Dadra Nagar Haveli, Silvassa.
29. Delhi Administration, 5/9, Under Hill Road, New Delhi-54.
30. Rural Development Deptt., Panjim, Goa.
31. U.T. of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti-55.
32. U.T. of Daman & Diu, Daman.
33. Gujarat Energy Dev. Agency, B.N. Chamber, 3rd Floor, R.C. Dutt Road, Baroda (Gujarat).
34. Maharashtra Energy Dev. Agency, 6th floor, New Kamani Chambers, Adi Marzban Street, Bombay-38.
35. Tamil Nadu Energy Dev. Agency, JHAVAR PLAZA, 1-A, Nungambakkam High Road, Madras-34.
36. Non-Conventional Energy, Development Agency of U.P., B-46, Mahanagar Extension, Lucknow-6.
37. Himurja (H.P. Energy Dev. Agency) Chandi Bhawan, Shimla-2.
38. H.P. Agro Industries Corp., Salig Ram Bhawan, Shimla-2.
39. Punjab Agro Industries, Corporation, 307-308/315-316, Sector 35-B, Chandigarh.
40. U.P. State Agro Industries, Corporation, 22, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow-1.
41. Khadi & Village Industries, Commission, 3, Irla Road, Vile Parle (West) Bombay-56.
42. National Dairy Development, Board, Anand, (Gujarat).
43. All India Women's Conference, 6, Bhagwan Dass Marg, New Delhi.
44. Gujarat Agro Industries, Corporation Ltd., Juhapura, Sarkhej Road, Ahmedabad-380055.

[*Translation*]

Tourism Development in Champawat Area of Uttar Pradesh

1778. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum to declare Champawat in Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh a Tourist City; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Central Government has no scheme to declare any place as a Tourist City and therefore, the question of declaring Champawat as a Tourist City does not arise.

[English]

Air Linking of Sholapur

1779. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sholapur city in Maharashtra being one of the biggest industrial centres is not well connected with other parts of the country by direct air services by the Indian Airlines or Vayudoot;

(b) if so, whether at present air passengers have either to avail facility from Pune or Bombay/Hyderabad:

(c) if so, the steps taken to have direct Indian Airlines or Vayudoot services from this city; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to make available infrastructure facilities for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Sholapur is not presently linked by Vayudoot service. The air field at Sholapur is not suitable for the operations of Indian Airlines.

(b) Air services of Indian Airlines are available from Pune, Bombay and Hyderabad.

(c) Because of the losses being sustained by it, Vayudoot is not in a position to air link Sholapur at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Night Landing Facilities at Visakhapatnam Airport

1780. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger traffic to and from Visakhapatnam has been steadily increasing; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to extend the run way as well as to provide night landing facilities to enable the Airbus operational to and from Visakhapatnam airport to meet the passenger traffic demand?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Visakhapatnam airport has been taken over by the Navy from the National Airports Authority (NAA) in March, 1986. The National Airports Authority is maintaining only the civil enclave at Visakhapatnam. The Navy has plans for the modernisation of the airport.

Development of Vishakhapatnam Railway Station

1781. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Visakhapatnam as a Model Station:

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned therefor and the amount spent thereon so far:

(c) the time bound programme to complete the development work; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to develop 'Duwada' station as an alternative station to Visakhapatnam in view of its congestion due to the steel plant New Townships?

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

(b) Sanctioned cost of the work is Rs. 94.40 lakh out of which Rs. 42.00 lakh have been spent upto June 1991.

(c) The works are expected to be completed by 1993 subject to availability of funds.

(d) No, Sir.

Dulhasti Hydel Power Project

1782. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of the Dulhasti Hydel Power Project in Jammu and Kashmir as initially approved in the year 1982;

(b) the details of the revised costs of the project as approved from time to time, year-wise;

(c) the present estimated cost of the project;

(d) the name of the foreign company with which contract was signed and the terms and conditions thereof;

(e) the manner in which the project will be financed;

(f) whether the construction work has started; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Dulhasti Hydel Power Project in J & K was initially approved in the year 1982 at an estimated cost of Rs. 183.45 crores including Interest During Construction (IDC) of Rs. 21.73 crores, at March, 1980 price level.

(b) The revised cost of the project, estimated at Rs. 1262.97 crores, including IDC of Rs. 96.20 crores, at October, 1988 price level, was approved in July, 1989.

(c) The cost of the project is expected to go up by about Rs. 481 crores as a result of the depreciation of the exchange value of the Rupee since October, 1988.

(d) The contract for execution of the project on turn-key basis has been awarded to a French Consortium led

by M/s. CEGELEC (formerly CGEE Alstom) on 8-9-1989. The foreign exchange component of the contract price is Japanese Yen 53060.63 million and the Indian Rupee component is Rs. 157.53 crores. This does not include contingencies and escalation. As per the contract, the project is to be completed by the French Consortium within 57 months from the date of order to commence work i.e. by July, 1994.

(e) The foreign exchange component of the project would be financed by soft credit of French Francs 987 million and a grant of French Francs 190 million from the French Treasury, and an export credit of French Francs 1405.60 million from a consortium of French commercial Banks. The Rupee component of the project would be financed by NHPC out of its internal resources market borrowings and Govt. of India budgetary support.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir, with effect from 11-10-1989. Infrastructural and pre-construction works such as contractors camp, school, hospital building and installation of batching and crushing plants at the project site have been completed. The river has been diverted and excavation of dam foundation and main power House cavern started. Boring of the main tunnel using an 8.3m dia tunnel boring machine has commenced. Most of the access tunnels and adits are nearing completion. Additional surveys and investigations and preparation of the final design report by the turn-key constructor are under progress. Model studies of turbine have also been completed.

[Translation]

Size of Exploratory Wells

1783. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exploratory wells are smaller than those of China and other countries; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The size or depth of exploratory wells depends on the depth at which oil producing zone is expected based on surveys and drilling.

Railway Link to Chatra (Bihar)

1784. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the headquarter of Chatra division in Hazaribagh district of Bihar is not connected with railway line;

(b) whether there has been a long standing demand to connect Chatra with railway line;

(c) whether the Government propose to link this place with railway line; and

(d) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Chatra is not connected with railway line.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Introduction of Fast Passenger Train from Haldibari to Jalpaiguri

1785. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce a fast passenger train from Haldibari to Sealdah via Jalpaiguri town and NJP station to meet the long felt need of the people of Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar;

(b) if so, whether work have already been started there; and

(c) if so, the amount spent thereon and the details of the work completed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) to (c) No, Sir. But the feasibility is under examination.

[Translation]

Renovation of Rajpipla Airport

1786. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an old airport in Rajpipla town near Narmada Dam of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to renovate this airport; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The National Airports Authority has no plan to construct/renovate any airport at Rajpipla city of Bharuch District in Gujarat.

Bridge over Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh

1787. SHRI PROBEN DEKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to construct fourth rail-cum-road bridge over river Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh (Assam); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

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

(b) The bridge is planned as a Centrally-assisted North Eastern Council project for the 8th Five Year Plan. Detailed project report prepared by Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. in 1988 has been updated by Northeast Frontier Railway and furnished to the North Eastern Council for processing further. The cost of the project has been assessed as Rs. 558.88 crores.

Lalitpur-Singrauli Railway Line

1788. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the railway line between Lalitpur and Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh has been started;

(b) if so, the amount allotted for the purpose so far;

(c) the progress made so far in the construction of the railway line; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Survey for Lalitpur-Singrauli new BG line has been taken up.

Polypropylene Plant at Bijaipur

1789. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM

AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited propose to set up a polypropylene plant at Bijaipur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the latest position in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Detailed Project Report has been received from the Gas Authority of India. The proposal is to have a capacity of 1,00,000 tonnes of polypropylene at an estimated cost of Rs. 720 crores.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Coal to Power Plants in Gujarat

1790. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the month-wise demand of coal made by the Government of Gujarat for Thermal Power Stations from October, 1990 to June, 1991 and the quantity of coals allotted and actually supplied to these plants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): As per information received from the Central Electricity Authority, (CEA) month-wise coal demand, for thermal power stations agreed between Gujarat and CEA, the linkage given by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short Term) and receipts of coal by the power stations from October, 1990 to June, 1991 is given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

Month	Ahmedabad TPS		Gandhinagar TPS		Ukai TPS		Wanakbori TPS		Sikka TPS						
	Coal *Demand	Link- age	Coal *Demand	Rece- age	Coal *Demand	Link- age	Coal *Demand	Link- age	Coal *Demand	Rece- age					
Oct., 90	147	150	141	128	75	37	261	240	245	374	450	347	35	30	12
Nov., 90	151	150	127	131	75	87	265	240	210	405	450	296	34	30	38
Dec., 90	112	150	101	138	75	102	278	240	220	456	450	239	37	30	26
Jan., 91	159	150	122	138	130	131	278	275	271	464	400	188	37	40	26
Feb., 91	150	150	92	117	130	95	258	275	185	412	400	260	34	40	22
March, 91	158	150	99	139	130	115	277	275	246	472	400	273	37	40	22
April, 91	104	160	114	144	220	105	282	350	208	366	520	302	38	50	29
May, 91	138	160	122	147	220	133	285	350	222	418	520	280	42	50	28
June, 91	136	160	116	111	220	133	250	350	231	318	520	268	38	50	37

*Coal Demand as per generation target agreed between CEA and Gujarat (including quantity required for stock building).

[English]

Private Firms in Oil Exploration and Production

1791. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private agency has approached the Government for participation in oil exploration and production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Government have decided to invite international and Indian companies to bid for exploration for oil and gas in the Fourth Round of bidding.

Allocation of Natural Gas to Fertilizer Industry

1792. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the fertilizer industry for the allocation of natural gas on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to allocate natural gas to fertilizer industry on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) So far 28.40 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated to the fertilizer sector.

Foreign Tourists

1793. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the reasons for fall in foreign tourists arrival;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding pilferage of baggages and rude and unhelpful behaviour of officials and guides; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists include continuous augmentation of tourism infrastructure in the country and strengthening of marketing efforts in the overseas markets.

(c) and (d) Such complaints are received from time to time and are forwarded to the concerned authorities for taking appropriate action.

[Translation]

Expansion of Indore Airstrip

1794. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of modern facilities available for landing at Indore airport;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme for the expansion and modernisation of airstrip at Indore; and

(c) the details of steps taken to make available air-bus service at Indore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Indore airport has the following navigational and landing aids:—

Very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR), Non-Directional Beacon (NDB), Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI) and runway/taxiway lights.

(b) and (c) This airport belongs to National Airports Authority. Present length of runway is 5600'. Runway length of 7500' is required to operate AB-320 without any pay load restrictions. To extend it to 7500', additional land of 28 acres outside the aerodrome premises is required. Extension of runway to 7500' thus depends on the availability of land.

[English]

Air India Flights to Gulf Countries

1795. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken or proposed by the Government to start flying full fleet of the Air India and to improve its utilisation;

(b) whether the Air India propose to maintain its schedule flights to gulf countries without abrupt cancellation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) It is the constant endeavour of Air India to operate all the scheduled flights on its network. However, in the recent past, services to the Gulf were disrupted due to the war in the Gulf region. The services to gulf are now being operated normally.

Posting of SC/ST in Khurda Road Division

1796. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts reserved for SCs and STs lying vacant in the Khurda Road division of South Eastern Railway at present; and

(b) the reasons for not filling those vacancies so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Railway Line Between Guwahati and Dibrugarh

1797. SHRI MURUL ISLAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to extend the broad gauge line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of State Electricity Boards

1798. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise the State Electricity Boards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Harnessing of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for Lighting purpose

1799. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to harness non-conventional energy sources for lighting purpose in the far flung hamlets and groups of houses in Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Solar Photovoltaic systems have already been installed for street lighting in 56 unelectrified villages and hamlets of Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh. There is no further proposal for such installation in this district.

[*Translation*]

Bridge at Patna

1800. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey for the construction of railway bridge over the river Ganga in Patna;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to start the work on this project?

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

(b) and (c) The cost of the project has been assessed as Rs. 468 crores

with a negative rate of return. The work cannot be taken up at present due to acute resource crunch.

[*English*]

Irregular EMU Service in Kharagpur Division

1801. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of unprecedented irregularities of Electric Multiple Unit service in Kharagpur division of South-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Punctuality of Electric Multiple Unit service in Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway during April, May and June 1991 averaged to 90.2, 90.3 and 87.2 respectively. A slight shortfall in punctuality in June 1991 was due to power failure and public agitation.

A close watch on running of these trains is kept.

[*Translation*]

Additional Ordinary Coaches in Long Distance Trains

1802. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for connecting ordinary coaches in long distance trains;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme to connect ordinary coaches in such trains in order to facilitate the journey of middle class/low income group's people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) Reserved accommodation is provided on long distant trains for journey in comfort including overnight rest for long distance passengers. However, a minimum of two second class ordinary coaches are attached for passengers without reservation on long distance trains with exception of Rajdhani, Shatabdi Express trains etc.

Train Services on Bhatni-Varanasi Section

1803. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run additional trains on Bhatni-Varanasi section in view of density of passenger traffic; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There is no proposal at present to run any additional train on Bhatni-Varanasi section.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Employment to Victims of Peruman Rail Accident

1804. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether applications from the dependents of those government servants killed in the Peruman rail accident in July, 1988 for employment are still pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Development of Palaruvi Tourist Project, Kerala

1805. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for development of Palaruvi project in Kottayam district, Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No such project has been received in this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Tourism Plan for Karnataka

1806. SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for approval and financial assistance to develop tourism centres in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of proposals that have been considered so far and the number of proposals that are pending with the Government.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka have submitted proposals along with detailed estimates for financial assistance to upgrade 12 properties of the Karnataka Tourism Development Corporation and for publicity support, which are presently under consideration of the Central Government. No other proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

[*Translation*]

Compensation to the Displaced Persons in Bihar Coal Exploration

1807. SHRIMATI RITA
VERMA:

SHRI BHUVNESHWAR
PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under coal companies (E.C.C.L., B.C.C.L. and C.C.L.) extracting coal in Bihar;

(b) the number of persons who have been given compensation and job in lieu of their land taken over by these companies for mining; and

(c) the time by which the remaining persons are proposed to be given jobs and compensation by the Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

National Power Grid

1808. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Power Grid; and

(b) if so, the nature and objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The National Power Grid is in the process of development with the continued augmentation of Extra high Voltage lines in

the Central Sector and creation/strengthening of the Inter-State and Inter-Regional transmission links, and the load despatch facilities.

The prime objectives of the establishment of the National Power Grid are:

(a) Optimal investment and development of power potential. Coal and hydro resources in the best overall interest of the nation.

(b) Rapid development of integration of power systems with resultant economic benefits and improved reliability and quality of power supply to all the vital sectors of the economy.

(c) Smooth flow of power from Central Generation projects to all the beneficiary States.

Bridge Over Gandak at Narkatiaganj

1809. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a road-cum-rail bridge over river Gandak in Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur section of North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the steps being taken for its early completion?

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

(b) Progress upto 30th June, 1991 is 16%.

(c) The co-sharers viz. Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are defaulting in the timely release of their shares of funds for 1990-91 and 1991-92. They are being pursued to deposit their shares. Ministry of Water

Resources has already agreed to provide their share and Ministry of Railways has allocated their share in the Budget 1991-92. The main work in the khadir of the river is tentatively planned for 1992-93 subject to co-sharers contributing their shares in time.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Saharsa Railway Station

1810. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision regarding modernisation of some railway stations two years ago;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the criteria adopted for their selection;

(c) whether Saharsa railway station in Bihar also comes in the said category; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to modernise the above railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 67 Railway Stations all over Indian Railways were selected to be developed as Model Stations in 1986. These stations were selected out of the stations serving the State Capitals, Zonal Headquarters, important junctions and places of specific importance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Departure time of Express Train Running between Ramnagar and Delhi

1811. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Express train running between Ramnagar on North

East Railway and Delhi junction stops at Muradabad station for more than two hours and passengers have to face a lot of difficulties as a result thereof:

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to change the departure time of this train at Ramnagar; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) 4055-A Ramnagar-Delhi Express arrives Moradabad at 15.15 hrs. and gets amalgamated with 4055 Bareilly-Delhi Express arriving/leaving Moradabad at 16.40 hrs. and 17.10 hrs. respectively. It is presently not operationally feasible to change the timings.

Pending Projects in Bihar

1812. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various oil related schemes/projects in Bihar have been pending with the Union Government for a long period;

(b) If so, the details thereof and when these projects and schemes/proposals were received from the Government of Bihar;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the approval is likely to be given to each of these projects and schemes?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) All proposals received are considered and cleared as expeditiously as possible.

Availability of Natural Gas

1813. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the State-wise distribution of available natural gas at present?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): The State-wise average supply of natural gas during the year 1990-91 was as follows:

(MMSCMD)

Gujarat	3.763
Assam	2.544
Tripura	0.192
Andhra Pradesh	0.113
Tamil Nadu	0.023
Maharashtra	14.833
Madhya Pradesh	1.627
Rajasthan	1.146
Uttar Pradesh	4.480
Delhi	0.490
	29.211

Rail Link from Hazipur to Sugauli in Bihar

1814. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay a branch line from Hazipur to Sugauli via Vaishali, Sahibganj, Kesira, Gobindganj, Pahadpur and Harsidhi;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

Modernisation of Akola Railway Station (S.R.)

1815. SHRI PANDURANG PUNDLIK FUNDKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Akola Railway station on Central Railway is being modernised;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned therefor;

(c) the nature of modernisation;

(d) the amount spent thereon so far; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for speeding up the modernisation work?

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

(b) Rs. 82.18 lakh.

(c) The modernisation scheme provides for additional cover over platforms, improvement to circulating area, improvements to the station building, provision of additional foot-over-bridge, new booking-cum-reservation office, provision of additional seating arrangements and shelter for licensed porters.

(d) Rs. 48.64 lakh.

(e) All works proposed to be taken up are progressing as per schedule and certain works have been completed. Remaining works are expected to be completed by 1993 subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Konkan Type Railway Projects

1816. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start projects like Konkan Railway line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the States to be connected by those rail projects?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Railway Lines in Haryana

1817. SHRI RAM PRAKASH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Haryana have sent some schemes to the Union Government to lay new rail lines in Haryana.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far in this regard?

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

(b) The following proposals for new B.G. railway lines have been received from the State Government of Haryana:

1. Rohtak to Hissar via Jind
2. Jagadhri to Chandigarh
3. Bhiwani to Bhatinda
4. Jakhal to Hanumangarh via Uklana, Bhuna, Fatehabad, Sirsa, Rania and Ellenabad
5. Bahadurgarh-Jhajjar
6. Khurja-Palwal-Rewari-Rohtak

(c) Survey for new lines from Rohtak to Hissar (via Jind) and Jagadhri to Chandigarh have already been ordered.

Bhiwani and Bhatinda are directly connected by M.G. and also by B.G. via Rohtak.

The lines at items (3), (4) and (5) above cannot be considered for the present due to constraint of resources.

Item (6) is the proposed National Capital Region line. It has not been possible to take up the work on this line for want of funds.

Power Position in Madhya Pradesh

1818. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of electricity in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the shortage is likely to continue by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) During the month of June, 1991, the Energy Shortage in Madhya Pradesh was 3.9%.

(b) The 8th Plan has not been finalised so far by the Planning Commission.

(c) Various measures being taken to improve the power availability in Madhya Pradesh include expediting commissioning of new generating capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reduction of T & D losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures and arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.

Gas Turbines of DESU

1819. **SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK**: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three gas turbines out of six installed at the Indraprastha Power House of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking have not been functioning for long;

(b) if so, since when and the time by which they are likely to become operational; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on their repair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Out of the six Gas Turbines of DESU, three Units (Unit No. 2, 3 and 5) have been out of order for different periods during the last one year due to technical reasons. DESU has already initiated action for repairs and recommissioning of these units at the earliest. Unit No. 2 is expected to be back in service by the 6th August, 1991. Unit No. 5 is likely to be recommissioned by December, 1991. The expenditure on the repairs of Unit No. 2 is estimated at Rs. 2 lakhs. An estimated expenditure of about Rs. 2 crores is involved in the import of spares for Unit No. 5. M/s BHEL have furnished an estimate of Rs. 18 lakhs for the opening of the rotor etc. of Unit No. 3. The cost of repairs and recommissioning of this unit would depend upon the type and extent of the fault.

[English]

Garbage Incinerated Plant

1820. **SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO**: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL EN-

ERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the department of non-conventional Energy Sources has established a garbage incinerated plant;

(b) if so, the total cost incurred on it;

(c) whether the plant is at present operational; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) A refuse incineration-cum-power generation project, with research and development ramifications, has been set up with Danish assistance.

(b) The total cost incurred on the project, including Danish assistance, is about Rs. 25 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The project did not perform satisfactorily and it has been decided to wind it up.

Supply of Coal to Thermal Power Units

1821. **SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI**: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal supply is not adequate to the thermal power units in the country;

(b) whether the coal stocks of various thermal power units have been reduced on account of short supply of coal; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to increase the allocation of coal to the thermal units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Despatches of coal from Coal India Ltd., and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., to power sector during the period April-June, 1991 were 32.18 (including washery middlings) million tonnes as against the supply of 29.45 (including washery middlings) million tonnes during the same period last year, a growth of 9.27%.

(b) and (c) Coal stocks of some thermal power stations have come down. In order to supply coal to thermal power stations in adequate quantity, production and despatch of coal to power sector is being monitored on daily basis, and supply to power sector has been given priority over other sectors.

Growth in Demand for Petroleum Products

1822. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the growth in demand for petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Various steps including demand management & Conservation measures such as fuel efficient stoves, automobile engines & energy audit have been taken. Use of substitute fuels and inter-fuel substitution are under consideration.

Beautification of Indira Gandhi International Airport

1823. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Airports Authority of India proposes to beautify various land-pockets at Ter-

minal-II, Indira Gandhi International Airport;

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

(c) the time by which the work will be completed and amount involved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the first phase, a seventy-two acre area comprising eight vacant land pockets along both sides of the main access road from National Highway-8 to Terminal-II has been identified for greening and landscaping. Offers have been invited from reputed parties capable of undertaking such works. The area will be developed progressively over the next few years. The cost of development and the time period of its completion will be known only after the offers are received and evaluated.

(d) Does not arise.

Doubling of Mangalore-Shoranur Line

1824. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been conducted for doubling of Mangalore-Shoranur railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) A survey to assess the need for doubling of Mangalore-Shoranur railway line has been taken up.

Procurement of Safety Boots by Coal India Limited

1825. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal mining workers of the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries are agitating for the supply of good quality of safety boots to them; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the details of purchases made during the last three years, year-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) There have been a few complaints that the safety canvas boots supplied to workers are not lasting the expected minimum period of six months. The companies always purchase the boots having D.G.M.S. approval and marking of Bureau of Indian Standard. In view of the complaints, the coal companies are now procuring the boots from only such manufacturers who give a guarantee of six months life.

Information regarding the quantity and the value of the purchases made during the years 1988-89 to 1990-91 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Trips by ITDC Officials

1826. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the India Tourism Development Corporation have been going out on private foreign trips during the past two years or so;

(b) if so, whether these employees have been permitted to go on such visits by the Department, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the action taken by the Government against those employees who had undertaken such visits at their own privately; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and details of such persons with their positions in ITDC, rules pertaining to foreign trips and sources of funds?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The employees of ITDC are not required to obtain permission of the Central Government for their private foreign visits.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Production, Requirement and Import of Petroleum Products

1827. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of petroleum and petroleum products produced and its requirement in the country, at present;

(b) the petroleum and petroleum products available at present;

(c) the quantity of crude oil and petroleum products being imported at present giving details separately from Gulf countries; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to reduce the use of petrol in non-essential sector and allot the same to the industries, railways and public transport etc?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) During 1990-91 about 33.02 million tonne (MMT) crude oil and 49.5 MMT products were produced in the country. Total consumption in 1990-91 was 54.77 MMT. For 1991-92 import of about 19.6 MMT crude oil and 9.6 MMT products has been approved at present.

(d) No, Sir.

Vayudoot Services

1828. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed the Vayudoot to operate on all the existing routes to cater to the passengers needs;

(b) whether most of the pilots had left the services of Vayudoot and joined other airlines;

(c) whether the existing aircraft are economically viable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) On the current fare structure and costs of Vayudoot, the operations of Vayudoot are not economically viable. The break-even load factor of the aircraft in its fleet is far above 100%. For example, the per hour revenue of a Dornier aircraft is estimated to be about Rs. 5500 while the per hour expenditure is estimated to be about Rs. 13,000.

[Translation]

Pilferage of Coal in Samastipur Division

1829. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply

given on May 8, 1990 to the Unstarred Question No. 7833 regarding theft of coal in Samastipur Division, and state:

(a) the steps being taken to prevent the pilferage of coal at Jayanagar, Kahjauli, Nirmali, Sakari and Darbhanga stations under Samastipur Division of North Eastern Railway and result thereof; and

(b) the measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) As a result of preventive measures taken by the North Eastern Railway, 6 cases of pilferage of coal valued at Rs. 2165 were detected during 1990-91 by RPF, in which 8 persons including 2 Railway employees were arrested at Darbhanga, Jayanagar and Nirmali Railway Stations.

The following measures are being taken to prevent thefts of coal at these stations:—

1. Intensive beat patrolling in the yards and other vulnerable sections.
2. Crime Intelligence staff is deployed to collect information about thieves and receivers of stolen coal and raids are organised to detect stolen coal.
3. Surprise checks are being conducted in vulnerable sections and bad spots to catch the criminals.
4. Dog Squads are also deployed for preventive and detective duties.
5. Close co-ordination between the RPF and GRP is maintained at various levels to deal with criminals and receivers of stolen coal.

Furnace Oil used in Kota Thermal Power Plant

1830. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) since when the furnace oil was used in the Kota Thermal Power Project;

(b) the amount being spent on the furnace oil used therein during the last three years; and

(c) the details of units which were closed during the last three years and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Furnace oil is used in ther-

mal power stations for start-up activities, shut down, testing/commissioning and part load running of the units. Part load running is required almost daily during the low load period and at night.

(b) The total cost of furnace oil consumed during the last three years is as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Furnace oil cost</i>
	<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1988-89	771.17
1989-90	1715.13
1990-91	1057.93

(c) The details of shut down of units at Kota during the last three years together with the reasons for outage is given in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT

Outage details of Kota thermal power units during 1988-89 to 1990-91

<i>Unit No.</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>Outage</i>		<i>Reasons for outage</i>
		<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	
1988-89				
Kota-1 .	110	01-08-88	31-10-88	Capital Overhaul
Kota-2 .	110	21-06-88	05-08-88	Boiler Overhaul
1989-90				
Kota-1 .	110	08-04-89	14-11-89	Capital Overhaul
Kota-3 .	210	26-06-89	10-07-89	Boiler Overhaul
		23-01-90	08-03-90	Boiler Overhaul
1990-91				
Kota-1 .	110	27-06-90	09-09-90	Annual Maintenance and shut-down prolonged on account of leakage from generator and shield.
Kota-2 .	110	27-04-90	13-08-90	Capital Maintenance and shutdown prolonged on account of detection of defect in generator starter slot No. 13.
		20-11-90	31-12-90	Coal shortage
Kota-3 .	210	16-08-90	25-12-90	Capital maintenance and shut-down prolonged to rectify loose starter slot wedges & blocked ventilation.
Kota-4 .	210	04-08-90	28-08-90	Annual Maintenance

Supply of Coal to Thermal Power Station at Kotah

1831. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of coal being used regularly in Thermal Power Stations at Kotah;

(b) the details of the coalfield from where the coal is being supplied and the distance of the coalfield from Kotah;

(c) whether there is any other coal mine at a nearby distance; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available the coal from the nearest coal mine so as to avoid losses in transportation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Central Electricity Authority have indicated the average monthly coal demand of Kota Thermal Power Station (KTPS) as 1,70,000 tonnes.

(b) Kotah Thermal Power Station (KTPS) receives coal from Singrauli Collieries of Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL); Korea-Rewa coalfields of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) and Jharia Coalfields of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). Approximate distances of these coalfields from KTPS are as follows:—

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| (i) SECL (Korea-Rewa) | 990 Kms. |
| (ii) NCL (Singrauli) | 800 Kms. |
| (iii) BCCL (Jharia) | 1350 Kms. |

(c) and (d) Coalfields nearer to the power station are Korea-Rewa and Singrauli Coalfields. However due to low production in Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd (SCCL) additional coal has to be supplied to Southern and Western parts of India from Western Coalfields Ltd., South Eastern Coalfields Ltd., and Northern Coalfields Ltd. As such a part of requirement of Kota T.P.S. is being met from Jharia Coalfields of BCCL.

Supply of Coal to Thermal Power plants

1832. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the rate at which coal is being supplied to the thermal power plants and the total quantity of coal supplied to them;

(b) whether category of coal being supplied was also fixed in the contract and if so, the categories of coal supplied during the last three years; and

(c) whether there have been complaints against the supply of inferior quality of coal from time to time. If so, the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The rates at which coal is being supplied to thermal power stations vary according to the grades of coal supplied. The present average pit-head price fixed for coal produced by Coal India Ltd. is Rs. 249.00 per tonne and by Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. is Rs. 297.00 per tonne.

During the first three months of the year 1991-92 i.e. from 1-4-91 to 30-6-91, the despatches of coal to power stations from CIL and SCCL were 32.18 million tonnes (including washery middlings).

(b) As per information supplied by Central Electricity Authority, quality of coal is not incorporated in the coal supply agreement between Electricity Boards/Power Utilities, and Coal Companies.

(c) Yes, Sir. There have been occasional complaints about supply of inferior quality of coal. All such complaints are enquired into and corrective steps are taken. Coal Companies have been directed to despatch coal after crushing and screening it, and take precautions that extraneous material is segregated from coal.

Development of Tourist Complexes in Rajasthan

1833. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes for tourist complexes of Rajasthan pending with the Union Government for approval and since when these are pending;

(b) the time by which these are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the total number so schemes approved by the Union Government during the last three years and the funds provided for the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A proposal alongwith detailed estimates in respect of a tourist complex at Nagaur at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.90 lakhs was received recently from the State Government on which a decision will be taken shortly.

(c) During the last three years 34 schemes were sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 263.47 lakhs.

LPG Agencies in Rajasthan

1834. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies allotted during the last one year in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government propose to allot more LPG agencies in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the number and the places identified?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The 12 (Twelve) allotted are being reviewed.

(b) and (c) LPG distributorships are opened in different cities as per marketing plans and policy in Force from time to time.

Sanction to Power Projects

1835. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects approved during the last three years:

(b) whether the backward States have been given any priority in according approval to these projects; and

(c) whether the Government propose to accord its approval to any power project in Rajasthan in being shortage of power and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) 57 thermal & hydro projects have been approved during the last three years.

(b) Schemes for development of power in the country are approved on the basis of their techno-economic viability depending upon the availability of resources for their execution.

(c) Barsingsar Lignite Thermal Project located in Rajasthan consisting of two units each of 120 MW has been sanctioned in April, 1991. The project is to be implemented by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

Suratgarh Thermal Project (Stage I) consisting of two units each of 250 MW has also been accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 13-6-1991 subject to clearance of associated transmission system by the CEA.

The present status of the schemes which have been received for techno-economic approval from the Government of Rajasthan is given below:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>	<i>Installed Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>Present Status</i>
1.	Jhakam H.E.P.	2 × 2.5 = 5	The scheme is under appraisal in the CEA Clearance from Environmental & Forest angles as well as compliance of Provision of Section 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, are awaited.
2.	Dholpur Thermal Project	3 × 250 = 750	The scheme is under appraisal in CEA Coal linkage, water availability, associated transmission system, environment clearance are yet to be tied up. Compliance of the provisions of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, is also awaited.
3.	Solar Thermal Power Plant at Mathania.	30	The scheme is under appraisal in CEA.

Reservation of Stalls for SCs/STs

1836. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the persons and names of the railway stations on Western Railway where Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been given permission to put up stalls and on what conditions this permission has been granted;

(b) the number of sites reserved for the persons from these categories and the present position of vacant and allotted sites and by what time these sites are likely to be allotted; and

(c) the types of stalls and trolleys allowed to be put up at railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A statement is attached. Licences have been given on the condition that the licensee should abide by the provisions of the agreement executed with the Railways.

(b) No sites as such have been reserved for allotment of stalls to any

category. However, all catering/vending licences upto 1/2 unit value have been reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates.

(c) Only those stalls and trolleys are permitted which sell items required by the passengers during the course of their journey.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of Contractor</i>	<i>Name of Station</i>
1	2
Smt. Fulzari H.	Churchgate
Shri Subedar Ram	Marine Lines
Shri Kantilal, A.	Charni Road
Shri D.M. Shinde	Charni Road
Shri Dani Ram	Grant Road
Shri Natri C.	Bombay Central (L)
M/s. Vasant & Co.	Mahalaxmi
Shri Raghuram C.	Lower Parel
Shri Bharat G.	Elphinstone Road
Shri Yeshwant H.	Dadar
M/s. Bhawandas & Co.	Dadar
Shri Keshav Chandra P.R.	Matunga Road

1	2	1	2
Shri Sada Shiv Narayan	Bandra	Shri P.K. Solanki	Sanand
Smt. Parmar	Bandra	Shri Jammu Bhai	Sevalia
Shri M.V. Parmer	Khar	Shri Gordhandas	Choranda Jn.
M/s. S.M. Mane & Co.	Khar	Shri Rambhai L.	Anand
M/s. Murlidhar P & Co.	Santacruz	Shri Keshavlal Jain	Baroda
Smt. Parvatiben Tribhovandas	Vile Parle	Shri Nandram	Mandsaur
M/s. Ramesh Pandari	Vile Parle	Shri Shankarlal	Mandsaur
Smt. Parvatiben T. Makwana	Vile Parle	Shri Mohanlal	Jaora
M/s. Gajanan & Co.	Andheri	Shri Pandurang Sule	Nimarkheri
Smt. Khalwadikar	Andheri	Shri Ramnath Ahirwar	Indore
Shri Ramdayal Ram Jogeshwari	Jogeshwari	Shri Devisingh Damor	Dohad
Shri Narayan Prakash	Jogeshwari	Shri Suresh Kumar	Ujjain
Shri Iamkatram Ram Borivli	Borivli	Shri Mangilal Hiraju	Ujjain
Shri D.M. Shinde	Borivli	Shri Netram Asharam	Ujjain
Shri Jayant K. Giryolkar	Borivli	Shri Manohar Kachhavay	Nagda
Shri Dilip Diloud	Borivli	Shri B.K. Salvi	Nagda
Shri Pradeep Kanagali	Borivli	Shri Bhagirath Badana	Kalisindh
Smt. Hukumchand Kachhawai	Borivli	Shri Babulal Berwa	Maksi
Shri Dilip Pannalal	Dahisar	Shri Biharilal Kohli	Sehore
M/s. Adiwasi Gram Seva Sangh, Kainad	Dahanu Road	Smt. Kishan Kaur	Agra Fort
M/s. Karvir Adivasi Gram Seva Sangh	Dahanu Road	Shri Khemchand	Fatchpur-Sikri
Shri Atmaram Acharya	Surat	Smt. Shankuntla Devi	Ravanasamudram
Smt. Padmaja R. Vatkar	Bilimora	Shri Ram Prasad	Bayana
Shri Rajendra Kumar R.	Dondaiche	Shri Chitarmal	Hindaun City
Shri Rajendra Kumar R.	Nardana	Shri Kishanlal	Kota
Shri Dayabhai S.	Cambay	Shri Rameshchand	Shamgarh
Shri Somabhai P. Patel	Petlad	Shri Ramjilal	Suvasra
Smt. Parvati R.	Kosamba	Shri Udaichand	Salpura
Shri H.G. Vasava	Kim	Shri Hariram Meena	Marwar Jn.
Shri Chhabra P.C.	Viramgam	Shri Harishchandra Jatia	Chitrod
		Shri Ratanlal Bakoria	Gandhidham
		Shri Jogaram	Phulad
		Shri Din Dayal	Udaipur City
		Shri Shankar S.	Udaipur City
		Shri Ram Kishore Meena	Udaipur City
		Shri Leelachand R.	Gandhidham

1	2
Smt. Nirmala Devi	Phulad
Kum. Reeta	Ranapratapnagar
Shri Bhagirath Meena	Palanpur
Shri Babulal	Udaipur City
Shri Tulsiram Mehwal	Udaipur City
Shri Gundalal Kataria	Udaipur City
Shri Keshavdev Mandal	Somesar
Shri Kamlesh Kumar	New Bhuj
Shri Gundalal Katara	New Bhuj
Shri Mahesh Kumar	New Bhuj
Shri Allahbai N. Babaria	Rajkot
Shri Pravin A. Parmar	Himmatnagar
Shri Mansukh T.	Jamnagar
Shri Diva Baba	Bhanvad
Shri Ravji Mohan	Dhari
Shri Somabhai B.	Dhandhuka
Smt. Ujiben Arjunbhai	Porbandar
Shri Samji Moti	Rajula Jn.
Smt. Kasturben Parmar	Junagadh

Compensation to victims of Fire Incident due to Naptha Tanker near Nagda

1837. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received regarding payment of compensation to the victims of grave fire incident caused due to crude Naptha tanker, near Nagda on Western Railway during 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. A representation was received in April, 1990.

(b) The representation was examined. Payment of compensation was not found tenable under the provisions of Indian Railway Act, 1890.

[English]

Development of Pathira Manal Tourist Centre in Alappay, Kerala

1838. SHRI T. J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned any financial assistance for Pathira Manal Tourist Centre in Alappay, Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala have recently submitted a proposal for financial assistance of Rs. 15.00 lakhs to develop the Island Resort at Pathira Manal which is under consideration.

Financial assistance to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board

1839. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate financial assistance will be provided to Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board for generating additional 1990 Megawatt capacity by completing first and second power houses of Bansagar Tons Hydel Project, Birsinghpur Hydel Project, Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Project (1st and 2nd phase), Pench Thermal Project, Hasdeo Bango Hydel Project, Tawa Hydel Project, Rajghat Inter-State Hydel Project and the 5th Unit of Korba (West) Thermal Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Central financial assistance is allocated to the States on the basis of Modified Gadgil Formula

in the form of block loans/grants and is not allocated to specific projects/programmes. However, Power Finance Corporation has so far advanced loans to Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board for these projects as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>PFC's loan upto June 1991</i>	
	<i>Sanctioned</i>	<i>Disbursed</i>
<i>Thermal Projects</i>		
1. Sanjay Gandhi TPS	65.00	47.45
2. Sanjay Gandhi TPS Extn.	38.82	38.69
3. Pench	26.10	26.10
<i>Hydel Projects</i>		
4. Bansagar Tones	15.32	15.31
5. Birsingh Pur	1.70	1.70
6. Hasdeo-Bango	5.00	4.96

Capacity utilisation of Neyveli Lignite Corporation

1840. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise targets fixed and production of lignite achieved by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation during 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 against the targets fixed, year-wise;

(b) the cost of production per tonne of lignite during each of these three years and its comparative cost with the production of coal;

(c) the installed capacity of the Neyveli power station and the capacity utilised during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(d) the requirement of lignite by the power station during the last three years;

(e) whether the requirement has been met in full or whether the power station is consuming oil for power generation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI (S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The year-wise targets fixed and the actual production of lignite achieved by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. during the last three years are as under:

(Lakh Tonnes)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Actual</i>
1988-89	104.60	114.05
1989-90	104.60	112.36
1990-91	110.00	117.59

(b) The average cost of production per tonne of lignite (in NLC) and coal (in CIL) during the last three years is given below:

(Rs./Tonne)

	Lignite (NLC)	Coal (CIL)
1988-89	146.03	252.91
1989-90	173.82	264.69
1990-91	189.92	277.17

(c) *Installed capacity*

*Capacity utilisation
(against target)*

	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
1230 MW (upto August, 1990) 1220 MW (from September, 1990)	118.10%	106.75%	106.0%

(d) to (f) The lignite requirement of power stations at Neyveli during the last three years, as indicated below, was met in full:

(Lakh tonnes)

1988-89	80.10
1989-90	85.49
1990-91	86.27

However, limited quantity of oil is essentially required for stabilisation and also for start up/shut down of power plants. The consumption of oil is given below:

1988-89	24870.24	KL
1989-90	28054.67	KL
1990-91	18498.24	KL

[Translation]

Techno-economic approval to Korba Power Plant

1841. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA:

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether techno-economic approval has been granted by the Central

Electricity Authority for the expansion of unit No. 5 and 6 of Korba Power Plant; and

(b) if so, the time by which the financial approval is likely to be granted by the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approval of the scheme is being processed in the Planning Commission.

Container Service

1842. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any steep fall in home container service of the Railways during last two years:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the functioning of container service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a fall in loading of domestic container traffic during 1990-91 when 26,649 units were loaded as compared to 29,281 in the previous year.

(b) The decline in traffic is on account of the depleting fleet of railway owned domestic containers on account of over-age.

(c) Railways have already started utilising International Standard Organisation (I.S.O.) marine containers for transport of domestic cargo to supplement the fleet of domestic containers. The marketing of these services is now being done by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) in close association with freight forwarders, container holding companies, the trade and the Railways.

Cases of Derailments

1843. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of derailment cases reported during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for these derailments; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to avert such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN). (a) and (b) There were 902 derailments during 1989-90 and 1990-91. The accidents took place mainly due to failure of railway staff, equipment failure and sabotage.

(c) Some of the important steps being taken to reduce derailments include strengthening/renewal of track structure, ultrasonic testing of rails, improving quality of out-turn from workshops, intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations and patrolling of track in disturbed areas.

Reservation Quota of Jhansi Division

1844. SHRI V. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota of berths in Jhansi division has been reduced during the last few years,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the quota of berths in that division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There has been no reduction in the overall availability of reservation quotas on Jhansi Division.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reservation quotas on Jhansi Division have been increased from 5111 berths in January, 1989 to 8880 berths in June, 1991.

Setting up of Gas Based Power Plant in Uttar Pradesh

1845. SHRI V. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any gas based power plant in Uttar Pradesh preferably near Delhi to meet power shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not utilising the gas at present going waste in H.B.J. Gas pipe line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A gas based power project, 817 MW (4 × 131.3 GT+2 × 146 MW ST), at an estimated cost of Rs. 692.44 crores, is being set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation at Dadri near Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

World Bank Loan to Coal India Limited

1846. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited has been advised not

to procure machinery and equipments from the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited for its development projects with the aid and assistance received from the World Bank; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) The undermentioned coal projects are being implemented with the assistance of the World Bank:—

<i>Project</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Amount of loan (US\$ million)</i>
Dudhichua OC	NCL	109.0
Block-II OC	BCCL	57.7
Sonepur Bazari OC	ECL	114.8
Gevra OCP	SECL	65.2

During the course of implementation of these projects Supervision Missions from the World Bank have been visiting India for reviewing the various aspects related to the project activities funded by the Bank. For Dudhichua OCP a Dragline financed by the World Bank was ordered on Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), Ranchi. The supply of the dragline components was delayed and the World Bank Mission had also expressed concern about the quality aspects of the dragline component. During its visit to India in January-February, 1991 the Mission observed that the commissioning of the dragline would be delayed by 18 months as some critical items still remained to be supplied. The Mission had also expressed concern about the poor performance of HEC both on quality and on timely delivery taken together with their past record of CIL and other contract deliveries. It was in this background that the Mission expressed doubt if the Bank would be willing to give their no objection to any future recommendation of contract award to HEC for supply of major dragline.

This observation of the World Bank is related to Bank funded coal projects. However, Coal India Limited have not received any directions from the World Bank not to procure any equipment with World Bank aid from HEC.

[Translation]

Proposal for Main Railway Station at Agra

1847. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a new main railway station from where each train passing through Agra be stopped for taking passengers at a centralised station in Agra;

(b) if not, whether there is any such proposal to convert any of the existing railway stations at Agra into a main railway station for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN). (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

ASH Handling System in NLC

1848. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of specifications fixed by the Tender Advisory Committee in ash handling system for awarding contracts by Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC):

(b) whether these specifications were adhered to while awarding such contracts by the Corporation during the last three years.

(c) if so, the reasons for losses suffered by the Corporation as a result of awarding the ash handling contracts and

(d) the steps taken to check such recurrences?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Specifications are not fixed by Tender Advisory Committee. Specifications for all packages for Neyveli Thermal Power Station II, Stage II, to which this question relates, have been prepared by the consultants appointed for the project.

The following specifications have been laid down for design, construction and erection of the system.

(i) It has been envisaged that though the lignite consumption per unit at MCR will be 207 T/hr, the hydro sluicing system design parameter shall be taken as 262 T/hr.

(ii) Ash content in the lignite to be provided for: 12%. Ash generation ratio per unit: 31.5 T/hr.

(iii) The ratio of ash to fly ash is prescribed at 20%:80% i.e. in the ratio of 0.3 T/hr:25.2 T/hr. However, the fly ash equipment shall be designed in the ratio of 10%:90%.

(b) This is a one time requirement for the project and the specifications were unit related.

Following changes were made with regard to the specifications and make of certain equipment for various reasons:

(i) The thickness of the ash slurry pipes was originally specified to be of 355 mm OD and 9.52 mm. However, M/s. SAIL, who are suppliers of the pipe, which are bought out items, expressed their inability to manufacture pipes of these specifications. Therefore, both the bidders were asked, while calling for revised price bids, to quote for ash slurry pipes of 7.14 mm thickness and 355 mm OD.

(ii) The original specifications for the ash water pumps provided for hardness of 350 BHN. The successful bidder after consulting reputed pump manufacturers in India informed NLC that water pumps with a hardness of 350 BHN are not manufactured in India and requested for a change to BHN 250-300. NLC approved the change after clearance by the consultants. This change resulted in a reduction of price by Rs. 1,29,906.76.

(iii) The originally approved make for the plug valve was that of DEZURICK valve. In view of the technical deficiency of the DEZURICK valve, at the request of the successful bidder, the make was changed to AU-DCO valve. The cost of AU-DCO valve was Rs. 1,53,959 as compared to Rs. 72,751 for DEZURICK valve. However,

while agreeing to the change it was specified by NLC and confirmed by the suppliers, that no extra payment shall be made towards the extra cost of the AUDCO valves.

- (iv) Another change which was made pertains to scope of the following works: civil works, erection price and supply of equipment. Initially, "civil works" for which the successful bidder had quoted a lumpsum price of Rs. 58.00 lakhs, included the price for supply of pipe bridge and pipe supports in structural steel, grouting and erection of pipe bridges. Subsequently, however, the work relating to supply and erection of pipe bridge and pipe supports were transferred from "civil works" to "equipment supply" and "erection". As a result, the price under "civil works" was reduced by Rs. 28.60 lakhs and re-allocated to "supply of equipment" (Rs. 23 lakhs) and "erection" (Rs. 5.60 lakhs). This was simply a re-allocation of price and did not affect the contract price in any way.

- (v) A rebate of Rs. 1.30 lakhs has been offered by the successful bidder towards reduction in hardness of BHN of water pumps and certain spares.

(c) No losses have been suffered by the NLC as a result of awarding the ash handling contracts.

(d) Since no losses were suffered by the Corporation, the question does not arise.

Vayudoot Service between Madras and Neyveli

1849. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot service between Madras and Neyveli has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when it is likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVARAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) For commercial and operational reasons, Vayudoot has been forced to reduce its network drastically in various States of the country. There is no proposal to extend the services of Vayudoot.

Gas based Power Plant at Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu

1850. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a gas based power station at Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu utilising the gas found in the Cauvery basin;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, when the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) had forwarded in October, 1988 a pre-feasibility report for a gas based combined cycle gas turbine plant of 196 MW at Thiya-gavalli village, 8 Km south of Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu based on gas from Cauveri basin. The proposal was not pursued since the gas linkage for this project was not obtained by TNEB. Subsequently the TNEB have proposed a 600 MW Plant at Pillaiyurumallur in Thanjavur district. This project has received techno-economic clearance from CEA in May, 1991 for setting up a 300 MW capacity power plant in phase-I using gas in the Cauvery basin

[Translation]

Rail link to Pilibhit

1851. DR. PARSHURAM GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme was formulated to connect Pilibhit with broad gauge line; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Pending Power Projects of Uttar Pradesh

1852. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the thermal power projects of Uttar Pradesh pending for clearance;

(b) the decision taken thereon; and

(c) if no decision has been taken, the time by which clearance is likely to be given to these projects and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The proposals for setting up of Belthara Road TPP (3 × 210 MW), Jagdishpur Gas based Combined Cycle Power Project (210 MW) and Shahjahanpur Gas based combined cycle power project (600 MW) in Uttar Pradesh received from Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) are pending in Central Electricity Authority.

(b) and (c) In regard to Belthara Road TPP, UPSEB intimated CEA in

July, 1990 that they are revising the capacity of the project to 3 × 250 MW. The revised project report has not been received. In regard to gas based power projects at Jagdishpur and Shahjahanpur, the linkage of gas is not tied-up. Further, for Shahjahanpur Gas based power project, the necessary statutory clearances such as compliance of Section 29 of E (S) Act, 1948, water availability clearance from Central Water Commission, environmental clearances, are also not tied-up. These projects can be considered for techno-economic clearance only after all the necessary inputs are tied-up by the UPSEB.

Expansion of Air India and Indian Airlines

1853. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up schemes for the expansion of the Air India and Indian Airlines during 1990;

(b) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the extent of improvement likely to be made in these two airlines as a result of implementation of the above schemes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) As of now Indian Airlines is due to acquire 12 more A-320 aircraft under the supplementary purchase agreement of 5th June 1989.

There is a proposal for acquisition of four Boeing 747-400 aircraft for Air India at an estimated cost of Rs. 1962.09 crores including a foreign exchange component of US \$ 667.09 million.

The acquisition of these aircraft will modernise the fleet of the two airlines to a certain extent and also enhance the capacity offered by them.

[English]

**Modernisation of Bankura-Raina
Railway Line**

1854. DR. SUDHIR RAY
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA
MALIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have
taken a decision to close the Bankura-
Raina narrow gauge railway line ser-
ving trans-Damodar Zone;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, whether there is any pro-
posal to modernise this route and start
diesel trains on it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.
Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Modernisation of Burdwan-Katwa
Railway Line**

1855. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the
Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to
modernise Burdwan-Katwa narrow-
gauge railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far in this
regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.
Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

11—20 LSS/ND/91

Balurghat-Eklakhi Railway Line

1856. DR. SUDHIR RAY:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHA-
RIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS
be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the
construction of Balurghat—Eklakhi
railway line; and

(b) when it is likely to be comple-
ted and commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 3%.

(b) Target date has not been fixed
so far. Its completion will depend on
availability of resources in the coming
years.

Tamluk-Digha Railway Line

1857. DR. SUDHIR RAY:
SHRI SATYAGOPAL
MISRA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS
be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the Tam-
luk-Digha railway line project;

(b) the expenditure incurred so far
thereon and the funds allocated for
1991-92;

(c) the progress made so far in the
construction work; and

(d) the target date set for its com-
pletion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Rs. 100
crores.

(b) Expenditure incurred upto June,
1991 is Rs. 15.13 crores and alloca-
tion for 1991-92 is Rs. 1.00 crore.

(c) 10.20% upto June, 1991.

(d) 1994-95.

[*Translation*]**Modernisation of Railway Stations of Western Railway**

1858. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations on Western Railway modernised, renovated and expanded during the last three years and the number of stations being modernised, renovated and expanded at present;

(b) the amount sanctioned and spent, station-wise and the increase in expenditure being effected:

(b) *Completed Works*

(Figures in thousands Rs.)

S. No.	Station	Cost	Amount spent
1.	Rajkot	3060	2535
2.	Nagda	489	542
3.	Makshi	371	398
4.	Shamgarh	1816	1907
5.	Borivali	1971	1971
6.	Junagarh	301	301
7.	Indore	6379	6379
8.	Ahmedabad	1387	1387

Expenditure in excess of the sanctioned amount has been incurred at Nagada, Makshi and Shamgarh only.

Works in Progress

9.	Dadar	900	900
10.	Virar	900	500
11.	Beawar	1234	1202
12.	Andheri	900	400
13.	Vapi	2073	1775
14.	Bharatpur	4447	3325
15.	Agra Fort	6875	5383
16.	Ajmer	5518	5043
17.	Jaipur	4902	1486
18.	Bombay Central	4453	651

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Computerisation in Railways

1859. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the departments and divisions of the railways wherein the scheme of computerisation has been implemented;

(b) the zone-wise amount spent in this connection during the last three years;

(c) the results achieved so far;

(d) whether any complaint has been received regarding the computerisation of reservation work at Ajmer city; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The departments of the Railways where the scheme of computerisation has been implemented are as under:—

Commercial
Operating
Finance
Mechanical
Electrical
Signal & Telecommunication
Medical
Stores
Civil Engineering

Research and Training Schools
Production Units.

The Divisions where the scheme of computerisation has been implemented are as under:—

Delhi	Malda
Bombay Central	Allahabad
Bombay VT	Asansol
Howrah	Bilaspur
Sealdah	Vijayawada
Madras	Madurai
Secundrabad	Jabalpur
Hyderabad	Vadodara
Ahmadabad	Varanasi
Bangalore	Chakradharpur
Lucknow (N.R.)	Guntakal
Lucknow (N.E.R.)	Palghat
Jhansi	Ratlam
Danapur	Alipurduar
Lumding	Tiruchirapalli
Gorakhpur	Kharagpur
Trivandrum	Kota
Ferozpur	Ajmer
Dhanbad	Hubli
Jodhpur	Ambala
Izat Nagar	Moradabad
Bhusawal	Jaipur
Khurda Road.	

(b) Zone-wise amount spent in computerisation related activities during last 3 years is as under:—

Railway	Rupees in crores (approx.)		
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Central	2.98	5.18	7.76
Eastern	3.71	4.47	8.35
Northern	2.05	19.55	19.44
North Eastern	0.32	0.45	2.23
Northeast Frontier	0.42	0.28	0.50
Southern	10.61	4.70	3.17
South Central	7.40	2.18	1.96
South Eastern	0.74	0.25	0.78
Western	1.28	7.94	1.86

(c) The results achieved so far include:—

- (i) Improvement in quality of service to customers;
- (ii) Improvement in productivity; and
- (iii) Improvement in Management Information System.

(d) Representation was received from District Youth Congress(I), Ajmer for setting up computerised Passenger Reservation System at Ajmer.

(e) The reservation work-load at Ajmer does not justify provision of computerised Passenger Reservation System at this stage.

Survey for New Railway Lines

1860. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places where survey has been conducted to lay new railway lines during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the estimated cost of these lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 28 Surveys have been completed in the last 3 years. 15 more have been taken up.

(b) The cost of construction of these 28 projects is estimated at Rs. 5450 Crores.

Train Service on Ujjain-Devas-Indore Section

1861. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce any regular and fast train service on Ujjain-Devas-Indore route on both broad-gauge and

metre-gauge lines to meet the public demand of these areas; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Increase in Crude Oil Prices

1862. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI VIJAYA KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

SHRI SIMON MARANDI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has demanded 50 per cent increase in the price of domestic crude oil;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) its likely effect on our economy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) Recommendations of the Oil Price Review Committee (OPRC) which cover, inter-alia, the issue of domestic crude oil price are under examination of the Government.

Level Crossing at Ambagam (SER)

1863. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a level crossing near

Ambagam on the Kotabalasa—Bailadela Railway line in view of the fact that village is situated on one side and the lands of the villagers are situated on the other side of the line;

(b) whether the State Government has sent a proposal in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. The Railways can take action in the matter only after a firm proposal for the desired facility is sponsored by the State Government/local authority, duly consenting to bear the cost thereof, as per rules.

Development of Sabarimala Temple as a National Tourist Centre

1864. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to the Union Government for any project to get financial assistance for development of one of the pilgrim centres at Sabarimala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No such project has been received by this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Line from Rameshwaram to Kanyakumari

1865. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for a broadgauge railway line con-

necting Rameswaram and Kanyakumari via Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted for this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the project?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Vayudoot Service to Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

1866. DR. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which Ramanathapuram in Tamilnadu is likely to be connected by Vayudoot service; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Due to heavy losses being sustained by it, Vayudoot has been compelled to reduce its network drastically. The airlinking of new stations is not a feasible proposition for Vayudoot at the present juncture.

Losses Incurred by Government Hotels

1867. SHRI MORESHWAR SAWE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Government hotels have been running in losses for the last few years and are likely to incur heavy losses in the year of 'India Tourism Year' too; and

(b) if so, the details of such hotels and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the hotels owned and operated by ITDC have been running in losses for the last few years. The last three years per-

formance of the ITDC hotels are given in the attached statement. The losses are due to low occupancy on account of various reasons including disturbed conditions in the country and the situation in Middle East including the Gulf War.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Unit	Net Profit/Loss		
		1988-89	1989-90	1990-91 (Prov.)
1.	Agra Ashok	(---)5.97	4.44	(---)9.09
2.	Airport Ashok, Calcutta	94.49	113.91	80.02
3.	Ashok Radisson Hotel, Bangalore	35.60	8.57	(---)26.10
4.	Ashok, New Delhi	311.88	233.30	(-)50.29
5.	Ashok Yatri Niwas	126.07	124.23	89.10
6.	Aurangabad Ashok	(---)0.48	4.43	3.06
7.	Bodhgaya Ashok	(---)13.45	(---)9.77	(---)10.35
8.	Hassan Ashok	5.06	10.62	6.00
9.	Jaipur Ashok	8.20	4.61	2.87
10.	Jammu Ashok	(---)1.35	(---)0.08	0.62
11.	Janpath, New Delhi	48.45	53.85	5.22
12.	Kalinga Ashok, Bhubneshwar	(---)24.46	(-)20.88	(---)27.52
13.	Kanishk, New Delhi	145.49	135.35	3.21
14.	Khajuraho Ashok	(---)2.13	2.74	(---)6.25
15.	Ashok Radisson Beach Resort, Kovalam	16.06	22.29	12.61
16.	Ashok Radisson LMP Hotel, Mysore	25.14	34.48	47.02
17.	LVP Hotel, Udaipur	14.68	22.87	13.05
18.	Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	28.40	34.79	(---)1.21
19.	Madurai Ashok	4.08	6.79	(---)0.06
20.	Patliputra Ashok, Patna	(---)8.26	(---)25.38	(---)34.54
21.	Qutab Hotel, New Delhi	31.14	30.41	17.35
22.	Ranjit Hotel, New Delhi	(---)39.56	(---)27.67	(---)31.90
23.	Samrat Hotel, New Delhi	(---)46.38	(---)101.95	(---)147.42
24.	Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort, Mamallapuram	(---)5.59	0.04	(---)2.05
25.	Varanasi Ashok	(---)6.52	(---)17.25	(---)7.13
		740.59	644.74	(---)73.78

[Translation]

Re-naming of Pitanjhia Railway Station

1868. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change the name of Pitanjhia Railway Station as "Karpoori Thakur Railway Station"; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The name of Pitanjhia station situated between Samastipur and Pusa Road stations has been changed as 'Karpuri Gram' with effect from 1-8-91.

[English]

Airport in Buldana District, Maharashtra

1869. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for the construction of an airport in Buldana district; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Overbridges in Kerala

1870. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has recommended for construction of overbridges at Kuttipuram, Kallettumkara (Irinjalakuda) and Vadakkancherry; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Government of Kerala has recommended only for construction of road overbridges near Kuttipuram and Vadakkancherry (2 Nos).

(b) Construction of road overbridges at Kuttipuram, between Vadakkancherry and Mulagunnathukavu, and between Vadakkancherry and Mullurcarai has already been included in Railways' Works Programmes and these works are in varying stages of progress.

Railway Projects in Kerala

1871. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of on-going railway line construction projects in Kerala;

(b) the progress made so far in their construction; and

(c) when the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The details of the on-going projects in Kerala are as under:

	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Progress</i>	<i>Target date</i>
1.	<i>New Line</i>		
	(i) Alleppey-Kayankulam	70%	1991-92
	(ii) Trichur-Guruvayoor	70%	1991-92
2.	<i>Doubling</i>		
	(i) Kayankulam-Quilon	22%	1992-93
	(ii) Quilon-Trivandrum	2%	Target not fixed

Tehri Dam Project

1872. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made with regard to the construction of the Tehri dam project; and

(b) the time by which the project is likely to be completed and the total expenditure incurred so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The progress made with regard to the construction of the Tehri dam Project is as under:

Four Head Race Tunnels (8.5 M dia each) and approach adits for Power house have been completed.

Four Diversion Tunnels (11 M dia each) have been completed and Bhagirathi river diverted for Tehri Dam works.

Foundation works for Coffers as well as for Main Dam have been completed.

Other infrastructure works like Stores, Office/Residential Buildings, Approach roads etc. have been completed.

(b) The project is likely to be completed by March, 1997 and the total expenditure incurred so far on the project is about Rs. 620 crores.

[*Translation*]

Emission of Coal Dust by Bokaro Thermal Power Plant

1873. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal dust emitted by the Bokaro Thermal Power Station causes health hazards to the people residing in or around that area;

(b) whether people are facing many other difficulties and inconveniences as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in the matter;

(d) whether the Government have taken steps for treatment of patients affected by the coal dust;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of persons affected by the coal dust during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The coal dust emitted by the old units of Bokaro Thermal Power Station is negligible. The coal mines and coal washeries in the area contribute to coal dust pollution.

(c) The old units of Bokaro Thermal Power Station were installed more than 37 years back. Installation of electrostatic precipitators to limit the emissions from these units at this stage is not techno-economically viable. However, the existing dust collectors have been renovated to improve the position.

(d) Facilities are provided by the Government for the treatment of the patients suffering from respiratory diseases.

(e) and (f) Statistical information regarding the number of patients/persons affected by coal dust specifically is not maintained.

Supply of food stuffs in Shramjivi and Magadh Express

1874. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to supply polypacks of pure drinking water in Shramjivi Express

and Magadh Express, running between New Delhi and Patna and vice-versa;

(b) whether food stuff stored in the Pantry car of those trains is prepared in a base kitchen at certain stations;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the quality of the food is not upto the mark;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the quality of the food stuff?

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

(b) At present, only Magadh Express has got Pantry cars. Meals prepared in the base kitchens are supplied to Pantry cars of this train. In case of Shramjivi Express catering requirement of passengers is met through various catering/vending units at stations enroute.

(c) Necessary infrastructure has been provided in the base kitchens for preparation of large quantity of meals in hygienic conditions.

(d) No, Sir. Quality is considered satisfactory.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Railways always strive to improve the quality of food and service. This is an on-going and continuous process. Steps taken/proposed to be taken include, introduction of casserole service, modernisation of base kitchens, training to catering staff, introduction of Pantry car service, regular/surprise inspections, etc.

Number of Power Plants in Bihar

1875. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state the total number of

thermal, hydel and atomic power plants in Bihar at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): The details of power plants under operation in Bihar at present are as under:

Station	Capacity (MW)
<i>Thermal</i>	
Patratu	770
Barauni	310
Muzaffarpur	220
<i>Hydro</i>	
Kosi	20
Subernarekha	130
<i>Atomic</i>	NIL

Coal supply to Power Plants in Bihar

1876. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly requirement of coal for power plants in Bihar;

(b) whether sufficient quantity of coal is being supplied to these plants; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to ensure sufficient supply of coal to these power plants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Central Electricity Authority has indicated the average monthly requirement of coal of the three major Thermal Power Stations in Bihar as under:—

(Figs. in '000 tonnes)

Barauni TPS	65
Muzaffarpur TPS	53
Patratu TPS	173

(b) and (c) Central Electricity Authority has reported that Barauni and Muzaffarpur Thermal Power

Stations are receiving coal as per their consumption/requirement. As far as patratu TPS is concerned, the Power Station has adequate coal stocks right from the beginning of the current year and the monthly average consumption is almost matching the monthly receipts at the Power Station.

Expansion of Platforms in U.P.

1877. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure likely to be incurred on expansion of platforms in Uttar Pradesh during the current year; and

(b) the position regarding expansion of platforms No. 2 and 3 at Bareilly junction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Rs. 85 lakh approximately.

(b) No such work is being contemplated at present.

Earning of Foreign Exchange from tourists

1878. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned from foreign tourists during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for making the tourist spots more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are provisionally estimated to be Rs. 2,103 crores, Rs. 2,456 crores and Rs. 2,444 crores, respectively.

(b) Development of tourist spots is primarily the responsibility of the

State Governments. However, the Central Government extends financial assistance to State Governments on their specific proposals.

Vayudoot Service in Uttar Pradesh

1879. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce Vayudoot service in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of the districts where it is proposed to be introduced;

(c) the names of the places where this service is already available;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce this service in Bareilly district; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Vayudoot is operating to Dehradun, Kanpur and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Ahmedabad as International Airport

1880. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International flights are being operated from Ahmedabad Airport from January, 1991.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to declare Ahmedabad as an International Airport like Trivandrum Airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With effect from 26-1-1991, Air India are operating a once weekly service between Bombay and Ahmedabad. This service connects with international flights between Bombay and U.K./U.S.A.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The existing international airports in the country are adequate to cope with the international traffic at present.

Kandla-Bhatinda Railway Line

1881. **SHRI HARIN PATHAK:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made in the construction of Kandla-Bhatinda broad gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): 2% of the conversion work of Kandla-Bhatinda line has been completed. 50 Km portion of Lalgargh-Merta Road section is targetted for completion during 1991-92.

The final location survey for Viramgam-Bhildi new line/gauge conversion portion has also since been completed.

Pilferage of Coal

1882. **SHRI HARIN PATHAK:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal supplied to industrial units in Gujarat is found

under weight than recorded in the railway receipts; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check this pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) In some cases shortage was found after reweighment.

(b) To avoid pilferage in transit, RPF staff guard the coal rakes in the marshalling yards and escort them over vulnerable sections.

Tapti gas to Gujarat

1883. **SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:** Will the Minister of PETROLIUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated allocation for exploration of Tapti gas fields;

(b) how much gas from Tapti gas fields will be allocated to Gujarat, and

(c) the allocation of gas to Gujarat for power projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Some locations have been identified for drilling depending on the availability of resources and the inter-se priority. Allocations will depend on the availability and policies for the allotment of gas.

Closure of Surat, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar Airports

1884. **SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Surat, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar airports; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Indian Airlines is operating its services to Jamnagar and Bhavnagar. The Vayudoot operations to Surat and Bhavnagar have been discontinued due to commercial and operational reasons. There is no possibility of restoration of Vayudoot services to these stations at the present juncture.

Import of Coal

1885. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN:
SHRI ANBARASU ERA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint from any State Government regarding supply of inferior quality of coal by the Coal mines in Bihar;

(b) whether certain thermal power stations in Tamil Nadu have found it impracticable to use such coal as it affects the smooth production of power in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested for the import of high grade coal from Australia which will not only increase their power production but will also be cheaper in view of efficiency and cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the other remedial steps taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received from State Governments and also from other consumers regarding supply of inferior quality of coal from a few coal mines in Bihar.

(b) No, Sir. Most thermal power stations are designed for using lower

grades of coal, mainly in the categories 'E' and 'F'. According to available information, Tamilnadu thermal power stations at Tuticorin, Ennore and Mettur received 20.74 lakh tonnes of coal from April-June, 1991, and consumed 19.86 lakh tonnes out of it in this period (almost 96%), the rest being used for stock building.

(c) and (d) Tamilnadu Government have requested for permission for one-time import of coal. Such requests had been received earlier also. On examination the imported coal is found to be much more expensive than indigenous coal. Imports would also cause drain of scarce foreign exchange resources.

(e) Steps are being taken to improve the quality of coal supplied to all consumers, including Tamilnadu Thermal Power Station. These include:—

- (i) Picking out of the shale, stone, and extraneous material from coal during production of coal;
- (ii) Joint sampling and improving supervision of wagon loading.
- (iii) Keeping overburden benches sufficiently advanced from the coal bench to avoid contamination of coal;
- (iv) mining of intervening benches separately.

Re-naming of Vakaikulam Airport

1886. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of the Vakaikulam Airport near Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu has been completed;

(b) if so, when it will start to functioning and the details of flights proposed;

(c) whether the Government propose to name this airport after the

late Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The target date for completion of the Tuticorin airport is 30th September, 1991.

(b) There is no plan at present for Vayudoot starting any service to Tuticorin.

(c) No, such proposal is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Uniform Power Tariff

1887. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is wide variation in the power tariff rates for identical consumers in contiguous areas in Northern region of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to prescribe uniform power tariff rates for identical consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The power to fix tariffs for various categories of consumers rests with the respective State Electricity Boards, who may be guided by such directions as the State Governments may give in the matter of

relative priorities and concessions and, therefore, there is no uniformity in power tariffs between different States.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Pricing Policies of State Electricity Boards

1888. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study conducted by the Energy Conservation Cell and the Centre for Advanced Information, Analysis and Studies have pointed out that the various State Electricity Boards in North India have uneconomic pricing policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Energy Conservation Cell/Energy Management Centre under the Department of Power have not conducted any such study. Government is also not aware of the study conducted by the Centre for Advance Information, analysis and Studies.

(c) The enclosed statement indicates the financial position of the SEBs in Northern India. It has been the endeavour of Government of India to improve the financial performance and profitability of the State Electricity Boards. The State Governments have been impressed upon from time to time at various forums to manage the operations of the State Electricity Boards in such a manner

that they achieve the necessary statutory surplus of 3%. They have been persuaded to take steps like equity participation, provision of specific grant to meet the losses for supply of power to the agriculture sector, revision of tariff, improving the performance of generating stations, reducing T & D losses, for improved financial health of the SEBs.

STATEMENT

Yearly Profit/Loss of the State Electricity Boards in the Northern Region after taking into account RE Subsidy as provided in the Accounts

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEBs.	Profit/Loss		
		1988	1989	1990
1.	Haryana	---80.90	---52.13	---67.77
2.	Himachal Pradesh	---16.60	71.00	---5.90
3.	Punjab	---5.00	---68.10	---57.80
4.	Rajasthan	---65.90	---57.20	---147.80*
5.	Uttar Pradesh	40.80	41.50*	89.70*

*Provisional/Unaudited.

Under-Weight LPG Cylinders

1889. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of complaints regarding under-weight LPG cylinders and their black-marketing, received by the Government during 1990-91 and upto 30 June, 1991, particularly in Delhi and Ghaziabad; and

(b) the action taken on each complaint?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Out of 38 complaints received, only seven could be substantiated. Erring distributors are being dealt under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Snags in Airbus A-320

1890. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI P. C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of snags that ushered in Airbus A-320 after re-induction thereof in the Indian Airlines fleet;

(b) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure the timely checking of the snags for the sake of safety of the travelling public;

(c) whether drag-chute of an Airbus A-320 on its regular flight from Calcutta to Bangalore opened up recently;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the matter has been enquired into and if so, the results thereof; and

(f) the number of Airbus A-320 grounded during 1991 and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There have been certain minor snags in the operation of Airbus A-320 aircraft. Such snags are not unusual in aircraft operations. No serious snags have been encountered after the reintroduction. Indian Airlines has been exercising due vigilance and caution in promptly rectifying such snags and there has been no compromise in ensuring the safety of operations.

(c) to (e) There was an incident of inadvertent deployment of the escape slide chute by an Airhostess at Bangalore. Suitable action has been taken against the airhostess.

(f) Two A-320 aircraft have been on ground for major check (Check 'C').

Alleppey-Kayankulam Railway Line

1891. **SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:**

SHRI T. J. ANJALOSE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far and the expenditure incurred on Alleppey-Kayankulam railway line;

(b) whether there is any hurdle in the construction of the railway bridge at Valenjvazh/Ambalapuzha on the said line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 70% Expenditure upto 31-3-1991 is Rs. 37.91 crores and outlay for 1991-92 is Rs. 1.16 crores.

(b) and (c) Certain matters regarding the construction of a Road Over

Bridge at Valenjvazh/Ambalapuzha have not been resolved with the Ministry of Surface Transport, but the same is not going to delay opening of this line. The line will be opened with a temporary level crossing at the above site.

LPG Connections in Tamil Nadu

1892. **SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered for LPG connections during the last three years in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of connections released out of them; and

(c) the pending list thereof district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) 8,46,128.

(b) 1,95,003.

(c) Releasing LPG connection is a continuous process and therefore it is difficult to give the definite district-wise figures.

Privatisation of Power Generation in Tamil Nadu

1893. **SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM:**

SHRI ANBARASU ERA:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise power generation in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the names of the private parties who are likely to be engaged and the quantum of power likely to be generated thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Proposals for 1630 MW capacity have been received from the private entrepreneurs for setting up power projects in Tamil Nadu. The names of the parties are Tamil Nadu Industries Captive Power Company Limited promoted by M/s. G. M. Swamy Associates & Southern Energy Development Corporation.

[*Translation*]

Air Services in Rajasthan

1894. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of proper air travel facility for the foreign tourists intending to visit Rajasthan.

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent a proposal for introducing air service for Bombay-Surat-Bhilwara - Jaipur - Sirohi - Ahmedabad, Delhi - Jhunjhunu - Bikaner - Jaisalmer - Jodhpur, Delhi - Jaipur - Ajmer and Udaipur - Ahmedabad - Bombay routes keeping in view the commercial and tourists potential;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which decision would be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, such proposal has been received from the Government of Rajasthan. However, there are requests from time to time for linking more places in Rajasthan by air services.

(c) to (e) Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur and Jaisalmer are connected by air services. Introduction of new air services depends both on availability of airports as well as on traffic potential and commercial viability.

Vayudoot Service for Sirohi in Rajasthan

1895. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has constructed air strips at 14 different places;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce Vayudoot service for Sirohi; and

(c) if so, the time by which this air service is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) According to the Government of Rajasthan they have so far constructed the following airstrips:—

1. Hamirgarh (District Bhilwara).
2. Sirohi.
3. Banswara.
4. Dungarpur (partly constructed).
5. Nagaur (under construction).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Railway Line from Sawai-Madhohpur to Bikaner and Jodhpur

1896. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any scheme to lay broad-gauge line from Sawai Madhohpur to Bikaner and upto Jodhpur:

(b) whether any railway route would be provided between Sawai Madhohpur and Jaipur via Phulera and from Merta, one branch line upto Bikaner and the other branch line upto Veeramgaon via Jodhpur, Samdari-Bhildi; and

(c) whether the survey in this regard has been completed and by what time the approval would be given?

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

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The survey has been completed and gauge conversion work on the above routes has already been taken up.

[Translation]

Conversion of Metre Gauge Lines into Broad Gauge

1897. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway line in kilometres converted from metre gauge to broadgauge during the last five years and the State-wise length of railway line in kms. so converted; and

(b) the total length of railway line in Rajasthan converted from metre-gauge to broadgauge other than strategic reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A total of 550 km MG lines have been converted to BG during the last 5 years. The details are as under:—

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| (1) Suratgarh-Bikaner 178 Km-- | |
| Rajasthan | |
| (2) Moradabad—Ramnagar }
78km. | } U.P. |
| (3) Bhatni—Varanasi }
164 km | |
| (4) Guntur—Macherla 130 km-- | |
| Andhra Pradesh | |

(b) No line has been converted in Rajasthan on other than strategic considerations during last 5 years.

[English]

Coal Projects during Seventh Five Year Plan

1898. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects sanctioned during the Seventh Five Year Plan to different subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) the details of the progress and implementation of these projects; and

(c) the details of new projects the Government propose to sanction during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. P. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The number of coal mining projects, each costing Rs. 2.0 crores and above, sanctioned between 1-4-85 and 31-3-90 to different subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd., are 212 envisaging a coal production capacity of 153.48 mill. ty. per annum on completion of these projects. Sanctioned capital outlay of these projects are Rs. 6659.98 crores. Subsidiary-wise details are given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) Out of 212 projects sanctioned in CIL during the Seventh plan period, 67 have since been completed. Out of the balance 145 projects, 87 are on schedule, 50 are delayed and 8 are suspended/withdrawn. Subsidiary-wise details of progress of implementation are given in the attached Statement-II.

(c) During the current financial year (1991-92), the projects listed under are in advanced stages of appraisal at the Government level for investment decisions and are likely to be sanctioned:—

(i) Bakulia U/G,	FCL	(0.96 mty)
(ii) Ananta-OC,	SECL	(4.0 mty)
(iii) Kalinga Integrated Mine-cum-Beneficiation project	SECL	(8.0 mty)

(iv)	Lakhanpur-OC,	SECL	(5.0 mty)
(v)	Samleshwari-OC,	SECL	(3.0 mty)
(vi)	K.D. Hesalong-OC, Expansion	CCL	(4.5 mty)
(vii)	Jharkhand-OC,	CCL	(1.0 mty)
(viii)	Parej-OC,	CCL	(1.75 mty)
(ix)	Dudhichua-OC, Expansion	NCL	(10.6 mty)
(x)	Bina Mine II-OC,	NCL	(1.8 mty)
(xi)	Ukni-OC,	WCL	(1.1 mty)
(xii)	Mugoli-OC,	WCL	(0.75 mty)
(xiii)	Gondegaon-OC,	WCL	(0.50 mty)

STATEMENT I*Coal Mining projects sanctioned between 1-4-85 and 31-3-90*

<i>Company</i>	<i>Projects sanctioned (Total No.)</i>	<i>Capacity (mty)</i>	<i>Sanctioned capital (Rs. crores)</i>
E.C.L.	37	31.26	1739.54
B.C.C.L.	46	13.92	449.76
C.C.L.	37	29.85	1224.89
N.C.L.	8	29.30	1645.42
W.C.L.	35	15.43	686.00
S.E.C.L.	49	33.72	914.37
Total	212	153.48	6659.98

STATEMENT II*Status of implementation of Mining projects as on 1-4-91, sanctioned during the Seventh Plan Period*

<i>Company</i>	<i>Project sanctioned</i>	<i>Project completed</i>	<i>Project on schedule</i>	<i>Project delayed</i>	<i>Project withdrawn/suspended</i>
E.C.L.	37	7	17	10	3
B.C.C.L.	46	11	16	17	2
C.C.L.	37	18	15	4	..
N.C.L.	8	4	2	2	..
W.C.L.	35	8	18	8	1
S.E.C.L.	49	19	19	9	2
CTL	212	67	87	50	8

Export of Coal

1899. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to boost the export of coal to earn foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether any fresh agreement with any foreign countries has been held recently to export coal; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the export of coal will affect on requirement in the steel or power sector in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement for steel and power sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal India have agreed to make available upto one million tonnes of coal for export during 1991-92.

(b) As per information given by Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation, contracts have been concluded with buyers from Nepal for sale of 1,11,200 tonnes of coal.

(c) and (d) Actual export of coal will depend not only on availability of coal but also on conclusion of mutually acceptable contracts and availability of infrastructure like railway wagons and port facilities. Even if the entire quantity of one million tonnes was exported, it will form less than 0.5% of the annual production programme of 228 million tonnes of coal and is not likely to affect the coal availability to steel sector. Instructions have, however, been issued that the requirements of core sector including power and steel must be met on priority and coal company-wise targets have been fixed which are being regularly monitored.

Cash Collection Centre at Yamuna Vihar, Delhi

1900. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL:

SHRI B. L. SHARMA
PREM:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given on April 10, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 4330 regarding cash collection centre at Yamuna Vihar, Delhi and state:

(a) whether the cash collection centre has been set up there; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the cash collection centre is likely to be set up there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) According to DESU, a new cash collection centre at Yamuna Vihar has already started functioning from 8th October, 1990.

[Translation]

Sale of Hot Plates, Rubber Pipes and Burner by LPG Agencies

1901. SHRI GOVIDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hot plates, burner, rubber pipes are being sold at double rates as compared to that of open market by LPG dealers all over the country particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The sale price of accessories like hot plates, burner, rubber pipes, etc., is not fixed by the Govt.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Development Activities of ONGC in Amlapuram Area of East Godavari District

1902. SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) proposed to share the finance in construction of roads, bridges and other developmental activities in Amlapuram area of East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh where oil drilling operations by the ONGC have been going on;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) ONGC has considered in principle, to give some loan for the construction of roads and bridges in East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna districts subject to certain conditions.

[Translation]

Railway Line Between Shahganj and Mau

1903. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to lay broad gauge railway line between Shahganj and Mau or to convert the existing line on this route into broad-gauge during the coming years; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Late Running of Indore-Malwa Express

1904. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of late running of the Indore-Malwa express during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether this train gets late between Indore and Bhopal due to halt at Bhopal outer; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) During 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 Malwa Express reached Indore right time on 272, 261 and 230 days and at New Delhi on 210, 258 and 199 days, respectively.

(b) Sometimes, due to operational reasons.

(c) A drive was launched in July, 1991, and the train reached New Delhi and Indore right time on 27 and 28 days, respectively during this month.

Reservation Facility at Azamgarh Railway Station

1905. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation facility provided at Azamgarh railway station for various trains has been withdrawn;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allot reservation quota for Azamgarh in all the trains starting from Varanasi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The reservation quota at Azamgarh has been reduced by 2 AC Sleeper and 11 second class berths due to poor utilisation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Quotas are allotted keeping in view the overall availability of accommodation and the demand pattern at various stations. The quotas allotted in trains starting from Varanasi are being fully utilised leaving no scope for allotment of quota at Azamgarh railway station.

[English]

Railway Line from Meenambakkam to Avadi

1906. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a railway line from Meenambakkam via Porur, Villivakkam, Anna Nagar upto Avadi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

Harassing of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh

1907. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the non-conventioned energy sources development programmes undertaken in the Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh during the last three

years with particulars of places where such programmes have been undertaken or completed;

(b) the development programmes to be undertaken under the Central Energy Development during the next three years;

(c) the outlay earmarked therefor, district-wise and specific scheme/programme-wise; and

(d) the steps being contemplated to accelerate the development of non-conventional energy sources in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) The non-conventional energy development programmes to be undertaken by the Central and State Governments during the next three years and outlays therefor, will be known when the Eighth Plan has been finalised.

(d) The measures taken include the promotion of research and development, implementation of demonstration programmes relating to the use of new and renewable energy systems and devices, undertaking public awareness and user training programmes, extending subsidies and incentives, strengthening State agencies and voluntary organisations, providing financial assistance on soft terms, and training and development of manpower.

Setting up of Urjagrams in Pauri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh

1908. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Urjagrams' set up in Pauri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh so far;

(b) the particulars of Urjagrams proposed to be set up in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli Garhwal during the next three years and the outlay earmarked therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to declare Nawasu Village as a Urjagram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Three Urjagram Projects have been set up in Pauri Garhwal District of Uttar Pradesh under the Central and State Government programmes. These are in Nali Bari, Kantal and Gadkhark villages in the District.

(b) There is no proposal to set up further Urjagram Project in Pauri Garhwal & Chamoli Districts during the current year. Proposals in subsequent years will depend upon allocation of funds for this programme during the Eighth Plan.

(c) There is no proposal to take up village Nawasu as an Urjagram project during the current year.

Supply of coal to industry by Coal India Ltd.

1909. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has made no allocation of coal to industrial units since June, 1991; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the loss in production on account of non-supply of coal by the Coal India Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Coal India Limited has not stopped making allocation of coal to industrial units since June, 1991. In fact, in June, 1991, Coal India supplied 2.77 million tonnes of coal

to industries other than steel, cement and fertilizers.

Vayudoot service between Hyderabad and Vijayawada

1910. SHRI SOBHANADRE-ESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot service is operating between Hyderabad and Vijayawada regularly;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the passengers are experiencing great difficulties due to inefficient operation by the Vayudoot services in this sector;

(c) the steps taken to complete the expansion of the runway at Vijayawada to operate Boeing Aircraft in order to meet the passenger traffic between these two cities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Vayudoot is at present operating the following services between Hyderabad and Vijayawada:

(i) Hyderabad—Vijayawada—Rajahmundry and back.

(ii) Hyderabad—Vijayawada and back.

The on-time performance in the operation of services between Hyderabad and Vijayawada from 1-2-91 to 30-6-91 was about 69.5%.

(c) and (d) Due to constraint of resources with the National Airports Authority, it has not been found possible to take up the upgradation of the Vijayawada airport.

Night landing facilities at Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam Airports

1911. SHRI SOBHANADRE-ESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide night

landing facilities in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam Airports;

(b) if so, the latest stage of this proposal; and

(c) the likely date by which this proposal will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) *Vijayawada*: This airport belongs to National Airports Authority. Night Landing Facilities are being provided by the National Airports Authority at this airport. The work of installation of High Intensity Runway lighting system, Taxiway lighting, Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and Visual Approach-Slope Indicator (VASI) is in progress.

Visakhapatnam: This airport was handed over to Indian Navy in March, 1986. Indian Navy has plans to provide night landing facilities at this airport during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

Income and Expenditure of South Central Railway

1912. **SHRI SOBHANADRE-ESWARA RAO VADDE:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned in the various divisions of the South Central Railway Zone (division-wise) during the last three years; and

(b) the amount spent towards improving passenger amenities division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The information is not compiled Division-wise but Railway-wise.

(b) Amount spent towards improving passenger amenities on South Central Railway division-wise for the last three years i.e. 1988-89 to 1990-91 is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

<i>Division</i>	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Secunderabad	19.89	31.61	26.23
Hyderabad	33.66	32.79	40.83
Vijayawada	35.30	38.82	31.69
Hubli	20.53	31.58	24.01
Guntakal	21.20	80.72	67.17

Criteria for allotting LPG Agencies

1913. **SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL:**
SHRI RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for applying for the allotment of an LPG agency;

(b) the criteria for the allotment of LPG agencies;

(c) the reservations made for different categories;

(d) the details of the LPG agencies allotted during the last two years, category-wise; and

(e) the number of LPG agencies proposed to be allotted during the next six months, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) New LPG distributorships are based on factors including population of towns, economic viability, marketing plan and eligibility criteria for candidates etc. Reservations are provided for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Freedom Fighters, Physically Handicapped and defence category.

(d) 275 LPG distributorships including 81 in the reserved categories were allotted during 1989-91. Letters of Intent issued since December, 1989 are being reviewed.

(e) LPG distributorships are opened in different cities as per marketing plans and policy in force from time to time.

Allotment of Wagons for Solapur Station

1914. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of wagons per month at Solapur railway station of Central Railway;

(b) the percentage of wagons made available during 1989-90 and 1990-91; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make available sufficient number of wagons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The average requirement of wagons per month at Solapur Railway Station during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 has been 363 and 425, respectively.

(b) During the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 the percentage of requirement met was 99 and 100, respectively.

(c) Does not arise.

Natural Gas in Krishna-Godavari Basin

1915. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated availability of natural gas in Krishna-Godavari basin; and

(b) the details of the plans for utilizing this gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) It is estimated that 4.29 MMSCMD of gas would be produced by 1994-95. Various allocations have been made to the prospective consumers.

Air Service from Delhi to Visakhapatnam

1916. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a direct air service from Delhi to Visakhapatnam which was introduced in 1988-89 has been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-introduce this service in view of the increased passenger traffic on this route; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The Boeing-737 service which was introduced with effect from 1-11-89 between Delhi and Visakhapatnam (via Raipur) was withdrawn from 20-11-89 due to reduction in aircraft capacity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) With the present availability of aircraft capacity, it is not possible for Indian Airlines to re-introduce a direct service between Delhi and Visakhapatnam.

Electrification of Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Line

1917. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification work on Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam railway line is in progress;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Keeping in view general financial constraints and lower traffic density obtaining in Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section, there is no immediate proposal for electrification.

Bridge at Rajahmundry

1918. **SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on third railway bridge at Rajahmundry is in progress; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is likely to be completed/commissioned?

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

(b) Construction of the substructure of the bridge has been completed. The work on the superstructure is likely to be completed by June, 1994.

Rail Users' Committees

1919. **DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mode of composition of Rail Users' Committees and other similar Committees and how often it is constituted; and

(b) the names of stations on Kharagpur-Khurda Section of Southern-Eas-

tern Railway where the Rail Users' Committees were set up and, when are these proposed to be re-constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Railway Users' Consultative Committees/Council are constituted for a two-year term. While the National Railway Users' Consultative Council is constituted at the Ministry's level. Zonal and Divisional Railways Users' Consultative Committees are constituted by the Zonal Railways with the approval of Ministry of Railways. Suburban and Station Railway Users' Consultative Committees are constituted by the Zonal Railways themselves. These Committees/Council consist of MPs, MLAs, representatives of Local Chambers of Commerce, Registered Passengers Associations, Trade Associations, State Governments, Agriculture Associations, etc.

(b) The Station Consultative Committees have been constituted at Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road and Jai-pur-Kaonjhar Road stations situated on Kharagpur-Khurda Road section of South Eastern Railway for a two-year term ending 31-12-1991. Reconstitution of these Committees would be due from 1-1-1992.

[*Translation*]

Purchase of Hydel power from Nepal

1920. **SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:** Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to purchase all the additional hydel power generated by Nepal;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement concluded in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which power problem is likely to be solved in the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) In response to the offer of Nepal to supply power to India from some hydel projects to be set up in Nepal, the Government has conveyed its agreement, in principle, to absorb such power subject to an agreement on tariff and operational aspects.

(c) Since the quantum of power and when it would be available, are not known, no firm assessment of the extent to which it would solve the energy problem has been made.

[English]

Setting up of Power Plants in West Bengal

1921. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Installed Capacity (MW)	Present Status
1.	Murshidabad (T) (Sagardighi)	4 × 500 = 2000	—These schemes are under appraisal in CEA. Some of the essential inputs such as coal linkage etc. and compliance of the provisions of Section 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 are yet to be tied up.
2.	Balagarh (T)	3 × 250 = 750	
3.	Ramman Stage-I HEP	5 × 25 = 125	—The updated cost estimates as submitted by the project authorities during July, 1991 are under scrutiny in the Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission.

These schemes could be considered for techno-economic clearance after all the essential inputs/requirements have been tied up.

STATEMENT

State-wise Per Capita consumption/availability of electricity during 1989-90
(Figures in KWh)

Name of the Region/State	1989-90*
Northern Region	
Haryana.	353.37

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has made repeated demands for increasing the installed capacity of power stations and for setting up of new power plants;

(b) whether the average per capita generation output in West Bengal is low compared to various other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the pending power projects of West Bengal and when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement indicating the State-wise per capita consumption/availability of electricity during 1989-90 is attached.

(d) The details of new power schemes received from the Government of West Bengal are given below:

Name of the Region/State	1989-90*
Himachal Pradesh	179.78
Jammu & Kashmir	178.02
Punjab	639.17
Rajasthan	210.76
Uttar Pradesh	159.16
Chandigarh	584.33
Delhi	650.56
Sub-total	241.37

*Provisional

Metro Railway Calcutta

<i>Name of the Region/State</i>	1989-90*
<i>Western Region</i>	
Gujarat	398.79
Madhya Pradesh	205.48
Maharashtra	404.62
Goa, Daman & Diu	396.25
D & N Haveli	878.76
Sub-total	333.55
<i>Souther Region</i>	
Andhra Pradesh	227.22
Karnataka	273.33
Kerala	163.62
Tamil Nadu	295.41
Pondicherry	617.95
Lakshadweep	170.50
Sub-total	249.15
<i>Eastern Region</i>	
Bihar	102.35
Orissa	181.28
West Bengal	138.87
A & N Islands	105.35
Sikkim	96.11
Sub-total	128.91
<i>North Eastern Region</i>	
Assam	77.93
Manipur	80.36
Meghalaya	108.07
Nagaland	70.19
Tripura	51.03
Arunachal Pradesh	58.62
Mizoram	56.83
Sub-total	76.38
Total (All-India)	236.02

*Provisional

1922. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Uncertainty over Metro stretch" appearing in the Statesman dated July 9th, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction thereto;

(c) whether differences between the Hindustan Construction Company and the Metro Railway or with any other contractors are not being timely resolved and as a result of which cost is increasing;

(d) whether any time limit has been fixed for completion of the project; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof.

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

(b) The report is not fully based on facts. Metro Railway authorities have taken necessary steps to expedite completion of the project.

(c) All out efforts are constantly made to resolve the problems being faced by various contractors so as to expedite the completion of the project.

(d) and (e) Completion schedule of the project would depend upon acquisition, by the State Govt. of West Bengal, of the remaining plots of land needed for the project and availability of funds in the coming years.

Cancellation of Flights

1923. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the occasional cancellation of flight Nos. IC-221, 222 between Bagdogra-Dumdum and flight Nos. IC 489, 479 and IC 490 between Dibrugarh-Delhi and Guwahati-Delhi via Bagdogra is causing great hardships and financial loss to the passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons for the cancellation and irregularities on these routes; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to overcome such problems in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Out of a total of 619 scheduled flights in these sectors during January-June, 1991, only nine flights were cancelled. Every effort is made by Indian Airlines to minimise the hardships caused to passengers due to cancellation of flights.

(b) Out of the nine flights cancelled during the period January-June, 1991, one was due to maintenance and handling, and three were due to weather, airport facilities and miscellaneous reasons. The remaining five flights were cancelled due to consequential reasons. Consequential delays take place when an aircraft gets delayed in the initial stages and that aircraft has to operate in subsequent sectors.

(c) The following measures have been taken by Indian Airlines in this regard:

Scheduling of aircraft matching with traffic demand;

Close monitoring of On-Time performance;

More time for maintenance of aircraft;

Rationalisation of Schedules so as to provide a cushion between flights;

Review of action taken for rectification of snags.

[Translation]

Supply of Natural Gas at Cheaper rates in Gujarat

1924. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large gas reserves have been found at Ankleshwar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make available this gas to the local people at cheaper rates;

(c) if so, when and at what rates; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) Ankleshwar fields have been on production since 1961. The gas is being made available as per rates fixed from to time.

New Airport at Bharuch, Gujarat

1925. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new airport in Bharuch district of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Giridih-Ranchi Railway Line

1926. SHRI BHUVNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been conducted to connect Giridih to Hazaribagh and Hazaribagh to Ranchi with railway lines;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting the said project so far; and

(c) when it is proposed to be implemented?

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

(b) As the project is unremunerative, it has not been approved by the Planning Commission.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Additional Train Services on Dombivali-Diva-Vasai Section

1927. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start additional train services on Dombivali-Diva-Vasai section;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to lack of infrastructure facilities.

Grounding of Aircraft

1928. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number and type of aircraft that are operational in domestic flight under the Indian Airlines;

(b) the number of aircraft of the Indian Airlines that have been grounded;

(c) whether a large number of grounded aircraft have affected domestic flight; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government are taking to reduce grounding of aircraft and to make travel easy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) At present, Indian Airlines is operating 7 Airbus A-300, 12 Airbus A-320 and 19 Boeing 737 aircraft daily in its scheduled services.

(b) 3 Airbus A-300, 6 Airbus A-320 and 5 Boeing 737 aircraft of Indian Airlines are presently on ground for routine maintenance. One Airbus A-300 is on ground for mandatory modifications.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) 3 more Airbus A-320 will be reinducted into scheduled services in the forthcoming winter schedule.

Shortage of Rolling Stock

1929. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are facing shortage of electric and diesel locomotives, passenger coaches and wagons currently;

(b) if so, the existing position thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the requirements in view of resources crunch?

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

(b) The rolling stock availability does not permit of deviation from the established pattern of traffic stream and/or lifting of additional traffic of different commodities beyond the target fixed, by the capacity that can be generated by the present holding of rolling stock. While a precise quantification is difficult, but there is a gap of 3 to 5 per cent in the demand for rail transport and its availability. The shortage is acutely felt in the busy period between November and March.

Shortage of coaches compels the Railways to keep in services sizeable fleet of overaged coaches.

(c) The programme for acquisition of locomotives, coaches and wagons would be stepped up in the coming years to the extent the allocation of funds and availability of foreign exchange and the indigenous production capacity would allow.

Detection of Illegal Electricity connections in Delhi

1930. SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of illegal electricity connections detected in Delhi during January to June, 1991 and particularly in East Delhi;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken against the persons involved; and

(c) the steps the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking propose to take to check theft of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Out of 494 cases of power theft detected by DESU during January to June, 1991, 189 cases pertained to East Delhi. 160 FIRs have

been lodged with the police against the persons involved in the power theft for prosecution, out of which 55 pertain to East Delhi. Theft of power has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. DESU has intensified its drive against the power theft and other violations relating to use of electricity.

[Translation]

Reduction in number of halts of Long Distance Trains

1931. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the number of halts of long distance trains running from Indore to Delhi, Bombay, Howrah, Cochin and Bilaspur and convert these trains into superfast; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

New Train between Indore and New Delhi

1932. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run a new train between Indore and New Delhi via Nagda and Kota;

(b) whether there is any proposal to run a sleeping-car train between Indore and Lucknow; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Inter-City Train between Indore and Bhopal

1933. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for introducing inter-city train between Indore and Bhopal;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be started;

(c) whether there is proposal to run Awadh Express (Ratlam-Lucknow) from Indore; and

(d) if so, when?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Stoppage of New Rajdhani Express at Ratlam

1934. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand for providing stoppage of New Rajdhani Express at Ratlam; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are demands for stoppage of 2953/2954 New Delhi-Bombay (tri-weekly) AC Express at Ratlam, but the same is not being provided as 2951/2952 New Delhi-Bombay Rajdhani Express (6 days a week) already stops there.

Release of LPG connections in Orissa

1935. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no new LPG connections have been released by the Hindustan Petroleum, Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum in Orissa since April, 1990; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Improvement of Kapali Road Halt

1936. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernise the existing passenger facilities at Kapali Road halt on Khurda Road division;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether there is also proposal to provide stoppage of more trains at this halt during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Bridge at Jogighopa

1937. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work for construction of road-cum-rail bridge over Brahmaputra at Jogighopa Pancharatna has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The work is targetted to be completed by December 1994.

Railway Link to Arunachal Pradesh

1938. SHRI NURUL ISLAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for the extension of broadgauge line upto Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this work will be started?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Contracts of Stalls to Unemployed Graduates

1939. SHRI NURUL ISLAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give priority to the young unemployed graduates in giving contracts of catering, vending and book-stalls under self-employment policy;

(b) if so, the number of such contracts given on stations in North Eastern region;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any new policy in order to give encouragement to the young unemployed graduates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of such requests pending with the Railways including that of Rewari Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) As per existing policy all new bookstall contracts have been reserved for unemployed graduates, their co-operatives, associations, etc. and co-operative societies of actual workers and vendors. In case of catering/vending contracts, there is no such reservation for unemployed graduates.

(b) Nine

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to change the policy. Moreover, no such list of pending requests for allotment of contracts is maintained. Only the applications received in response to Railway's advertisement are considered for allotment of contracts.

Conversion of Manmad-Adilabad and Miraj-Latur Lines

1940. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the conversion of Manmad-Aurangabad-Parli Vaijnath upto Adilabad, and Miraj-Latur narrow gauge railway lines into broad gauge; and

(b) when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The progress made in the gauge conversion work is as under:—

<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>%age progress as on 30-6-91</i>
(1) Conversion of Manmad-Parbhani-Parli Vaijnath (354 km) (work of Phase-I viz. Manmad-Aurangabad (114 km) taken up.	77.4%(Ph. I)
(2) Conversion of Parbhani-Purna, Mudkhed-Adilabad MG to BG & parallel BG line between Purna and Mudkhed.	17%
(3) Conversion of Miraj-Latur NG to BG is not a sanctioned work.	

(b) In order to meet the transportation needs of coal from Wardha Valley to Parli Vajinath Thermal Power Station, the above projects have been phased in the following manner:—

Phase I Manmad-Aurangabad

Phase II Adilabad-Mudkhed-Parbhani-Parli Vajinath.

Phase III Aurangabad-Parbhani.

The work on Phase I is targetted for completion in 1991-92 and is in final stages. The work on Phase-II has also been commenced in stretches. The work on Phase III viz., Aurangabad-Parbhani will be started after the work on Phase II has been sufficiently progressed. For the work of Phases II & III completion dates have not yet been fixed and would depend on the availability of resources in the coming years.

Bridge of Borivali station

1941. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that it is necessary to construct an overbridge from platform Nos. 1 to 6 so that the commuters can move from platform No. 1 to board the State Transport Buses on the east side;

(b) if so, whether the construction of overbridge has been included in the Annual Plan for Borivali Station; if so, for which year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Work for construction of overbridge was included in Railway's Works Programme of 1989-90.

(c) Does not arise.

Interruption in power supply at Sahar Airport, Bombay

1942. SHRI RAM NAIK:

SHRI PRAKASHBAPU VASANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the night of June 22, 1991 the Sahar Airport at Bombay experienced interruptions in power supply twice throwing the entire airport into darkness;

(b) whether any announcements were made to guide the passengers during the period of darkness;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is no standby arrangements for such an emergency; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure adequate care during the power breakdowns at Sahar and other airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. There was power supply failure at Bombay Airport Terminal II (Sahar Airport) on the night of 22nd/23rd June, 1991 due to faults in the domestic power line.

(b) and (c) Since there was no power supply available even for the emergency public address system during the 20 mts. of power failure in Terminal II, no announcement could be made in this area.

(d) There are 3 standby generators provided at Terminal 2A and 3 at Terminal 2B.

(e) The following steps have been taken to ensure adequate care during power breakdown:—

(i) All the equipments have since been thoroughly re-calibrated and services have been restored to normal position.

(ii) In coordination with BSES, arrangements have been made for greater reliability of the power supply at the Airport. In case of any fault, the improved system will allow tripping of only individual faulty feeder.

(iii) Steps have been taken to provide additional lights and pedestal fans on standby generators. In addition, battery operated lights are also being provided.

Stoppage of Flying Queen and Gujarat Express at Palghar

1943. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for the stoppage of Flying Queen and Gujarat Express at Palghar of the Western Railway; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

Hospitals 2

1. Khurda Road
2. Bondamunda

Health Units 22

1. Balasore
2. Bolangir
3. Jharsuguda
4. Bondamunda (Loco)
5. Bimlagarh
6. Rourkela
7. Bano
8. Titlagarh
9. Rayagada
10. Laxmipur
11. Jagdalpur
12. Koraput
13. Katabanji
14. Puri
15. Cuttack
16. Barhampur
17. Retang Colony
18. Talcher
19. Bachel
20. Mancheswar
21. Paradeep
22. Khurda Road (Loco Colony)

(b) A 50 bedded hospital at Mancheswar has been sanctioned and at Sambalpur has been proposed.

Decoding Facility of Black Boxes of Aircraft

1945. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) 9012 Gujarat Express stops at Palghar. However, stoppage of 9011 Gujarat Express and 9021/9022 Flying Ranee at Palghar has not been found feasible.

Railway Hospitals in Orissa

1944. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals and health units functioning under South Eastern Railway as on June 30, 1991 and places in Orissa where such Units/Hospitals are located; and

(b) the details of steps taken to provide adequate medical care for the railwaymen in Orissa and the details of hospitals/health units proposed to be set up in Orissa in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There are 11 Hospitals and 82 Health Units in South Eastern Railway. The places in Orissa where such Hospitals/Health Units are located are as follows:—

(a) whether the decoding facility of black boxes of Boeing and Airbus is not available in the country and the boxes are required to be taken to other countries for the purpose;

(b) whether decoding of black boxes, a facility, is a part of the purchase contract; and

(c) if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard for future deals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Decoding facilities for Cockpit Voice Recorders are available for all types of aircrafts with Indian Airlines and Air India. Decoding facilities for Digital Flight Data Recorders are not yet available for A-310 with Air India and for A-320 with Indian Airlines. Setting up of decoding facilities is not part of the contract for purchase of aircraft.

More Trains to Kerala from New Delhi and Bombay

1946. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to provide more trains to Kerala from New Delhi and Bombay during the festival seasons of Onam, Christmas, Ramzan and during the summer holidays in view of heavy rush of passengers during these days;

(b) whether there is any proposal to replace old and dilapidated boggies in Kerala Express, Madras Mail, Jayanti Janata (Bombay) and other trains to Kerala; and

(c) if so, when the above proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) In order to clear extra rush of traffic, special trains to the extent justified and feasible will be run to and from Kerala during festivals and summer season. No dilapidated coaches are running in trains to/from Kerala.

Conversion of Yelahanka and Bangarpet line

1947. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRI-YAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representations for the

conversion of Yelahanka-Bangarpet narrow gauge line; and

(b) if so, reaction thereto?

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

(b) The project was not found to be financially remunerative and is not proposed to be taken up.

[Translation]

Strictness in Ticket Checking

1948. SHRI BHOGENRAD JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on July 16, 1991 to the Unstarred Question No. 209 regarding unauthorised collection of money from trains running from Samastipur and state:

(a) whether extra money is being extorted from commuters particularly women who carry their goods in baskets and bags for sale in the said five trains and other trains running on the same routes and whether the system of purchasing tickets has been discontinued;

(b) if so, steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) the time by which strictness in ticket checking in these trains and particularly those running between Jainagar and Narakatyaganj will be observed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Regular checks are being conducted against ticketless/irregular travelling in these sections.

Unauthorised Money Charged from Labourers Travelling from Bihar

1949. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers travelling from Bihar especially Samastipur, Patna and Muzaffarpur to Punjab, Haryana and Delhi and back from there have to sit on the roof of the trains for want of seats;

(b) if so, the time by which the adequate number of seats would be provided for the labourers;

(c) whether the labourers are duped of their money and goods by some Railway officials and agents; and money is attracted from them and by supplying them fake tickets; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Some cases of roof travel on this route are reported during busy season.

(b) Continuous efforts are made to attach extra coaches on trains to the extent feasible to clear extra rush.

(c) and (d) No such case has come to notice. However, machinery exists for dealing with frauds on the basis of written complaints.

Reservation in Mithila Express

1950. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a new train from Jai-nagar to Samastipur to catch Mithila Express;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether twelve sleepers are proposed to be kept reserved in Mithila Express for the passengers of Madhubani going to Howrah; and

(d) whether the number of reserved sleepers in Mithila Express is likely to be doubled from Howrah to Samastipur to mitigate the hardship?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The existing of two second class berths at Madhubani by this train is not being fully utilised.

(d) No, Sir. The existing reserved accommodation is adequate to cater to the present level of traffic.

[*English*]

Additional Security Check Post at I.G.I.A., Delhi

1951. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights operating from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi in the morning and evening every day and the average number of persons who travel by these flights;

(b) whether security arrangement in the area is adequate and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to set up an additional security check posts at this airport in view of the recent bomb blast in the area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The average number of flights and passengers who travel by these flights are as under:

<i>Average number of flights</i>	<i>Average number of passengers</i>
Morning — 36	3896
Evening — 23	2542

(b) Yes, Sir. These security measures include (1) Pre-embarkation (anti-hijacking) security checks (2) Anti-sabotage security checks (3) Surveillance Patrolling in the terminal building and operational area (4) Perimeter security of the airport and (5) Anti-terrorist measures.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Appointment of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Air India

1952. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Air India has retired and if so, when;

(b) whether new Chairman-cum-Managing Director has been appointed and if not, the reason therefor; and

(c) the time by which the new Chairman-cum-Managing Director will be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (c) The former Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Air India resigned with effect from 17-7-1990. The appointment of a regular CMD is receiving the attention of the Government and a decision is expected to be taken soon.

Participation of Private Sector in Gas Projects

1953. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow private sector to invest in gas projects;

(b) if so, the details of the each project and cost thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to privatise both the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the Oil India Limited also; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Private sector companies have already invested in projects for downstream use of natural gas in various sectors including fertilizer, sponge iron, city gas distribution etc. The cost would vary from project to project depending on its capacity and end use.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Railway Passes to Ex-Members of Parliament

1954. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue free railway passes to ex-Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAM-
ENTARY AFFAIRS (SH. GHU-
LAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter has been considered by the Government and it has not been considered feasible to decide in favour of the extension of free rail travel facility to the ex-Members of Parliament.

[Translation]

Harnessing of Bio-Gas and Solar Energy in Bihar

1955. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where bio-gas and solar energy programmes have been implemented in Bihar, district-wise;

(b) the number of villages in each district benefited by these plants; and

(c) the names of villages so benefited in Jahanabad district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) The information desired is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

12.00 hrs.

RE. BANK OF CREDIT & COM-
MERCE INTERNATIONAL

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chit-torgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, you had, in the House, assured.....

MR. SPEAKER: Before you make your point, I would like to say that yesterday I was informed by the Government that the statement on the BCCI issue is not ready and they are likely to put it on the Table of the House tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, let me say what I have to say. On the BCCI issue, you had assured the House that a statement would be made in the House today.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not assure: I said that it should be made.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I correct myself. You do not assure; you direct and you had directed that a statement should be made in the House today. Now, the List of Business has no such reference. The hon. Finance Minister is to reply to the Budget debate today.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to give an explanation to that point.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Would he like to give an explanation as to why the statement is not being made?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: In that case, with your permission, I would point out as to what our expectations are about that statement, because there are various angles to it.

MR. SPEAKER: You had raised this matter in Zero Hour. Nothing has crystallised and you expect a statement. I do not know what kind of a statement they are giving. Now, it is between you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, it is not between one person and another. Several Members made enquiries on several points. One of the point was that the Bombay Branch of the BCCI had

said that there are names of several politicians including Members of Parliament and high bureaucrats involved in it. You said, you do not know what is going to be in the statement. We want that the statement must be elaborate. It must give the necessary information asked by the hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jaswant Singh, I have allowed you; I have not allowed him.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, I will speak later on.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, our expectations are as follows: Firstly, a statement should be made today. Our second expectation was that the statement would clarify the aspect of violations of RBI regulations; the statement should make clear enough about the reported or alleged involvement of industrialists or key aides to the former Prime Minister. There is also the aspect of the totality of South Asian dependence on BCCI; a large number of citizens of South Asia, whether they live in UK or elsewhere on the continent or even in the USA, have been badly hit because of BCCI's closure. We expect that the statement would clarify that point also. There is then the aspect of narco-related money having entered the BCCI. There is also the aspect of economic invasion of the country by way of illegal money coming in and going illegally out of the country. There are reports that the BCCI was employed by Pakistan as a conduit for their nuclear programme. Indeed a General of Pakistan Army was arrested in Germany. **was arrested in Germany.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow the name to go on record.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: These are all aspects of BCCI. It is reported that BCCI has been aiding Pakis-

tan in its nuclear programme. Therefore, the Government ought to have come forward with that statement today or should ask for permission to do it tomorrow. When they do actually come forward with the statement, they ought to cover all these aspects.

We would request you, Sir, as you had directed, let the statement be made today itself and let it be a comprehensive statement to answer all these queries.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: What I am concerned is that the statement should be comprehensive. We have brought to the notice of this House that one Pakistani national is heading this bank. This bank has been already penalised by the British State Bank of U.K. This matter was discussed in the American Senate Committee where it has been mentioned that this bank has been financing certain politicians, certain bureaucrats...*(Interruptions)*

These are matters which are being discussed all over the world. Are we not supposed to know the details about the activities of the BCCI?

Another important factor is that this Bank is supposed to have been financing the terrorists who are operating in our country, who are a threat to our national unity.

Therefore, what I am requesting is that the statement should be comprehensive. I do not mind particularly, if the statement will be coming tomorrow, but it should be comprehensive. If the Government wants time, let it take. But the entire details should come out in the statement. The names of all those Indian citizens who have their accounts in the BCCI or who are connected directly or indirectly, all those facts should be known to this House and to the country.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not go into the details of this matter, because it is being discussed within and outside the House and reports about this matter are being published in various newspapers also. The Minister of Finance and the leader of the House are present here. When the news started appearing in the Press, it was the duty of the Government to clarify the matter *suo motu*, because with the passage of time, the doubt increases and the needle of suspicion points to one direction and it was the culmination of combined action of the then Government and its Head and industrialists, bureaucrats and other people associated with it. The leader of the House had made an announcement in the House yesterday that a statement on this matter would be made. Today the Finance Minister is also present in the House. The entire matter is being discussed for the last one week and the Government is completely silent over the matter. I would like to know as to why the statement would be made tomorrow? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that mere statement on this matter is not sufficient, instead there should be a thorough discussion on this subject under Rule 193. The matter is being discussed all over the world these days. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, Please don't speak like that.

[*English*]

We will see afterwards.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, the statement has to be comprehensive because it has many dimensions; it has international dimension; it has a dimension

that encompasses the politicians and some of the bureaucrats of our country. It has another dimension of aiding the terrorists which is connected with the attempt to destabilise our country. It has sullied the image of our country.

So, when the statement is made, immediately we should have a discussion on the basis of the comprehensive statement. And then, we have to decide, as I said yesterday—the need will be there so far as I understand, to institute a House Committee also to look into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: We are going much beyond that.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, I appreciate the sentiments expressed in this House I apologise to the House that I have not been able to come forward with a statement today. I need some time to collect all the facts and I promise you that by tomorrow I will be able to make a statement.

[*Translation*]

SRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had given you a notice. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the sad plight of more than 6000 Indians from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan who are stranded in Bombay due to want of emigration clearance. These 6000 people have already obtained valid employment visa from the Gulf countries. But they have been denied clearance by the Emigration Department in Bombay. The emigration clearance has been given to the

degree holders and diploma holders whereas the unskilled labour and also the manual labourers who have obtained employment visa with great difficulty have been denied.

May I also submit to the attention of the hon. Minister of Labour that any delay on our part to provide clearance will also result in the replacement of our labour force in the Gulf countries by Bangladeshis, Philipinos and Sri Lankans have been taking that place. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take it as a very serious matter. Especially now, our country is faced with economic crisis and also unemployment problem.

There are 6000 people who are living in agony and who are stranded in Bombay. They may also be helped.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Godda district of Bihar is an extremely backward area. This district was formed in 1983 and the maximum number of coal mines of the country are located in this area. There is a project called Rajmahal Project and till now no arrangement has been made to provide cooking gas to the people of this district. I have been writing to the Government of India even when I was an MLA in Bihar Assembly to set up an agency of cooking gas at the earliest in my district, but no arrangements have been made to supply cooking gas to the people in my backward area. Hon. Petroleum Minister is present here. I would like to urge him that keeping in view the backwardness of this area, a cooking gas agency may be set up in the headquarters of my District without any lapse of time so that the cooking gas is made available to the inhabitants of that place.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL (Siwan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a cotton mill has been set up in Siwan district of Bihar

with an investment of crores of rupees and that cotton mill is in the production stage. Despite that I regret to say that this cotton mill has not started functioning till date. I would like to urge upon the central Government through you that the cotton mill should start production immediately so that all the unemployed youths may get employment and the economic condition of that area may improve.

[English]

SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW (Idukki): Sir, I rise to plead for a section of voiceless people who belong to the overwhelming silent majority, I mean the bonded labour. Bonded labour is prevalent on an alarmingly large-scale in this country. Nobody has been punished so far for persecuting, under-paying and oppressing them and for not giving them their remuneration and all that.

The National Commission which has been promised is not yet set up.

The Human Rights Commission recommended to the concerned UN Agencies that all loans and aid to such countries which do not exterminate this evil should be stopped.

No survey has been made to identify the bonded labour. It is our international commitment.

So, I would request the Government to take steps immediately for identifying them and then for subsequent extermination and abolition of the bonded labour.

SHRI R. SRIDHARAN (Madras South): Sir, Shri Vallabhai Patel Chest Institute in New Delhi is almost closed. The institution is in a dilapidated building in the university campus. There are no X-Ray films. Sputum and blood tests are not conducted for the last few days. No bi-weekly injections or bi-weekly medicines are given to the patients. The

patients are asked to go to the other hospitals in the City. They are not being admitted into the hospital since no proper arrangement is made. No proper study is made regarding the number of patients and treatment given to them. The Post-Graduate students are put to great hardship because there are no patients. No bed-side teaching studies are conducted.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Health and Family welfare to immediately look into the matter.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a vital issue affecting the Konkan area of Maharashtra and Goa. As you know, Sir, this area is the most backward area in the country. It is served by only one road, by the National Highway called the Bombay-Goa Highway. We had a ferry service which was closed down three years ago. We had an air service of Vayudoot which was also stopped. The Ratnagiri Airport is the only Airport which is there in this area, which is also being dismantled. This road, the Bombay-Goa National Highway cannot be termed as a Highway in any case when you look at the appearance of it. This Highway is repaired every year. During the monsoon season the surface disintegrate because of the heavy precipitation in this area.

I would, therefore, request that the Government must now take firm action against the contractors and also allocate more resources so that the road surface is developed in such a manner that the surface disintegration is not allowed to happen every year. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have to do one after the other. You cannot just press like this. There are Members on that side also. I am saying, please take your seat.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the workers and labourers engaged in the salt-producing factories throughout the entire sea coast areas all over the country do not get wages even at the minimum scale as fixed up by the Minimum Wages Act. The labourers in many factories have to start their work even before the sun-rise and continue their work even after the sun-set with an hour's recess in the noon thereby stretching the working hours by more than twelve hours a day. We are all aware of the present hard days in the present situation of spiralling prices. It is, therefore, obvious how miserable and distressing conditions the salt-workers are living in. Labourers having at least five members of each family at an average find it really a total impossibility to live on the meagre wage of Rs. 14 or Rs. 16 per day—there remaining no work, no pay day. It is unimaginable how these salt-workers are pulling on their days of unbearable sufferings. Further, the Budget proposals have already started inflationary pressure in the market and the essential consumers' items have begun to reflect the same.

Sir under the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government, the Ministry of Industry to take initiatives immediately to bring forward legislative measures to fix up the daily minimum wages of the workers and labourers engaged in the salt-factories whether big or small and help the poor people overcome the present hardship prevailing in our country. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during my visit to Calcutta, I had seen more than 200 Andaman bound passengers—men, women and children—who had been stranded there for the last three months. They are now staying on the footpaths of Calcutta. They are facing starvation because of non-availability of any food. These people are particularly from Andhra Pradesh, from Ranchi area of Bihar, West Ben-

gal and Orissa. They are mostly the working class people who have come from Andaman and Nicobar Island during the vacation time to see their families in the mainland. Now they are not in a position to go back. Unfortunately, the shipping ticket which necessitates these people to reach Andaman and Nicobar Island, has been withheld by the Shipping Corporation of India, Calcutta. These people are not getting their tickets. This is a very serious matter. People are facing starvation. I request the Leader of the House to kindly pass on this to the Minister of Surface Transport so that these people—on 15th, there will be a ship—are given the passage to go back to their places. I request Shri Arjun Singhji to look into the matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Jute Corporation of India was formed to procure jute directly from the growers so that the jute growers of West Bengal may get statutory minimum price fixed by the Government, if not the fair price. This was an assurance given by the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, after the partition of India, to the farmers of West Bengal who started growing jute in West Bengal and our country became self-sufficient in jute growing. These jute growers are now starving because of the policy of the Textiles Ministry, the policy of the Government of India not to procure jute this year. The Jute Corporation of India is not coming to the market. They are not procuring jute from any of the jute growing districts of West Bengal. Unless the Jute Corporation of India starts procuring jute immediately in West Bengal, the jute price in West Bengal will come down further and the jute growers will die. I demand a statement from the Minister of Textiles. I demand that the Jute Corporation of India should start procuring jute immediately from the jute growers of West Bengal. Unless this is done, the price which has already fallen in West Bengal, will fall down further in West Bengal, in Bihar, in Orissa and the other jute

growing States of our country. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Jute growers are suffering a lot. The Government must make a statement on this point. This is a very serious problem throughout the country. This problem is there in Orissa also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a question of life and death for the forty lakh jute workers in the country. The Leader of the House is here. He should make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: You can direct the Minister or the Leader of the House to make a statement on this issue. This is one of the very serious matters which the jute growers of Bengal, Orissa and Bihar are facing. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made that point. Now Shri Agnihotri to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We want a statement from the Minister on this issue. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important point; you have made it. You sit down now. There are other Members also who must get an opportunity. You made your point; let them also make their points.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want a statement from the Minister. The Leader of the House is here, he should speak.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The Minister can respond to this matter. Nearly 50-60 lakh jute growers are unable to sell their product. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made that point; now allow others to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is the life and death question of jute growers of our country. The Government is silent on this issue.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): After all, there is a propriety in such matters. When hon. Members make mention of any fact, it is for mention and it goes to the hon. Minister and then they in the natural course of events would take note of it. If the hon. Member wants that I should specifically draw his attention, I will do so also. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only what Shri Agnihotri says will go on record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have drawn the attention of this House through you time and again to the fact that in our country a number of projects are being implemented in various states, which are directly under the control of Government of India. Hundreds and thousands of labourers are engaged in these projects as work-charged labour and on daily wage basis. According to the laws of the Labour Department which the Government of India have got passed in this House, the services of these people should be regularised, but labourers working in these projects have not been regularised under Labour Laws even after 7 or 8 years of service. Under the present days of price rise, these labourers, whose number is in lakhs, are not getting the allowances, good salary and other facilities which are due to them.

I urge upon the Government through you that the services of these labourers should be regularised under the Labour Laws. Thousands of labourers have been working in Rajghat Project in Uttar Pradesh, Narmada Project and Cauvery Project for the last 7-8 years. Government of India should

look into this matter immediately and the services of these labourers should be regularised, otherwise there would be great resentment among the labourers which would be a matter of shame for this Government.

[*English*]

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor): I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that Keralites are using coconut oil, as no other edible oil is produced in Kerala. The only alternative edible oil liked by Keralites is palmoline; but its supply has come to a standstill. It has become difficult to use coconut oil by the common man as the price of coconut oil has reached so high and people are facing acute shortage of edible oil.

Therefore I request the Government to release a special quota of 10,000 tonnes of palmoline oil during the festival season.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATANAYAK (Bolangir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House a horrible incident that took place at the site of Indravati irrigation project in Kalahandi district of Orissa. Due to heavy rains tunnel of the project got flooded, and about 100 workers lost their lives and nearly 500 are reported missing. Orissa Government till date has not given any compensation to the victims. Therefore I request you to constitute a committee of the Members to go into the causes of accident and for an on the spot investigation, so as to facilitate early disbursement of compensation to the families of the deceased.

SHRI LALIT ORAON (Lohardaga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar in 1990, most of the districts came under the spell of heavy hailstorm.....(*Interruptions*).... resulting in heavy damage to 'kuchcha' houses and rabi crop in the rural areas. On the receipt

of report from the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned districts, as called by the Government, assistance was provided to the 21 affected districts in the state. But Ranchi & Gumla districts, which are predominantly tribal districts, were not provided any assistance. These districts were also affected.

Therefore, through you I would like to request the Government to provide assistance to these two affected districts.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the press conference at Lucknow the hon. Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Shri Madhavrao Scindia, branded leaders of B.J.P. as traitors.....(*Interruptions*)..... In a democratic set up hurling of such abuses as traitor repeatedly in the press conference and nonrefutal of such utterances afterwards, to my mind reflects lack of faith in democracy of Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

[*English*]

He should withdraw his words and that is my demand. He should withdraw his words

[*Translation*]

and tender an apology in the House.(*Interruptions*).....

[*English*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that many of his own colleagues must have felt anguished by the statement of the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation. I am sure that many of my colleagues on this side who may disagree with me and my party's views very sharply would agree with me that in democratic politics, there are limits to criticism. Otherwise one has to bear with criticism; one has to bear even condemnation. Even very unflattering harsh epithets can be hurled

at each other. But I am sure every patriot who participates in democratic politics would regard this particular word which has been consciously and deliberately used and repeatedly used —'traitor'—is the vilest abuse that can be hurled at a patriot. On behalf of my party, I take very strong exception to this statement made at Lucknow by the Minister of Civil Aviation. I would say that here is a Government which has, from the very first day been saying that we would like to bring a consensus with the Opposition parties even when we disagree. There have been some attempts and sometimes we have meetings. Let them realise that this is a statement not made by any ordinary Minister. He is a Minister of the Union Cabinet. Therefore, my party is forced to say that unless Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia unqualifiedly apologises for this Lucknow statement, my party would have to reconsider its entire attitude to the Government itself as a whole.

I am sure that most of his colleagues in the Union Cabinet also must have been disturbed by this statement. The leader of the House is here. Therefore, through him, I would like to see that suitable amends are made for this statement.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Sir, I fully agree that the kind of public statement which has been attributed to the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, should not have been made. But there should not be double standards. We are frequently reading in the Press public statements made by prominent leaders of Mr. Advani's party, who are using the same expression. (*Interruptions*) They have been saying that Communists are traitors. (*Interruptions*) We have been continually called traitors. We have never raised it here. But there should not be double standards.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I entirely agree with Mr. Indrajit Gupta (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, we are called traitors. We do not take it seriously because we are not traitors. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I entirely agree with what Mr. Indrajit Gupta has said that there should be no double standards.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I am glad that the honourable Leader of the Opposition has agreed to this that there should never be double standards on what we think is correct. I think, anybody saying that any other Indian is not a patriot is not a very light-hearted comment or remark unless one has something substantial to go by. What has been alleged to have been said by my colleague, I think, it would be fair that the House and you, Sir, allow me the opportunity to bring this to his knowledge. I am sure, he will make suitable amends, if necessary. If he has not said it or he has been wrongly reported, he will say accordingly.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not so...*(Interruptions)*...I cannot be cowed down. I will not sit before making my point...*(Interruptions)*.....not at least like this. See, he said...*(Interruptions)*...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you to quote from the newspaper. *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You know, it was handled very properly. Please do not prolong it. What you wanted, you got it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, it is not necessary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Khurana, please understand the nicety and the subtlety involved in it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: You are explaining nicety to us, please explain nicety to them also.....*(Interruptions)*.....

MR. SPEAKER: Now it is all nicely over.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Civil Supplies of Bihar is in Delhi today for consultations with many Central Ministries. Bihar is in the grip of drought and many representations have been submitted to the Centre during the last few days requesting release of essential commodities for distribution in the affected areas, by the State Government. They are demanding increase in the quota of wheat, rice, edible oils, sugar, kerosene oil, cooking gas, coal and diesel to the State. I do not want to say anything more but would only like to draw the attention of the Central Government through you regarding the demands of the State Government. The Central Government should take urgent steps to fulfil the demands of Bihar.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri George Fernandes is very serious. The House is well aware of the dichotomous situation prevailing in Bihar, where on the one hand it is a flood and drought prone state and on the other hand minerals in plenty are found in the State. Minerals come under the purview of the Centre, quite reasonable so, but the people of Bihar are left to face the furies of floods and drought. Therefore, I request the Government to meet the requirements of Bihar Government and reduction in quota be

restored keeping in view the drought conditions prevailing in the state. The Government of India should also pay serious attention to initiating effective steps to tackle the drought conditions prevailing in Bihar.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to bring to your notice that we have discussed the Budget in general for 21 hours. Very good and important points have been made by the hon. Members and naturally, you would be interested in knowing as to what will be the response of the Government on the points which were made. You may also be interested in other points which you want to make. So, I am pleading with you all today to finish this business now. I would like to take up the Matters under Rule 377 after the Budget reply is given. But before the Budget reply is given, there are certain important Papers to be laid on the Table of the House. With your concurrence, I would allow the Papers to be laid on the Table of the House and after that, instead of taking up the Matters under Rule 377, I would request the hon. Minister to reply. It will be good if there would be a comprehensive reply.

Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

12.43 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 1991-92 and Defence Services Estimates, 1991-92

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-

TRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): On behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Defence for 1991-92.

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT-268/91*]

- (2) A copy of the Defence Services Estimates, 1991-92 (Hindi and English versions).

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT-269/91*]

Explanatory Statement giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991.

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT-270/91*]

Notification under Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 516(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1991 making certain amendments in the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 regarding revised rates of royalty on coal under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the said Act.

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT-271/91*]

Annual Report of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi and Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bombay for 1989-90 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-272/91]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bombay, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-273/91]

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Madras, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-274/91]

- (iv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Calcutta, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-275/91]

- (v) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa, for the

year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-276/91]

- (vi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-277/91]

- (vii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Lucknow, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-278/91]

- (viii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-279/91]

- (ix) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Ahmedabad, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-280/91]

- (x) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering technology, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-281/91]

- (xi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of

the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-282/91]

(xii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Jaipur, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-283/91]

(xiii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhopal, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-284/91]

(xiv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Craft Institute, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1989-90 along with the Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-285/91]

(xv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Craft Institute, Guwahati, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-286/91]

(xvi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Craft Institute, Gwalior, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-287/91]

(xvii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Craft Institute,

Aligarh, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-288/91]

(xviii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Craft Institute, Udaipur, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-289/91]

(xix) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Craft Institute, Faridabad, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-290/91]

(b) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Working of the Institutes of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, New Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Goa, Jaipur and Lucknow and Food Craft Institutes, Guwahati, Gwalior, Udaipur, Faridabad, Aligarh and Visakhapatnam for the year 1989-90.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-291/91]

Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March 1990—Union Government—Civil and Union Government—Defence Services etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English

versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1990 (No. 1 of 1991)—Union Government—Civil.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-292/91]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1990 (No. 8 of 1991)—Union Government—Defence Services (Army and Ordnance Factories).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-293/91]

- (2) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for the year 1989-90 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-294/91]

- (3) A copy of the Union Government Finance Accounts for the year 1989-90 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-295/91]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for 1991-92

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Rural Development for 1991-92.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-296/91]

Policy Measures re: Village Enterprises

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Policy measures for promoting and strengthening small, tiny and village enterprises (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-297/91]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me amend what I have just now said. Mr. Shankaranand wants to give a happy news to the House and I am allowing him to do so.

12.45 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Recent Discoveries of Oil and Gas by ONGC

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, I have great pleasure in informing the house of some recent discoveries of oil and gas by ONGC. Oil has been struck in the exploratory well, RBC-1, in the Ratnagiri Sector of Bombay offshore. The well is located 100 km. southwest of Bombay.

The exploratory well, RBC-1, located in a water depth of 61 m was spudded on 28-4-1991 with the jack up rig, EXPLORER and drilled upto 3425.5 m depth in basement. Object-III tested in the interval of 1998-1991 m has produced oil at 1685 barrels per day through 1/2"choke and at 2177 barrels per day through 5/8" choke. The oil has an API gravity of 42.7 and a GOR of 114 V/V. The Hydrogen Sulphate ((H₂S) content varies from 12000 to 19000 ppm. Production testing of the zone started on 29-7-1991. The producing interval forms the lower part of the Basscin Limestone which is the main oil and gas bearing zone in Heera, Panna, Ratna, Bassein and other fields in Bombay offshore. Oil indications have been obtained in some other layers also from this well.

The presence of oil in the well RBC 1, which is 2.5 km. north of oil bearing structure R-13 indicates the possibility that these two structures may merge into a bigger oil pool with an aerial extent of the order of 20 sq.km. This is to be ascertained by drilling a few more wells.

I would also like to inform the House that Gas has been discovered in two structures in the Krishna-Godavari Basin in Andhra Pradesh. Exploratory wells at Penumadam and Bandamurlanka have on testing produced gas in commercial quantities.

Penumadam-I well situated 18 kms. North East of Narasapur Town, was spudded on 26-2-1991 and drilled to a depth of 3000 mtrs. During testing in the intervals of 2477—2471 mtrs

and 2466—2462 mtrs. with 20/60" choke, gas flowed at the rate of 2,13,348 m³/day. The well also produced 54 barrels of condensate per day.

The Banda-murlanka N-1 well lies 10 kms. south of Amalapuram. This well was spudded on 14-12-1990 and was drilled to a depth of 3531 mtrs. During testing in the interval of 3138-3135 mtrs. with 10/64" choke, gas flowed at the rate of 27,036 m³/day. The well also produced 203 barrels of condensate per day.

In both wells, further testing is in progress to ascertain other reservoir characteristics.

12.47 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1991, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th August, 1991."

12.47½ hrs.

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL

As passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1991, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.48 hrs.

THE GENERAL BUDGET, 1991-92
—GENERAL DISCUSSION—*Contd.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to reply to the General Discussion on the Budget for 1991-92, which I had the honour of presenting to the august House on 24 July 1991. I am extremely grateful to all hon. members on both sides of this House who have taken part in the debate which has been characterised by a mixture of commendation, caution and criticism of the proposals contained in my Budget.

I was particularly impressed by the extent of knowledge, skill, wisdom, dignity, moderation and the great concern for the politically innocent Finance Minister, which marked the speech of my esteemed friend Shri Jaswant Singh. He performed the role of the opening batsman for the Opposition with great distinction. Then there were the speeches of veterans and stalwarts like Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav, Prof. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, Shri Atal Bihari

Vajpayee, Shri Sukh Ram and many others whose deep love for our country, whose scholarship, skills and experience as parliamentarians and whose sense of fairness and decency I have always admired and respected. I am of this view that there is no match for these stalwarts of the parliamentary scene in our country. On an occasion like this I feel like a pigeon thrown among the cats. I must confess to you that I feel a little diffident in taking on such great stalwarts. But since the Prime Minister has placed me in this predicament I have to do my duty howsoever inadequate I may be for this task.

Shri Jaswant Singh was greatly worried about my political inexperience and innocence in political affairs. I am deeply grateful to him for his affection and concern for me but let me assure him that I am not in any way over-powered by any feeling of lack of political experience on my part. I have had the privilege of working closely with all the Prime Ministers of India, starting with Shrimati Indira Gandhi. I have been a keen observer of the Indian political scene and political processes in our country. I have been a witness during the past 20 years to some of the most historic moments of both triumph and tragedy; of joy and sorrow, of laughter and tears; of the high noons of creativity and idealism as well as the evenings of despair, darkness, and despondency which have characterised the arduous journey of this republic in our nation's quest for modernity, dignity and self-respect for our people.

I am also a student of History, in particular, after Mughul period. I also know that the Delhi Establishment has not been able to shake off completely the heritage of the culture of the great Mughal court. The atmosphere of intrigue and the low-cunning politics of self-aggrandisement which ultimately led to the decline and fall of that great empire, that great enterprise and great adventure. And, if you read Gibbon and Shakespeare you know

enough about the stuff politics and politicians are made of. The Late Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, a great Finance Minister of this country, used to say that a Finance Minister who wanted to do something had to be aware that there were maneatars on ground in the streets of Delhi. But quite honestly all this does not worry me.

The Prime Minister has honoured me to perform a particular duty. Today, if I find that I cannot perform that duty to the satisfaction of my conscience, you will not find me sitting on these benches. There are many other ways of serving our people than through the medium of politics. Patriotism and service to our people, after all are not monopolies of professional politicians alone. Let it, therefore, be clear that nobody is going to be allowed to take undue advantage of my alleged lack of political experience.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Is it a quotation from Shri Krishnamachari's speech?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: No, it is not a quotation.

This Government has been in office for only 45 days. Whether one likes it or not, India has begun once again to appear on the front pages of newspapers all over the world. I remember, Jawahar Lal Ji used to say whether one likes it or not, India counts and I have a feeling that India once again is beginning to count. There is an excitement that at long last this country has made up its mind to realise its full creative potential. Whether you like it or not, you have to concede that Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao has succeeded in altering, in a fundamental sense, the Agenda for national debate. The centre-piece of this new agenda is the strategy and a credible action programme for national renewal, of enabling our nation to acquire its rightful place in the comity of nations. Some people des-

cribe our agenda as pursuit of liberalisation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a more appropriate way to describe our agenda would be to call it an agenda for India's second liberation, liberation from the ancient scourge of poverty, ignorance and disease which have been the inevitable lot of millions of people in this country for centuries. It is an agenda for ushering a second Industrial Revolution, a second Green Revolution. It is a forward looking agenda which seeks to harness the tremendous creative potential of modern science and technology to build a new India which is at once a technologically sophisticated society, is economically advanced and socially just and all these to be achieved in the framework of an open society.

Democratic polity and deep an abiding faith in the rule of law that was the vision, this was the grand design which Jawaharlal Nehru projected so forcefully on the midnight of August 14, 1947 just when the world went to sleep, India woke up to a new life of adventure and enterprise of ushering a social and economic revolution through peaceful means and with the consent of all concerned. Nothing Mr. Speaker, of that sort has been attempted anywhere else in human history. It was the dream of the greatest man of our age Mahatma Gandhi to wipe out tears from the eyes of each and everyone living in this great country of ours.

Much has been done since independence to soften the harsh edges of mass poverty. Our nation can take legitimate pride in its many faceted achievements. But there is a vast unfinished task. There are still for too many people with tearful eyes in this country. The misery and the squalor of vast urban slums that have sprung up all over the country mocks at the laughter and the mirth emanating from the Five Star Hotels and Club Rooms. Even today, 44 years after independence, you can still, see on a cold wintry morning, a young woman having a bath in the sacred Ganga

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and then sitting in the sun to dry her clothe. Why? Because, she does not have a second saree. We have thus a vast unfinished task before us. To accomplish this task, we have to shed some of the old instrumentalities, which have outlived their utility. We have to shed some old prejudices and fears which made no sense in the changed world.

The objectives set for our nation by Jawaharlal Nehru on the eve of independence, remain today as they were in 1947. But, as Panditji use to say, we live in a dynamic world. Therefore, strategies and instrumentalities have to be adapted to the changing needs of our times. This is what our Government seeks to achieve. We remain faithful to the vision and objectives outlined by the founding fathers of our Republic. And it is precisely because we are faithful to that vision and those objectives that our policy framework and instrumentalities need to be updated to keep pace with the demands of a dynamic economy and polity.

We have Mr. Speaker, promises to keep and that lends urgency to the task of re-structuring and adaptation of policy framework from time to time. Our Government has been in office for barely one month and a half. But in this short span of time, we have altered the agenda for the national debate. The divisive issues of Mandir-Masjid politics and the emotional divide brought about in the wake of forward-backward caste controversies are beginning to take a back seat. The nation seems to be fed up with the politics which thrive on suspicion, hatred, distrust of one fellow citizen and which exploits societal tensions and conflicts for the pursuit of narrow partisan angles.

13.00 hrs.

It is yearning for a new politics, a politics which would help to mediate and reconcile the various societal tensions and conflicts built into the body

politic of a poor country trying to modernise itself. This is the task we have set before our nation. This is the new politics we will pursue—a politics which is a servant of social sympathies, a politics which is a purposeful instrument of social change, a politics which regards power as a sacred social trust to be used for the good of society and not for self-aggrandizement.

Our agenda includes enabling our country to meet the challenges and capture the opportunities of the new global economy. It takes into account the fact that we live in an increasingly inter-dependent world. The growing inter-dependence of nation is highlighted by the serious threat to the environment and the essential life support systems of our planet. The world shares a common environment. And since three-fourths of the human race lives in the Third World, we have a vested interest to work with other nations to control environmental degradation. In many ways, the world has become one vast global village and the critical challenge of our times is to ensure orderly and equitable management of this global inter-dependence. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, Order, please.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Isolation or autarky is neither feasible nor desirable. We, therefore, seek to build a strong internationally competitive economy which can make its due contribution to the orderly functioning of the global economy, consistent with our potential, the aspirations of our people and our cultural heritage. In all this our inspiration is not the IMF or the World Bank. This inspiration we draw from Mahatma Gandhi who said:—

“I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed.....” (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: May I request the hon. Members not to interrupt the Finance Minister. Please if you put on these ear phones, you will get Hindi translation also; and it is at the beginning.

Now, there are many points which have to be responded to by the Finance Minister; and if you are interrupting him like this, you may not be able to have the benefit of knowing what the Government thinks on the points you have made.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, the question is not about understanding the speech for the Finance Minister. I can well understand your indulgence. But there are certain traditions and regulations in the House. Generally, the speeches are not read out excepting the Budget speech and the President's Address. And the Budget discussion is not replied to in the form of another President's Address. This is what the Members are objecting to, and it is the result of lack of political experience of the Hon. Finance Minister which they are taking objection to.
(Interruptions)

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling): Ministers are always entitled to read out speeches while replying.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): Reply should be to the points raised in the House.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): You can ask the Finance Minister to lay the written speech on the Table of the House and take up the points. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Not like this. You please sit down. Shri Inderjit, please do not carry on like this. To be precise, to cover many points in a short time, speeches have been given extempore, but sometimes there can

be written speeches. I am allowing and after that probably one or two Members from each party may have the opportunity of asking for an explanation. Let us conserve time which is a very precious commodity.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not interrupt like this. This is not good.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I am saying that in all this, our inspiration is not the IMF or the World Bank. This inspiration will come from Mahatma Gandhi himself and I quote:

"I do not want my house to be walled on all sides and my windows to be stuffed." *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I may have to take strong objection if you go on interrupting like this.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH:

"I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any. I refuse to live in other people's houses as an interloper, a beggar or a slave."

To achieve our objective, we need a coherent and consistent policy framework. This is what we seek to do.

Shri Jaswant Singh gave me a lot of advice which I greatly value. In particular, I take very seriously his advice that some thing should be done about the large budgetary subsidies currently enjoyed by the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking and the Delhi Transport Corporation. I noticed that the Leader of the Opposition Shri Lal K. Advani was frowning when Shri Jaswant Singh was speaking on this subject. I also noticed that the irrepressible Hon'ble Shri M.L. Khurana was absent from the House when Shri Jaswant Singh made those

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remarks. I hope that Shri Jaswant Singh's views fully reflect the views of the BJP establishment as well as their supporters in Delhi. I will seek their help in reducing the burden of subsidies in Delhi as well as elsewhere. (*Interruptions*)

Several Hon. Members have mentioned how serious is this crisis and some of them have accused me by saying that I have exaggerated this whole issue of economic crisis to pave the way for a sell-out to the IMF. I ardently wish that the economic situation with which we have to deal with was not as serious as it has turned out to be. To close our eyes to the severity of the situation and to assume that we can go on a spending spree as before, that we can go on subsidising all and sundry, at a pace we have become accustomed to, or that we need not deal with the underlying causes of low productivity of investment would be an act of grave irresponsibility for which the future generations will not forgive us.

We have compressed our imports to the maximum extent possible so as to save foreign exchange. There is no more scope for import compression without severe disruption of our economy. The plain truth is that we have today an unsustainable deficit in the current account of our balance of payments; that given the low level of our reserves, mounting fiscal deficits and laxity of economic management, very few countries, Governments and institutions are willing to lend us money. We have a grave crisis of confidence. Until a few weeks ago, non-resident depositors instead of sending fresh money were taking their money out of the country at the rate of Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 150 crores per week. Let us not be fed on the false illusion that non-resident Indians are going to send in large sums of money to bail out a country with an impaired credit worthiness. The sweet reasonable talks that take place on the dining table when our politicians and civil servants meet the represen-

tatives of the non-residents are unfortunately divorced from the harsh and dismal economic realities. Make no mistake, non-residents will not bring in large sums of money unless we put our house in order.

If we had not taken determined action after we came into power, we would by now have declared our country a defaulter on its international obligations. And in a situation in which we do not have foreign exchange to import even such essential goods as fertilizer or diesel, the consequences of default would have been unprecedented, disruption of economic and financial processes in our country leading to large scale unemployment as well as an accelerated pace of inflation.

Quite honestly we need the support of the IMF to restore international confidence in our country at this juncture and to convince international commercial banks as well as non-resident Indians that India remains a viable entity. We will need the support of the IMF for the next two to three years to set our house in order. But the House can rest assured that although conditionality is inevitable, we will not accept any conditions which are inconsistent with our fundamental national interests. I am convinced that what we have done in the last 45 days is fully in the larger national interests of our country. We need a credible programme of both strong fiscal adjustments as well as basic structural reforms regardless whether you have an IMF programme or not.

The pain associated with such a reform will be much greater if we do not have the support of the IMF to deal with the problems of transition to a more vibrant economy.

We need not fear going to the IMF. We had borrowed from the IMF on several occasions in the past even when Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi were the Prime Ministers.

China is now an active user of the IMF funds. The Soviet Union is eagerly seeking entry into the IMF. As such it will be imprudent on our part to pass an ordinance of self-denial that we will not go to the IMF.

Let me make it quite clear neither the IMF nor the World Bank is eager to lend to India. I would also not favour recourse to the IMF or the World Bank if the country does not accept the logic of fiscal discipline and structural reform. It must be clearly understood that persistence with unsustainable fiscal deficit and non-recognition of the need for basic structural reforms will condemn this country to the perpetuation of poverty and a low standard of living and lead to its further marginalisation in the world economy.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and some other Members have suggested that we should take this House into confidence regarding the conditions attached to the IMF loan. Basically these conditions seek to ensure that our country will be able to repay these loans. The IMF is not a charitable organisation and we are not seeking charity. But the IMF is right and I agree with it that this country must control the fiscal mess it is in. And in this context, I may point out that the objectives for fiscal reform were set out not by the IMF but by the Government over which Shri Chandra Shekhar had the distinction of presiding. His Government made a commitment to this House that in the year 1991-92, we will bring the fiscal deficit to 6.5 per cent of GDP, that in the next two to three years, we will bring it further down to 4 per cent. If this country and this Parliament endorses those objectives I can assure you that we would be on the road to mending our ways. If Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his economic advisers or for that matter Shri Jyoti Basu and his economic advisers or Shri V. P. Singh and his economic advisers or Shri Chandra Shekhar and his economic advisers can work out a superior

package for reducing the fiscal deficit than the one we have in mind, I am prepared to sit with them with an open mind.

In the same way, unless India's exports grow at a much faster pace, our credit rating cannot improve. And if you want to import more fertiliser or more of petroleum products, you have to export more even if the IMF is not there. And how can you increase exports unless exporting is profitable, unless we eliminate bureaucratic delays which come in the way of export promotion, unless we modernise our industry and have more competition so that people will have a strong incentive to reduce costs and improve quality? This is the logic of trade policy reform and industrial policy reform. We need these reforms for our survival as a modern nation, not as a favour to the IMF.

Several Members have argued that this Budget and our economic policies are pro-industry, that we are anti-worker and that this Budget is anti-rural. I am afraid that is far from truth. The overall economic strategy adopted by us will lead over a period of time to reduced need for protecting Indian industry. Excessive protection of industry in this country has constituted a powerful discrimination against agriculture and rural areas and is at the root cause of widening urban-rural disparities in income and wealth. I seek to reduce this discrimination against agriculture though I will do so at a pace which will not hurt our industry. My tax proposals are designed to reduce the excessive bias in favour of capital intensive technologies and processes in our industry. They will, therefore, help to accelerate over time the growth of employment opportunities. The excise duty concessions I have given to a wide spectrum of agro-processing activities will provide a powerful incentive for the second agricultural revolution centering on processing of agricultural produce in rural areas, thereby raising living standards in rural

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areas and checking premature migration of workers in search of employment to metropolitan areas. Moreover, if our economic strategy succeeds, we will be able to release scarce administrative resources as well as larger financial resources for the development of rural India. Particular emphasis will be laid on the provisions of quality social services, physical infrastructure and employment opportunities. I wish to emphasise that all those who are genuinely interested in bridging the rural urban divide between the rural Bharat and urban India should support the basic orientation of our policy in favour of a more competitive industrial economy. Those who believe that the welfare of rural masses can be promoted on the basis of subsidies and hand-outs are offering only palliatives rather than any fundamental reforms which alone can provide a lasting solution to the problems of rural India.

The fiscal policies and the new industrial policy have been unjustly criticised as being unfriendly to labour. This is far from the truth. If our strategy succeeds, the employment opportunities in industry will grow at a rate never seen before in this country. Exposure to greater competition both domestic and foreign could give rise to some transitional problems. However, these are not unsurmountable and we shall devise effective social safety nets to ensure that the cost of technical change is not borne by the working classes. The establishment of a National Renewal Fund whose corpus would grow over time is indicative of our Government's firm resolve to protect all legitimate interests of workers. It is my intention to invite trade union leaders for a discussion on all aspects of economic policy reform. It is also our intention to associate them fully in evolving viable packages for dealing with the problems of transition. I once again assure workers and their representatives that adjustment and structural reforms will be so managed as to fully protect their legitimate interests.

The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation has figured in discussions in this House. The House would recall that in my Budget Speech I had mentioned that in order to honour the work and memory of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the Government would donate a sum of Rs. 100 crores over a period of five years to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in support of its laudable objectives of promoting national development, social justice and national integration. Subsequently, I informed this august House on 2nd August that the Government had received a letter dated 31 July, 1991 from the Foundation in which the Foundation while thanking the Government for its intention to donate a generous amount suggested that the best way to carry out his intention would be for the Government to identify suitable projects and programmes, fund them directly and implement them under its own supervision. I had also informed the House on 2 August 1991 that the Government had accepted the views expressed by the Foundation. In arriving at this decision the Government had also taken note of the views expressed on both sides of this august House. Accordingly, the sum of Rs. 100 crores to be given over a period of five years will not now be donated to the Foundation, instead the Government will identify suitable projects and programmes dear to the heart of the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. These projects and programmes will be named after him as a homage to his inspiring memory. The Government will send such sums as are necessary to implement these projects and programmes.

I now come to subject which arose lot of emotions in this House—our attitude to the multinationals. Several hon. Members have expressed concern about the entry of the multinational corporations in our country and their impact on indigenous science and technological development and our self-reliance. I deeply appreciate the patriotic sentiments behind these concerns. However, it is necessary to examine this issue in a broader

perspective and in the context of existing realities. We have been consistently investing, increasing in our science and technology sector. The expenditure was Rs. 20 crores in the First Plan and in the Seven Five Year Plan the total expenditure in the Science and Technology sector including plan and non-Plan expenditure was of the order of Rs. 8,500 crores. Despite these large scale investments the output in terms of technology development in our country has not been commensurate with the increase in expenditure. Productivity growth and technical progress in our industry have lagged behind international developments. In particular several segments of our capital goods industry need a strong dose of technological upgradation laying particular emphasis on energy saving technologies. The current sad state of the Heavy Electrical Corporations at Ranchi supposed to be a major pillar for India's industrial growth truly brings tears into my eyes.

We have created many new structures during these 40 years including the IITs which according to Shri Jawaharlal Nehru were "to provide scientists and technologists of the highest calibre, who will be engaged in research, design and help in building the nation towards self-reliance in technological needs."

These structures have not been adequately related to the process of economic development. Our Science and Technology expertise remain grossly under-utilised and un-utilised. What can the IIT engineers do if the economy is not growing fast enough and is over protected, in which entrepreneurs have no incentive to reduce cost, or improve quality and product design?

Brain drain of the IIT graduates now ranges from 40 to 60 per cent, depending upon the discipline that they take. The IITs seem to be creating products largely for the markets in the United States. We are importing

technology often developed by our own IIT engineers, living abroad in the United States. Is it not the time, therefore, for us to change the situation so that our engineers and our technologists get the opportunities to develop, adapt and assimilate modern technology within our country itself? Why should our IIT engineers work for multinationals abroad? Why cannot multinationals come to India with opportunities for technological innovation and provide openings for our young graduates to learn and gain experience here itself, experience which will result in the development of indigenous skills, and benefit the whole country?

The new industrial policy and the long overdue programme of restructuring our economy would provide new and increasing opportunities for our scientists and technologists to live and work in this country and actively contribute to national development.

Our strategy has been two-fold, first, to release the entrepreneurial spirit and animal energy of our businessmen, industrialists and entrepreneurs to create wealth, and second, to protect the weak and poor from exploitation and to ensure that they are provided basic needs and opportunities for development. The Government would now concentrate its efforts in providing these basic needs, social services and decentralise rural development through the building up of rural agro-industry which will provide a large-scale economic opportunity and employment in our rural areas. Therefore, even as we open our economy and become internationally competitive in our industrial sector, we are also planning to intensify our efforts at poverty alleviation and rural development. We are, therefore, evolving our own new model for development. Our new economic strategy and the new model have to be rooted in our own culture, tradition and ethos which is based on persuasion and democracy.

But while we are proud of our traditions and culture, we must remain

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alive to the happenings in the rest of the world and change with the times. In this matter, I can do no better than to quote Swami Vivekanda, the Saint of modern India, and I quote:

“With all my love and with all my patriotism and veneration for the ancient, I cannot but think that we have to learn many things from other nations. We cannot do without the world outside India. It was our foolishness that we thought we could and we have paid the penalty by about a thousand years of slavery. That we did not go out to compare things with other nations, did not mark the workings that have been all around us, has been the one great cause of this degradation of the Indian mind. We have paid the penalty, let us do it no more.”

I now come to the subject of prices. Several hon. Members have suggested that the Budget is inflationary. I do not share their apprehensions in this regard, but let me make an appeal to the hon. Members that we are living through a very difficult time. If responsible people use mass media day after day to create a psychology of scarcity, create a scare that there is going to be runaway inflation, I can assure you that you may well bring about that outcome, even when the basic economic forces point to the contrary. For example, if on an average, each household in our country starts hoarding on an average, half a kilogram more of edible oil, half a kilogram more of rice, half a kilogram more of sugar, I can assure you that itself can play havoc with the national economy. So, I would appeal to all leaders of public opinion in this country that at a time when this country is passing through grave economic difficulties, it is our common national duty to maintain the spirit of self-confidence and sobriety in our country.

The Budget seeks to reduce the fiscal deficits by two percentage of GDP. Shri Chandra Shekhar should have

done it. But for some reason, he chose not to do it. It has come to my lot to do it. Our Budget reduces the revenue deficit, as well as the narrowly-defined Budgetary deficit by one percentage of GDP. Such a massive fiscal correction in a single year has never been attempted in the past in this country. I am confident that if we maintain strict fiscal and monetary discipline, we will gain mastery over inflationary expectations and that as a result the rate of price inflation, this year, will be lower than over 13 per cent price rise witnessed in 1990-91.

Some hon. Members have talked about the inflationary impact of recent exchange rate adjustment as well as the cost push effect of various Budgetary levies. I do not deny the existence of some cost push elements which will exert an upward pressure on the price level. But I am confident that if we maintain strict fiscal and monetary discipline, which I propose to, the price rise can be moderated and lowered this year. In a country in which foreign trade accounts for a small proportion of national income, exchange rate adjustment need not exert a strong upward pressure on the general price level, provided the fiscal and monetary policies are sufficiently tight.

I would, further, point out that, by and large, the resource mobilisation strategy relying as it does, on direct tax measures, to a much greater degree than ever before, minimises the cascading effect on the price level.

Several hon. Members have referred to the Congress Party's commitment to roll back prices to July, 1990 level. Consistent with prudent fiscal management, I have sought to reduce or eliminate excise duties on articles of mass consumption listed in our party's election manifesto. I reduced the price of kerosene despite the very considerable shortage of financial resources. I have removed excise duties on a large number of agro-processing products. I further propose that we should

invite producers of essential commodities to sit together with the representatives of the Government so that we can evolve a mechanism for controlling prices of these commodities. I propose to do this soon after I have replied to this debate.

Several hon. Members have referred to the price of LPG. I have said in public and I say before this House that I apologise to all the housewives in this country who use the LPG. But this is a painful duty which I had to perform. It is because in October, 1990 when prices of all petroleum products were raised and when the price of kerosene was also raised and when the price of diesel was raised, for some extraneous reason, the price of LPG was left untouched. The result is that I inherited a situation in which there is an annual budgetary subsidy of Rs. 1,000 crores on the production of LPG. The price of LPG for domestic use has not been increased since February, 1986. Since then, for more than five years now, there have been substantial increases in the prices of all other petroleum products, for example the price of motor spirit has increased by 98.2 per cent and the price of diesel has increased by 45.8 per cent. The price of kerosene is also 12.5 per cent higher than it was five years ago. After the roll-back announced in my Budget speech on 24th July, 1991, it needs to be emphasised that even in October, 1990 when the domestic price of all petroleum products were raised by 25 per cent, the price of domestic LPG remained unchanged. The increase in the price of domestic LPG, announced in the Budget, was clearly necessary; regrettable but unavoidable. But it is not sufficient because there still remains a large subsidy to the consumers. Before the recent price increase, the consumer price of an LPG cylinder was in the range of Rs. 58 to Rs. 60 as compared with the estimated cost of about Rs. 130 per cylinder. This meant an implicit subsidy of Rs. 70 per cylinder and a total burden of Rs. 906

crores on account of domestic LPG alone.

After the 20 per cent price increase, the consumer price per cylinder has gone up by Rs. 12 per cylinder. There is, thus, even now an implicit subsidy of Rs. 60 per cylinder. This means that a burden of Rs. 780 crores on account of domestic LPG is still being borne by the oil industry in this country.

I now go to a subject which has aroused deep emotions on both sides of the House, i.e., fertiliser subsidy. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, strong views have been expressed on both sides of this august House regarding the decision of the Government as announced in my budget speech to raise fertiliser prices in order to reduce the heavy burden of budgetary subsidy on this account. In my Budget speech I had also mentioned the justification for this measure that while fertiliser prices had remained at the same level as in 1981, the procurement prices and the market prices of agricultural produce had nearly doubled since then. The mounting burden of fertiliser subsidy estimated at about Rs. 6000 crores in 1991-92 prior to the recent increase in the fertiliser prices was a major factor contributing to the growth of fiscal imbalances. But in my budget speech I had assured this House and our farmers that they will be compensated for the increase in fertiliser prices through a suitable increase in the procurement prices of foodgrains and other agricultural commodities. The Government is duty bound to honour this commitment so that the increase in the fertiliser prices does not in any way adversely affect the profitability of agricultural operations. As a further measure of support for our farmers, I now propose that the increase in fertiliser prices on an average will be 30 per cent and not 40 per cent as announced in the budget. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): It is very high. He must reduce it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Let me finish my speech. (*Interruptions*) Let me finish. I am yet to finish on this subject. (*Interruptions*) Please listen to me.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: How do you increase like this? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats now.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, fertiliser prices in Pakistan and Bangladesh are less than our prices. (*Interruptions*).....

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a serious issue. You are giving alms of 10 per cent to the farmers. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have expressed your views in a manner in which you wanted to express. Now, let us hear what he has to say on other points also.

.....(*Interruptions*).....

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You should not speak time and again. Resume your seat please.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHU-

LAM NABI AZAD): He has mentioned only a part of it; let him complete it.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: It has been argued on both sides of this House that the increase in procurement prices would effectively compensate farmers producing for the market, particularly those who have a sizeable marketable surplus. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way, let him finish first. You can speak after that.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not appreciate it. You will reach nowhere like this.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not react mid way. First listen him. Please do not interrupt in this way.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: It has also been argued that the increase in procurement prices would not compensate those small and marginal farmers who have little marketable surplus and produce mostly for their own consumption. I see considerable force in this argument. (*Interruptions*)

I am, therefore, convinced that consistent with the basic philosophy of my Budget, in particular the importance our Government attaches to an adjustment programme which is both growth-oriented and is imbued with a genuine concern for social justice, it is necessary to further modify my

first original proposal with regard to fertilizer prices as announced in my Budget speech.

It has been estimated that small and marginal farmers account for 76.3 per cent of operational holdings in our country, 29 per cent of the area under cultivation and for about 30 per cent of the fertilizer consumption in the country.

I, therefore, now propose to work out an arrangement in consultation with the concerned Ministries of the Central Government and the State Governments which will fully exempt the small and marginal farmers from the 40 per cent increase in fertilizer prices announced on 24th July, 1991. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing personal will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: In the Budget for 1991-92, I had taken credit for savings of Rs. 1800 crores in fertilizer subsidy during 1991-92. If as a result of my proposal to raise fertilizer prices on an average by 30 per cent instead of 40 per cent announced earlier, the saving will be reduced to Rs. 1350 crores during 1991-92. Further as small and marginal farmers are to be fully exempted from the increase in fertilizer prices and assuming that these farmers account for 30 per cent of fertilizer consumption in the country, the additional relief I am now proposing will mean a further increase in the Budgetary subsidy of fertilizer by Rs. 405 crores. I, therefore, propose to set apart Rs. 405 crores for the purpose of fully exempting the small and marginal farmers from the 30 per cent increase in fertilizer prices. *(Interruptions)*

In this process, some rearrangement will become necessary in the expendi-

ture already intended for the small and marginal farmers. We shall frame guidelines which will set the parameters of the scheme. The State Governments will implement the scheme. My colleague, the hon. Minister for Agriculture will be announcing the details of the new scheme.

Considering the grave fiscal crisis we are faced with, the decision to modify the original proposal for an increase in fertilizer prices has not been an easy one to adopt. It is an indication of our Government's firm and irrevocable commitment to protect the interests of India's gallant farmers, having special regard to the interests of small and marginal farmers who constitute a great majority of the farming community. *(Interruptions)* Our Government genuinely believes that a bold peasantry is their country's pride which once destroyed can never be supplied. *(Interruptions)*

The modified proposal is also indicative of our Government's solemn resolve to deal with emerging issues of national importance on the basis of wider national perspectives and to evolve a meaningful national consensus on these issues. It is also indicative of the speed at which the new Finance Minister is capable of learning about the hard grassroot political realities. I am sure that the speed at which I am learning will no doubt please my esteemed friend Shri Jaswant Singh who, out of his genuine concern for my welfare, was deeply worried that because of my alleged political inexperience, I would well end up as the proverbial sacrificial lamb. He will be pleased to know that we are once again going to disappoint the prophets of doom and gloom. Three cheers for democracy. *(Interruptions)*

The preparation of this Budget has been an exceedingly difficult task. Both because of the severity of the economic crisis and the shortage of time at

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my disposal, it is quite possible that a number of areas may have escaped my attention. Several hon. Members have commented on my tax proposals. I am not going to deal with them today. We have ample time to further consider these matters when the Finance Bill comes up for discussion.

Today I have concentrated my attention on dealing with the broad strategy of the Budget and the overall direction of our policies. I am confident that our new initiatives and policies will bear fruit and this ancient land of ours will once again get its rightful place in the comity of nations. I can do no better than to end this statement by quoting once again Swami Vivekananda:—

“I do not see into the future; nor do I care to see. But one vision I see clear is life before me. That the ancient Mother has awakened once more, sitting on her throne, rejuvenated, more glorious than ever. Proclaim her to all the world over, with the voice of peace and benediction.”

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I see many hands raised. But it will not be possible to allow all Members to ask the questions. I will allow only two Members from each party to ask the questions.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, the hon. Minister has expressed a strong desire for more exports from the agricultural sector. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao, please address the Chair.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: These exchanges are not going on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, the hon. Minister as well as the Government has expressed a very strong desire for more exports from the agricultural sector. While that being so, why is he retaining the enhancement to 30 per cent level on other farmers? (*Interruptions*)

This Government has increased the limits of small-scale industries from a few lakhs to several crores and that of the multinationals from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 1000 crores in their new industrial policy. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please put an explanatory question.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Previously, the GVK Rao Committee has clearly recommended that it is not possible, in practice, to distribute the fertilizers at one price to one category of farmers and at another price to a different category of farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot do like this. Please ask an explanatory question.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: That Committee recommended like that. Now, the entire farmers are very much worried on this issue. While that is the case, even before your Budget proposals, the prices of fertilizers in our country are much higher than the prices prevailing in Pakistan and Bangladesh, our neighbours. If that is the case, how are our agricultural products going to catch up the world market? It is in the national interest you must bring down the prices of fertilizers to all farmers, not only in case of the small farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will note down the questions and he may reply to the questions at one and the same time. Let there be a question and not an elaborate statement.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, I only want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the various suggestions, constructive suggestions made by me for saving foreign exchange as well as earning better revenues. Will he respond to my suggestions when he replies?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, I do not understand why he is continuously rather coy about the conditionalities of the IMF. He says that they relate primarily to problems of repayment and perhaps interest payment obligations. Why is he not coming out with what exactly they mean by this? That should be laid on the Table of the House so that we can really find out what other things are involved in that.

My second question is about the concessions. These concessions on fertilizers, do they mean that the revenue deficit, the budget deficit and the fiscal deficit are increased by a thousand crores of rupees?

The third question which we raised was this: Is he or is he not prepared to suggest workers' participation in management to tackle the problem of industrial productivity as well as tackle the problems of black income generated?

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara): Sir, one of the questions that I have been raising in this august House for the last few years has been that the cost of production of fertilizers is going up because the capital cost of the plant has gone up and because we have been forced to choose the wrong technology of an Italian multinational.

14.00 hrs.

Even the cost of Kellogg plant, that we adopted was Rs. 800 crores for
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two plants, whereas, the cost of Snam Progette—Holdor Topse was Rs. 700 crores each, which is unheard of, anywhere in the world. Now, on the top of it, the Marathe Committee had recommended a retention price formula of 12 per cent return post-tax, which works out to 27½ per cent post-tax profit which no other industry gets.

MR. SPEAKER: Let it be a brief speech.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: This is a crucial point. That is how the production costs have been pattered up, just because we wanted to favour a particular Italian multinational. This is the crux of the problem. Concession after concession have been given, so that this will flourish. Now, I want to know whether he will revive formula of Marathe Committee and reduce the production cost and also look into the question of intensive energy—we are also wasting 20 per cent gas; 22½ per cent according to World Bank Study and according to the study of his own Ministry—where 22½ per cent gas is wasted in the process. Would he look into the question and come up with proposals?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar): I would like to know whether the American service industry, particularly, the American Insurance Companies are going to be permitted to operate in this country or not? Because, it is going to affect the operations of our nationalised sector—General Insurance sector—and this is a very important question.

The second question is whether under the open general liberalisation Industrial Policy, the multi-nationals are going to be permitted to establish, to penetrate into service in non-essential industries. I would like to know whether there is going to be any control to see that multi-nationals are not permitted to enter into non-essential sectors.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek clarification from the hon. Minister about two-three things. Majority of the population of the country is engaged in agriculture. It is the biggest source of employment. It is unfortunate that we have been merely talking of agriculture since 43 years of independence and have not taken any solid step to solve the problems of the farmers of the country. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he is going to provide agriculture the status of industry and whether the farmers will be given the same facilities as are given to the industrialists?

Another matter is about the workers' participation in management. Industries require capital on one hand and labour on the other. Unfortunately capital is valued much more than labour. Workers' participation in management signifies dignity of labour. The Bill on workers' participation in management is pending in the Rajya Sabha. The workers would get participation in the management of the industries when this Bill is passed. What is Government's stand if there is consensus on this Bill? Is Government considering to get this Bill passed from Lok Sabha after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has invited our party to give suggestions to solve the present crisis. We accept the invitation of the hon. Minister and are ready to give suggestions. Now, I would like to ask a question. Hon. Finance Minister had said in an interview published in the 'Economics Times' on 26th July, 1991, which I had quoted in my earlier speech as well, :

[*English*]

There will be a tremendous revolt on the streets of the country if all the conditionalities are accepted.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, unless the conditionalities are known to us, we cannot decide as to whether Government have accepted them or not. The Minister of Finance says that there will be a tremendous revolt on the streets of the country, if all the conditionalities are accepted. But what are those conditionalities, we do not know. How far you have gone to accept those conditionalities, this cannot be decided. For this the House should be taken into confidence. Without that you will not be able to get support.

Secondly, the hon. Finance Minister has presented some schemes in order to bring out the black money. But the question is as to how the generation of black money could be stopped. I had given certain suggestions about under-invoicing and over-invoicing in regard to smuggling of gold. But the hon. Finance Minister has maintained silence on that. He has mentioned some reliefs. Had the exemption limit of income-tax been slightly raised, the salaried class, who are the worst affected from price rise, would have got some relief. Is the Minister of Finance still ready to consider that?

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister about the veracity of the report that the officers of the World Bank presently in Delhi have directed the Government to bring about a change in the Banking structure according to their latest report otherwise Government will not get one billion dollars from them? Is it correct that the Banking employees and officers have opposed that? We have also come to know that the M.Ps of the Congress Party have also opposed that. Is it correct that the Bank Employees and officers are planning to go on strike on 6th September against that?

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Before getting the invi-

tation from the hon. Finance Minister, on behalf of our party, the West Bengal State Government formulated a kind of proposal and submitted it to him. That was unceremoniously rejected by the hon. Finance Minister. We don't mind it; we still take that invitation and join him in a dialogue to put our points of view.

I welcome the measure that you have announced about the exemption of small and marginal farmers from the increase. From the day the Budget was placed till date, the increase had already taken place and the small and marginal farmers had to with many difficulties purchase the fertiliser. In the coming days also they will have to purchase it with the hiked price. Now you have stated that you will hurry up in working out a formula to reach out to them. But the delay will be costly to those people. I would like to know how you are going to compensate them for the increased price that they have already paid. Do you have any plan for that?

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): We on this side of the House are very happy that the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have yielded to the overwhelming opinion in our party and conceded the demand for a fair deal to the small and marginal farmers. I want to know what is going to be done to ensure that small and marginal farmers get full benefits of the proposed measures and the kulaks do not carry away all the benefits.

SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI (Tripura-East): I would like to know whether the Finance Minister will consider giving subsidy to the backward areas which are inaccessible and where people don't even know what is fertilizer. (Interruptions)

SERI K. P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machhicipatnam): Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has got every right either to withdraw the subsidy or to raise the subsidy. I agree. But, will

the hon. Minister consider the proposal that the farmer will be allowed to sell his produce at his own rate? Since all the big industries are fixing their own rate for their industrial products and the machinery etc. produced in this country, what moral right has the Government got to fix the rate for the farmer's products? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not done. Now, you may please take your seat. Shri Kapse.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane) : There are three different measures because of which the primary cooperative banks are suffering after the presentation of the Budget. May I know as to whether the Finance Minister will review the whole situation as far as the primary cooperative banks are concerned? (Interruptions)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, a number of questions have been raised. I will try to answer them to the best of my ability.

The first question raised by an hon. Member was that we have raised the prices of fertilizer, which is going to hit the export of agricultural commodities. I can assure the hon. Member that that assumption is not at all true. By the exchange rate adjustment that we have raised at the beginning of this month, I think, never in the history of India such a general incentive has been given for the export of agricultural commodities. (Interruptions) What is the cost of production? If 40 per cent increase had been accepted, then, even in those cases, the price of wheat would increase by about eight rupees per quintal; the price of paddy would increase by about seven rupees per quintal. Therefore, the argument that because we have changed the fertilizer prices, agricultural exports are going to become unprofitable, is not true. I think, the contrary is true. 22 per cent change in the exchange rate provides

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a powerful incentive for agricultural exports. (*Interruptions*)

The second point was made about the distinction between small and marginal farmers. Well, the hon. Member who raised that point does not believe that such a distinction exists. But, we do know in this country, that the majority of the farmers—70 per cent of the farmers—are small and marginal farmers. Therefore, we are committed in helping them. He may not recognise them, but we recognise them. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Our Telugu Desam Government had done the best for the farmers in this country. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I think, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has referred to several points about saving of foreign exchange and earning of revenues. I apologise to her that in my reply, I was not able to do justice to the various points that she made. But, I would be very happy to discuss with her about those issues. Those are very constructive suggestions and I will only be open to consideration.

I think it was Shri Nirmal Chatterjee and Shri Vajpayee as well who have referred to the conditionalities of the IMF. Shri Vajpayee has quoted a particular statement from the *Economic Times*. Unfortunately, to the best of my ability—I am not accusing any newspapers—I tried and that is not what I wanted to convey. It might have been a mistake on my part. I did not intend to say that if all the conditions were accepted, there would be a revolt in this country. I apologise to the House, if I have given that impression. That probably was my mistake. Well, I own up that point.

Now what I do want to say is that Shri Vajpayee and Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee asked: What are these conditionalities? Now we are in the process of negotiating with the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund. We are in the preliminary stage of negotiations. If you want me to reveal all these things right now, I would be negotiating with the IMF with both my hands tied at the back. (*Interruptions*)

I can tell you what those conditions are. These were the conditions accepted by Shri Chandra Shekhar's Government. He is unfortunately not here. (*Interruptions*) His Government made the following commitment to this House that in the year 1991-92, we will reduce the fiscal deficit of this country to 6.5 per cent. That is the one condition. (*Interruptions*) It was also stated by the then Finance Minister that we will reduce the fiscal deficit in the next two to three years to 4 per cent of the GDP. We have not talked anything about what happens next year. But 6.5 per cent is the commitment that Shri Chandra Shekhar's Government made. We have to honour that commitment.

5 The second thing that I do want to say is that there is a lot of discussion taking place about the prices of petroleum products. About the petroleum products also, the previous Government had given an assurance to the International Monetary Fund that whatever may happen, we will not lower prices of petroleum products in the year 1991-92. (*Interruptions*)

I managed to persuade the International Monetary Fund that our Government cannot accept it. We cannot accept this type of proposition that the prices of kerosene will not be lowered. We have modified that conditionality. (*Interruptions*) We have improved upon the conditionality that the Chandra Shekhar Government had accepted. (*Interruptions*)

Taking the general point about conditionality, I think the first conditionality is : What are we going to do to set our fiscal policy in order? What are we doing to increase our exports? What are we doing to ensure that the Indian industry is sufficiently modernised, is sufficiently cost-conscious?

In fact, I would be very happy that once our negotiations are completed, I propose to place the letter of intent that I give to the International Monetary Fund on the Table of the House. (*Interruptions*) You have an assurance on what is it that I am negotiating. Even now, if there is any particular point that Mr. Vajpayee wants to discuss with me or wants to know from me or any other Member has any fear or any apprehension, I am always available for discussion. And I take very seriously this offer that we will discuss with all hon. Members your fears, your hopes, your expectations about the IMF and all that we do in this Government.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Is it true, Sir, that the previous Government also gave a commitment that the Gulf surcharge will also not be withdrawn?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Yes, this is what I was referring to. This is the commitment that Shri Chandra Shekhar's Government made to the International Monetary Fund. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): What about the Gulf surcharge on petroleum? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: The point is that the Government of India is a continuous entity. The very fact that Shri Chandra Shekhar's Government made that commitment, I do not want to disown it just as I do not want to disown the effect of loan waiver because the Government of India is one continuous entity. (*Interruptions*)

I was asked about the budget deficit. It is true that as a result of these concessions that I have made in reducing the general price increase from 40 per cent to 30 per cent, in fully exempting the small and marginal farmers from the effect of increase in fertiliser prices, the budget will take a

knock of about Rs. 8 to 9 hundred crores in a year. I will have to come before this House as to how I propose to meet that. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, other questions have been raised about workers participation to tackle problems of productivity, etc. Other problems have also been mentioned in this House. I take workers participation in management very seriously. And I do believe that this is an issue which requires a lot more thinking that has to be gone into this country. There are several models of workers schemes. For example, in West Germany, there is a system of co-determination where the workers representatives and the consumers representatives sit on a policy board. There is an Executive Board also. Now, in some ways, that is far more effective than the various schemes of workers management that have been talked about and discussed in this country. I propose, therefore, to come to this House in due course of time after evolving a scheme in this regard. I have to consult my colleagues, hon. Labour Minister and other Ministers. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Now, Shri Unnikrishnan raised questions about the cost of production going up due to wrong technology and costing formula. I am not an expert in fertiliser pricing. I take note of his suggestion that we ought to have a re-look on the Marathe Committee's formula. We must be satisfied that any formula for pricing does not involve inefficiency. We will look into this point.

Regarding specific technology which he mentioned, I must confess here that I am not an expert in technology. But I will pass on what he has said to the hon. Minister for fertilisers...(*Interruptions*)...

Another question was raised as to whether or not we are going to allow the American Insurance companies. We have no such proposals under discussion. The answer is simple.

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Questions have been raised about raising the exemption limit. Let me say that this is a serious question. I do recognise the force of the argument that at a time when inflation is taking place, we have to raise the exemption limits not only for income-tax but for other items as well. But I was constrained from doing so. I will absolutely be very honest to say that in a year when I am imposing burdens on the poorer sections of our society, when I am raising the fertiliser prices, when I am doing a lot of unpleasant things which hurt the common man, it is not a year of grace to raise the exemption limit. That is how I hesitated to raise the exemption limit. But I take note of the suggestions made. I hope that this is not the last Budget that I have presented to the House. So, I have taken note of all the suggestions made....(Interruptions)...

Shri Rabi Ray mentioned about the World Bank Report, I am absolutely candid that the World Bank produces hundreds of reports. I cannot keep track of all of them. But I think it is quite possible that there may be some such report which talks of a loan for India's restructuring and India's financial structure. We would examine those reports as per their merits. I do not have to hide from you that the IMF people are here and the World Bank people are also here. They have to discuss with us. Therefore, we will share the terms and conditions of the loan, if there are going to be any.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: I asked whether the officers and trade unions of banks have given notice to go on strike.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : With all respect to you, I say that your party, through loan waiver, has done immense damage to the Indian economy....(Interruptions)...

SHRI RABI RAY: You must know that you are not replying to my question.

[Translation]

I am asking something but your reply is something else (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Even now if you ensure your influence with the workers, then there will be a paralysis in the banking system which will be, wittingly or unwittingly, the worst disservice to the Indian economy. Therefore, it is the duty of all of us to prevent a situation of that order....(Interruptions)...

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : A reference was made to the proposals of the Government of West Bengal. I think it was Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee or somebody else, who said that we had rejected the proposal of the West Bengal Government. That is simply not true. Because, what I did explain to the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal was that the two specific suggestions that he had made were not implementable. What were those two suggestions? He said that we must curb imports and I assured him—as can be seen from the table I gave to the leaders of the Opposition—that with the import squeeze that we have put in our country today, there is no further scope for import compression. There might have been some scope two or three years before. But today, you have my assurance that we have such a tight import regime that I am greatly worried about its impact on employment and production.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Then, why don't you have discussions with all concerned? (Interruptions)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Since you have raised the issue, I should like to take the House into confidence.

The day I took over, I rang up the hon. Finance Minister of West Bengal. I told him, "Our country is faced with a grave economic crisis. Please come and I am willing to share with you all the secrets that I possess because I know you are a patriotic citizen, I know that Jyoti Basu is a great national leader and you come and share with us our perceptions, so that together we can work out solutions for solving the problems of this country." The hon. Minister said that it was a very good idea. But something happened in the evening. He rang me up and said, "Dr. Singh, this is a political matter, why are you putting yourself and the Congress in such a position..." (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What were the definite suggestions that were made in that context? That is what we are interested in and not your chitchat with one particular Minister. I feel he is not serious. He is not willing for discussions.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I am willing! I repeat, I am willing for discussions any day with any member or anybody who has suggestions. I say this because we are dealing not with any partisan issues. We are dealing with issues which have a bearing on the future of our country. Therefore, if anybody has any solution, we are willing to look at it. Let me say one thing. While preparing my Budget proposals, I did take account of several suggestions contained in the Left Party's memorandum and the Left economist memorandum because whether you agree or not, I think there is, today, a consensus in our country both among the Right and the Left that we must allow full rigour of competition in our domestic economy. And it is true of the Left economists from Bengal as well as the Right economists... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We agree that it should not be a party affair. But you cannot deny that it has to be a political affair

because it depends on the direction of attack. Where will the attack be? Do you attack the workers or those who are making profits? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I repeat that I stand ready to discuss with the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal or with any member of this House or anybody outside this House who has a solution to the grave problems that this country faces (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH SINGH : What is the use if you consider everything with a closed mind?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : No, we do not have a closed mind. After considering them also, you can have discussions. We will satisfy you that what we are doing is in the best interest of the country. (*Interruptions*) A question was raised about subsidy for backward areas. That is a suggestion for action that we would take into account in days to come.

Another hon. member asked a question, "Are you going to allow the farmers to sell their produce at any price?". I thought we live in a free country. Today, there is no compulsion. All procurement prices that we fix are support prices. Farmers are free to sell their produce at any price they like. There is no compulsion. We will protect the farmers' interest to sell their produce at any price which they like.

The last question that was asked was about the savings of the primary cooperatives. I am afraid I am not fully familiar with the facts. I will study these things and I would discuss with the hon. Members any particular problem being faced in that area and I would satisfy them as to what we propose to do.

I hope, I have covered all the points.

14-32 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

Matters Under Rule 377

(i) **Need to provide financial assistance to the people affected by water logging in areas covered by Indira Gandhi Canal, Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to water logging caused in the area encompassed by the Indira Canal and the First Head of Ghaggar flood control project at Mastawali and Suratgarh Head (Rajasthan), the land remains continuously submerged in water. The water logging has been there continuously for the past 5-6 years. Due to this water logging the residential areas of the villages remain submerged in water. As a result, many residential houses have collapsed and crops cannot be raised in agricultural land. As a consequence, pucca water courses built in the area, have also been destroyed. The source of livelihood of the people, i.e., the agricultural production has been completely shattered. Negligible financial assistance has been provided to only few people by the Government.

Therefore, I strongly urge upon the Government of India that rehabilitation grant may be provided as compensation to those people of the above area, whose houses and pucca watercourses have been destroyed due to water logging and the agricultural land which has been rendered unsuitable for agricultural production should be made cultivable by employing modern equipments for this purposes. Various recoveries including loans advanced by Government and banks to owners of these lands should be stopped immediately.

(ii) **Need to give clearance to the Vijaya Nagar Steel Project in Karnataka**

[English]

SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA (Chitradurga) The Government of

Karnataka has chosen Essar Gujarat as the joint sector partner for the Vijaya Nagar steel project. This decision of the State Government brings to a close yet another chapter on the saga of the Vijayanagar Steel.

Karnataka State Industrial and Investment Corporation Limited (KSIIDC) will naturally be the dominant partner with 26% share holding. Essar contributing 25%. The rest will be raised partly by way of loan from financial institution and partly from the public.

The long cherished dream of the people of Karnataka is becoming a reality. I urge upon the hon. Minister of Steel and Mines to give clearance to this project immediately.

(iii) **Need to set up a Super Thermal Power Station at Hirma near Jharsuguda in Ib Valley**

SHRI SRIBALLAB PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Power shortage affects our daily life. It adversely affects our industrial growth and economy as well. As power holds key to progress and prosperity of the nation, we have to make all endeavours to attain self-sufficiency in power as early as possible. As such, power generation deserves to be given top priority in Eighth Plan now under formulation.

The recommendations of the Site Selection Committee constituted in March, 1988 for identifying sites for large thermal power stations should be accepted and necessary follow up action taken immediately. The proposal for setting up a Super Thermal Power Station at Hirma near Jharsuguda in Ib Valley of Orissa should be expedited keeping in view the power crisis and overall backwardness of the State of Orissa.

(iv) **Need to upgrade Hyderabad as a 'Metropolitan City' and provide necessary funds for the purpose**

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Hyderabad city

is the capital of Andhra Pradesh, which is very old and traditional one. It is known for hospitality. Now this city is celebrating its 400th anniversary. Due to increasing population nearing to 40 lakhs, the minimum development facilities have not been provided for want of funds. The people of Hyderabad are facing severe water shortage, drainage, traffic, pollution problems on this suspicious occasion. I appeal to the Union Government to upgrade Hyderabad Corporation into a "Metropolitan City." For this development Rs. 1000 crores should be provided for the slum clearance programme and circular Railway line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dattatraya, whatever is approved by the Speaker will go on record.

(v) **Need to include Agra into National Capital Region and to declare it as an international tourist city**

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Agra environmental pollution is caused by flaring of surplus gas by Mathura Refinery and by numerous vehicles that pass through different National Highways passing through Agra and by various types of smokes caused by burning of cowdung cakes, wood and coal etc. But the Central Government had put a ban on setting up of foundries and other industries since 1983 in the name of pollution control instead of making an alternative arrangement to check pollution, whereas foundries and other industries are prepared to instal pollution control equipments for checking the pollution. There is no proposal for setting up of any major industry in public or private sector in Agra. Owing to this, the youths of Agra are facing the problem of acute unemployment.

Agra has become international tourist centre due to Taj Mahal and

other historical places. Mostly tourists coming from abroad as well as domestic tourists visit Agra in large numbers. But it is not adequately linked with different metropolitan cities by rail and air. There is no air transport facility available for the purpose of exporting the products of small scale industries from Agra. Even the telephone service is in a very bad condition.

Agra is situated near Delhi. Agra can help decongest Delhi's population provided it is included in the National Capital Region.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to include Agra in the National Capital Region and declare it as an International Tourist City and make all round development of Agra accordingly.

(vi) **Need to declare Jajpur in Orissa as a place of tourist importance**

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jajpur): Jajpur is an ancient town in Orissa. It is famous for Baitarani tirth. Besides Daswahmedh Ghat, Parah, Biraja temple, thousands of Shiv Temples are located in that town. Every year thousands of people go there to offer *pind* in river Baitarani which is situated beside the town. Despite all these, Jajpur town has not been formally declared as a place of national tourists importance. Therefore, I request that this old town Jajpur be declared as place of tourists importance without any further delay. Also steps should immediately be taken for the proper conservation and renovation of the ancient monuments located there.

(vii) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of West Bengal to face the grave situation caused by gastroenteritis.**

SHRI PALAS BARMAN (Balurghat): I would like to bring to your

[Sh. Palas Barman]

notice that in Balurghat, West Dinajpur, West Bengal, six blocks, Tapan, Balurghat, Hili Kumarjanj, Gangarampur and Bansihari are severely affected by gastroenteritis. Total affected people are nearly two lakhs, noticed deaths are 98, total villages under gastroenteritis are 352. Many more are in the hospital and getting treatment.

I request the Government to take immediate necessary action to release funds to provide pure drinking water and to provide adequate medicines and funds to the Government of West Bengal to face the grave situation.

(viii) **Need for expeditions implementation of Foreign language courses in Berhampur University**

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): The knowledge of popular foreign languages will be immensely beneficial to students, teachers and research scholars, not only from the scholastic point of view, but also for delving into voluminous works of science and technology in those languages. It will also help people who visit foreign countries on fellowships and cultural exchange visits.

Presently, there is absolutely no facility for learning foreign languages in all the four existing Universities of Orissa State. At the Barhampur University the course is designed for two years to enable students acquire working knowledge in these languages. In the first instance, courses will be offered in Russian and German languages. One post of Lecturer, each in Russian and German subjects, besides teaching materials like books, maps and slides costing Rs. 30,000 approximately will be necessary for purpose. Berhampur University has already submitted a proposal to the U.G.C. for implementation of this

scheme under the Eighth Five Year Plan.

I would urge the U.G.C. to actively consider the expeditious implementation of this much needed foreign languages course in the University of Berhampur.

14.44 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. DISAPPROVAL OF THE DELHI MUNICIPAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1991

AND

DELHI MUNICIPAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up items nos. 11 and 12 together. The time allotted is two hours.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:—

“That this House disapproves of the Delhi Municipal Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 (Ordinance No. 1 of 1991) promulgated by the President on the 30th March, 1991.”

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have moved my Resolution regarding disapproval of the ordinance promulgated by the President as the Central Government have brought forward a proposal to extend the period of supersession till 31st March, 1992 instead of 31st March, 1991. There was no need of promulgating an ordinance by President in this manner. A Bill could have been brought forward straight away in the House instead of promulgating

this ordinance. That is why I have moved this Resolution regarding disapproval of this ordinance. In this regard, I would like to submit that when Delhi Rent Control Act was amended on 1st December, 1988, the problem of house-tax had arisen and the amount of House Tax was increased. When House Tax was increased, Congress Party was in power in Delhi. The elections were approaching. These people wanted to postpone the implementation of amendment. If people got notices of house tax at increased rates, people will not vote in favour of Congress. I mean to say that they want to gain time.

A committee was constituted in this regard. Earlier Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Jagpravesh Chandraji. That committee did not work. Afterwards, a committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, former Member of Parliament. This committee had submitted its report to Shri Markandey Singh, Lt. Governor of Delhi. I would like to submit that the recommendations made by the committee under the chairmanship of Sri Vijay Kumar Malhotra should have been disclosed by the Minister in the House. I would like to submit that the Secretary, Delhi Administration has made all his recommendations almost on that very basis on which recommendations were made by this High Powered Committee. I request that the structure of house tax should be made uniform for both Delhi Municipal Corporation and New Delhi Municipal Committee. The High Powered Committee had recommended that the new structure providing relief should be implemented with effect from 1st April, 1989. The Delhi Administration intends to implement it with effect from 1st April, 1991 and recover house tax at the rates applicable prior to the passing of the amendment to Delhi Rent

Control Act for the period from 1st December, 1988 to 31st March, 1991.

Secondly, I would like to say that a tribunal having two-members may be constituted for disposing of disputes. Though it has been said that a tribunal may be formed, yet the Administration wants that this Tribunal should be multi-member Tribunal, because two-members having contradictory opinion will not be able to take a decision. Therefore, the work regarding hearing of appeals may be held up in the absence of one member. Such a system is functioning in Jammu and Kashmir. There is no such tribunal in Delhi today. The High Powered Committee has recommended that the rental value should be increased by ten per cent after every three years for the purpose of assessment of house tax, but the Administration has decided to increase it by fifteen per cent after every five years. The people of Delhi would get a relief of 33 per cent as against the recommendations of the Committee. At present, there is no such provision in both Delhi Municipal Corporation Act and Punjab Municipal Act. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the High Powered Committee had recommended that enhanced house tax could be recovered on the basis of rental value likely to be increased from time to time if there was no change in the structure of such properties. A provision has been made that a person, who has paid the entire tax amount in lumpsum for 10 years and does not make any changes in the structure of the property may be exempted from payment of tax in future. Similarly, if there is any change in the structure of the property or any additional structure is added to the property and if the owner of the property pays increased tax for ten years in lumpsum, he too should be exempted from further payment of tax. This was the provision. Congress and BJP Members were associated with

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

that high powered committee and this became a point of controversy. The Delhi Administration's decision in this regard does not find favour with Congress members. My submission is that had the Delhi Administration sent an amendment or draft of a new legislation to the Centre, it could have been passed by Parliament before 31st March. There are 62,000 properties under the jurisdiction of New Delhi Municipal Committee. A letter has been written to NDMC under the Punjab Municipal Act that the bills are to be submitted by year and for final assessment. If a new law is passed, the Municipal Committee should give 3 years notice to the property owners. They get very little time to finalise the assessment and that is why this ordinance has been promulgated. Instead of 31st March the time should be extended upto 1992.

What was the recommendation of the high powered committee? I have been told that one of the recommendations was that instead of 45 per cent tax, 25 per cent tax may be levied. But the Administration wants that tax should be levied on the basis of market value. Suppose a person had purchased land 10 years ago for Rs. 10,000 but the market value as on date is Rs. 10 lakh. The Administration insists that the tax on the property should be assessed on the value of Rs. 10 lakh whereas the high powered committee recommended that the tax on property should be assessed taking its value as Rs. 10,000. Similarly, the committee recommended that it should not be given retrospective effect. It should be implemented from the day the legislation is passed. If it is implemented with retrospective effect from 1988, it would be betrayal of trust of the people of Delhi.

Therefore, my submission is that it would have been better if instead of

an ordinance, this should have been brought in the form of a Bill. Use of the office of the President of India for promulgation of ordinances time and again would not serve the purpose. Congress party is the ruling party and the way they have been betraying the people of Delhi is well known. Even today, their intentions are not clear and they want to betray the people of Delhi once again. I, therefore, want to submit that keeping in view the recommendations of the high powered committee an ordinance should be promulgated so that the people of Delhi are provided relief.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Delhi Municipal Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 (Ordinance No. 1 of 1991) promulgated by the President on the 30th March, 1991."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Sir, I have listened to the objections raised by the hon. Member in regard to this Bill. It is actually ratification for an ordinance and the extension of time sought is in fact for six months...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): It is one year.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: In effect it is only six months. It does not substantially or materially affect the decisions of the recommendations of the expert committee and the high-powered committee, which the hon. Member knows very much. The problem with me now is that we have to get this ratified. And if you permit

me to move the Bill, then I can explain everything in detail in my statement.

At this stage, I do not think that I should go into further details because we are going to debate this Bill now. There will be many speeches and in the end, I will reply to the points raised by the hon. Members.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: You may move the Bill and reply to my queries. You should not have promulgated this ordinance. I am opposing it, as this provision has been made through an ordinance. You merely waste the time of Hon. President of India.

[English]

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, this ordinance was promulgated few months back. You know very well, who brought this. My contention is to regularise this. Now, I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 and the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, as in force in New Delhi, be taken into consideration.”

St Sir, the assessment and realisation of property tax by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Committee is closely linked with the standard rent provided under the Delhi Rent Control Act. This Act was amended through the Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Act, 1988 and became effective from 1st December, 1988. The main changes brought in by the amendment Act were (a) premises with a rent of Rs. 3500 per month and more are beyond

the purview of the Rent Control Act; (b) properties constructed after 1st December, 1988 will not be liable to be assessed for standard rent applicable to different categories of properties as a proportion of the cost of construction etc. has been raised to 10 per cent; and (d) a provision has been made that after every three years, standard rent or any rent agreed upon between the landlord and the tenant (where no standard rent is fixed) may be increased by 10 per cent.

As a result of the above amendments, assessment of property taxes needed some changes. Under section 126 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, the Commissioner, Delhi Municipal Corporation was required to make amendments in the Assessment List from 1st December, 1988 and to issue notices for such amendments within the same financial year i.e. before 31st March, 1989. In view of the fact that a large number of properties—about five lakhs—were due for an amendment and the fact that the time available for issuing notices to the property owners was very short, it was not possible for the Commissioner to get surveys completed, documents scrutinised and issue well-founded notices before 31st March, 1989. The Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 was accordingly amended through the Delhi Municipal Laws (Amendment) Act, 1989 to provide time for issue of notices for the years commencing from 1st April, 1988 and 1st April, 1989 before 1st April, 1991.

Similarly, the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 as in force in New Delhi was also amended by the Delhi Municipal Laws (Amendment) Act, 1989 to enable the New Delhi Municipal Committee to issue notices for the amendment of the Assessment List for the financial years commencing on 1-4-1988, 1-4-1989 and 1-4-1990 before the first day of April, 1991.

[Sh. M. M. Jacob]

[Translation]

In March, 1991, it was felt that the magnitude of the work involving survey of properties, scrutiny of records and issuing of notices was such that it was difficult to complete the process before 1-4-1991. As such, the time for issue of notices was proposed to be extended till 31-3-1992. As the Parliament was not in session, the President promulgated an Ordinance on 30-3-1991 to amend relevant provision of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 and the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 to permit issue of the notices before 1-4-1992.

The present Bill is to replace the said Ordinance. The Bill is essential as it will help avoid undue haste in the preparation of assessment lists and check inflated claims being preferred with consequent harassment to the tax payers. It will also help both the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Committee to increase their revenues.

I commend this Bill to the House for consideration and acceptance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 and the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, as in force in New Delhi, be taken into consideration."

SHRI GIRDHRI LAL BHARGAVA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th October, 1991."

15.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: These Bills are to be passed because they are to go to the Upper House. I seek the co-operation of all the Members. Shri Madan Lal Khurana will speak.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a small amendment in the Bill. The hon. Minister has just now said that the last date of issuing notices which was 1st April, 1991 should be substituted by 31-3-1992. The hon. Minister has stated that an Ordinance in this regard was promulgated in 1989. That ordinance was promulgated because elections were due in Delhi. The Delhi Municipal Corporation and Metropolitan Council elections were held on February 5, 1983 for a period of five years. The elections were expected to be held in 1988-89. Inflated bills for tax were sent to the people and it was a matter of public discussion in Delhi. We had raised this matter in Delhi Metropolitan Council also. Congress was afraid of facing the elections. The Period for issuing notices was extended by three years and it was said that a committee would be set up to look into it. Shri Jag Pravesh Chandra was the Chief Executive Councillor. The Committee was headed by him. But that committee did not submit even a single report nor did it take any action. After that the Government changed. As has been said just now, a high powered committee under the chairmanship of Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra was set up. Before coming to the recommendations made by that committee, I would like to submit one thing. There is lot of hue and cry everywhere in Delhi—because of issuing of exorbitant house tax bills. This shows that there is no accountable administration in the city. There is no Godfather of Delhi.

There is no forum for discussing the problems of Delhi. There is no elected body in Delhi. Thus, the people who have no affection with and are not accountable to the people of Delhi are taking policy-decisions whether the problems relate to DESU, DTC, Roads or Law and Order. Similarly,

there is a problem of house tax also about which I have just mentioned. Now I would like to draw your attention towards the recommendations of the Committee. This is an ideal report. I would like that our Ministry should study the report and this report should be implemented in other cities also. At present, they are imposing house tax on the basis of market value. The recommendation of the Committee was that the tax should be levied on the basis of its cost price. If anybody purchases a house worth rupees one lakh from DDA, the tax should be imposed on rupees one lakh provided he resides himself and it is self-occupied. If he has rented out it, you may enhance the tax. If the house is of worth rupees one and a half lakhs or two lakhs, the tax should be imposed on its actual cost. If the market value of the house rises to ten lakhs, the tax should not be imposed on ten lakhs. This is improper. Because the cost price of the house was two lakhs when he had bought this house. If you impose tax on ten lakhs which is its present market value, how middle income group or low income group people will be able to pay the tax. If a man has a fixed income of rupees two thousand and you are imposing tax two thousand rupees per month how he will be able to pay 25-30 thousand rupees per annum. Such cases are seen. Therefore, it is mentioned therein that the tax should be imposed on the cost price of the house.

34 per cent tax is being imposed presently. The Committee has recommended that maximum and minimum limit of the tax should be fixed at 20 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. Everybody has to pay it.

One more thing I would like to submit to the hon. Minister, through you. As and when Corporation wishes, it includes water tax, sanitations tax education cess in the property tax. My point of view is that property tax means property tax. To include edu-

cation cess and other taxes therein, is not justified. It is not proper.

Other taxes like water, sanitation or education cess should not be included in house tax. This is the report of that committee.

I would like to request one thing more. Administration and Municipal Committee could not finalise the bill. The Government have brought forward it. Although its responsibility does not fall on the people. Its responsibility falls on politicians or the officials who are running the administration. The people of Delhi are facing the consequences of the lapses on the part of the officials. Therefore, the recommendations of the committee should be implemented with retrospective effect not with effect from today. This is my submission.

This Committee consists of the nominees of Delhi Administration, Delhi Municipal Corporation, the B.J.P. and the Congress and this report was adopted unanimously. The officials of Delhi Administration and Delhi Municipal Corporation have also adopted it. When you are already going to amend it, then you also issue necessary directions to them that. If it is not done, the problems are bound to arise. If you change the date but don't issue guidelines and keep silence about the recommendations issued, the officials will impose property tax on the basis of their own formula. It will cause uproar in Delhi. The purpose will be defeated for which the committee was constituted and we are amending to it. If the purpose is defeated it will not be good. Therefore, I request you, Sir, kindly to tell the officials that four years have already passed and yet no decision has been taken, though we are supporting the and for setting up a legislative assembly given to us. The sword of uncertainty is hanging over the heads of the

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people of Delhi. You will not get the time afterwards. We should finalise the whole issue of property tax before 31st March, 1992 and issue guidelines accordingly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I urge upon you that the report, which is unanimous and Delhi Administration and Delhi Municipal Corporation are agreed to it, should be implemented immediately. Then I would say that we would be successful in achieving the aim, the purpose behind amending the bill. Once again, I would request the hon. Home Minister through you, Sir, elections, which are due to the Delhi Metropolitan Council and Delhi Municipal Corporation be held as early as possible. This problem has been there for the last four years. Last time, the elections were held on 5th February, 1983. Eight years have been gone by. The people of Delhi should be allowed to decide their fate so that elected members of Delhi, who are accountable to it and fully aware of the problems of it, could solve the problems of Delhi. Thanks.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill which is intended to replace the relevant ordinance, that is the Delhi Municipal Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991. The learned speaker from the other side who has just now spoken, who happens to represent Delhi in this House, has welcomed the different provisions of the ordinance. He has some suggestions to make, to bring about improvement in his own way. According to him, the ordinance has several good provisions. The provisions are welcome.

The hon. Minister has explained, while introducing the Bill, that it has two aspects. On the one hand it will mitigate the undue harassment, suffer-

ings of the property holders, the house owners etc. and on the other hand it will enhance the income of the Municipal Corporation. The income of the Municipal Corporation will considerably go up which is the need of the hour.

Delhi being the capital city of India, we should have a very good and ideal Corporation here. The Municipal Corporation should be ideal in all respects. It should also have very healthy functioning. As you are aware, every day some high foreign dignitaries are present in Delhi.

So many things like local development etc. are taken care of by the Municipal Corporation. Unless the Corporation is ideal and it does its job properly, its life will suffer and that also will give a bad impression to the outside world. Of course we have our poverty and so many other problems in the country, but in the midst of all this, Delhi has the reputation of being one of the five beautiful cities in the world. That reputation is there and we should see that this reputation is in no way eroded by our functioning. According to this Ordinance or the Bill that is before us, it gives also power to the authorities to include if any property is left out and rectify if there is any error or mistake. If there is, for example, an assessment on the higher side and so on, that could also be rectified. These are all welcome features, but at the same time, there should be proper safeguards. We have very good provisions in our legislation, but while they are implemented in the field by the bureaucrats or by the officers, sometimes the spirit is lost and sometimes other considerations come in the way of implementation. And the officers in charge of implementation do not do the work properly and the reasons are quite obvious. There is always a tendency on the part of a few officers to make some money out

or it. You should see how it should be checked—the aspect of corruption etc.

There is nothing much to speak on this, but one thing I want to say and that is sometimes I am confused because in Delhi so many institutions or organisations are associated with different aspects of our urban life—the Delhi Municipal Corporation, the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the Delhi Metropolitan Council, the Delhi Development Authority (D.D.A.) and so on. Of course, there is some subtle distinction between them. I do not say that there is no distinction absolutely, but it is very thin. So, what I urge upon the Minister, through you, is that there should be proper coordination between all these organisations so that there is no overlapping in respect of jurisdiction etc. and the purpose behind all this is not defeated. If there are only less organisations in Delhi, I think that will minimise the confusion and I think that is welcome. Whatever it is, at least there should be proper coordination between them.

Another thing is that this Bill has reference to two laws—the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, and the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911. Sometimes I am allergic to see how many years before Independence this Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 was passed. What I mean to say is that there is a sea-change everywhere and a lot of change has been taking place since 1911. Delhi is our Capital. So, should we not have one comprehensive law for Delhi dealing with all aspects? Again, what is the necessity of making some reference to some other laws that are in vogue in Delhi? Somehow I am allergic to it. I am somewhat allergic to it. Now things are changing and we are also trying to keep pace with the changing situation. Why should we again adopt all these out-dated and out-modelled laws? This is a continuous process.

Delhi is our capital city and there is no dispute that we should build up this city more beautifully. It is a nice and beautiful city and it is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. We say that the city of Bangalore is a city of gardens. Even, Delhi could be made as a city of gardens. Therefore, further efforts should be made to beautify the city of Delhi and we should have a comprehensive law. Since the Parliament was not in session, the need had arisen for issuing the ordinance. We should also try to see that the functioning is streamlined in such a way that the necessity for issuing ordinances is minimised. Then, at the time of preparation of a Bill or ordinance, some more accuracy should be there so that very often we need not come to the House suggesting some amendments. In that process, the Government has to come before the Parliament seeking extension of time and if the House is not in session, again they have to issue an ordinance. Therefore, the concerned officers should apply their mind to this matter more meticulously so that this could be avoided in future.

Sir, there is no opposition to this Bill from the other side also. They have only given some suggestions. With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill before us. But I take this opportunity to make some observations on the state of the city of Delhi.

As regards the Bill, the Statement of Objects and Reasons explains the situation in which the Ordinance was promulgated and I fully appreciate that the municipal authorities should have extended time to initiate assessment proceedings and the time limit that has been given, I hope, shall be adequate for that purpose, that is, up to the 31st March, 1992. However, I

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have a feeling that the points raised by the hon. Member Shri Madan Lal Khurana regarding the retrospectivity of the enhanced rates must be given due consideration. If assessment has been delayed, it is for no fault of the tax payer and to suddenly place a burden on him for the past assessment at an enhanced rate shall not be fair.

Therefore, I make this plea to the Government that the fresh assessments must apply only with the current financial year if the assessments are completed before 31st March, 1992.

The second point that I would like to place before you and emphasise is the fact that a lot of properties are used by the citizens of Delhi for their own occupation or their own business. Delhi is a great metropolitan centre and the commercial value of property is rising every day. Some concession must be made for the properties which are in self use either for residential purposes or for business purposes. A person might have a small house of 50 sq. metres or 25 sq. metres. A person might have a small shop of, say 10 sq. metres and he cannot possibly go on paying the municipal tax at enhanced rates every year. I am not questioning the right of the Municipal authorities to re-assess and re-fix the rates. That they can do every year or every few years. But I would say that some exemption must be made from its process of continuous enhancement, in the interest of those people who are occupying their own properties or for their own purposes or for business purposes.

An important point to which I would like to draw your attention is this that the Municipal services in Delhi, all said and done, are at a breaking point. I am not talking of the posh localities. I am not talking of the roads of Delhi. I am not even speaking of the colonies of South Delhi. They are well-maintained. I do not know whether in fact the re-

sidents of those localities pay in totality the expenditure that is incurred on their beautiful parks, on the beautiful roads which are laid out very beautifully and on the services that they receive. But I do know that in East Delhi, there are slums and *bastis* which receive practically no service at all. You have the beautiful city of gardens on the one hand and, you have, on the other hand, the city of sinking nallas and drains in which the nallas are running into the roads and I would, therefore, suggest that the Municipal authorities of Delhi—and I would like the hon. Home Minister to take note of this fact—should provide the basic amenities for all the people of Delhi, for all the colonies of Delhi and, in fact, even the *bastis* are springing up and they are springing up every day and more and more people are coming to Delhi from outside. Some effort has to be made to have a proper lay out and to see to it that these *bastis* do not grow in a very haphazard manner. If some effort is made to provide the minimum Municipal services, I think Delhi can be a better place to live in for all people of the country.

Delhi should not be a matter of pride for the people who have adopted the five-star culture. It should be a matter of pride for every citizen of the country who comes to Delhi.

I represent in this Parliament an area called Purnea in North Bihar. I believe at least 50,000 people from various parts of Purnea live and work in Delhi. I do not have words to explain to you the dismal conditions in which they live. Imagine a visitor from Purnea coming here, to meet his relatives. I am just giving an example and that applies to all in the country. He has heard a lot about Delhi. He comes to Delhi to enjoy fresh air and the beauties and the landscape of Delhi and he goes on and sees people practically down in drains. This disparity in Municipal services must go.

Only today or yesterday, I read in the newspaper that in order to renovate the roads in a single colony of Delhi, the Defence Colony where perhaps a thousand families live, it is proposed to spend something like Rs. 3 crores.

This disparity in the commitment of Municipal resources for providing basic amenities like drainage and roads must be looked into and must disappear.

Sir, the other aspect of the city of Delhi that I would like to place before you is the fact that Delhi is a historic city, Delhi is a city of monuments and these monuments are—not only due to natural wear and tear, due to erosion by further time but by human acts—dwindling with every passing day. At the turn of the century a survey was made by the Central Government and they found that there were nearly 1200 monuments in Delhi. Today, nearly half of them cannot be traced. They have simply disappeared. They were not at all taken under the Central protection. Only a few were and only a few are taken under them and the rest are the responsibility of the Delhi Administration. Unfortunately nothing very much is being done. On the other day we had a project for a museum of the city of Delhi. I do not know where this project was prepared. There was a talk about establishing a museum in which the evolution of the city of Delhi from the pre-historic times right up to the present day shall be projected. I would suggest that for a city to have a sense of historic past, for a city to retain its historic memory, for a city to have its place in history, it is essential that we must look after the historic monuments on the one hand and we must try to project all these things to the people and the visitors who come from all over the world. Simultaneously, may I also mention that the Old City is in a bad shape. I think

the Old City, the Old Shahjahanabad, the Walled City needs a lot more care than has been bestowed upon it by the Delhi Municipal Corporation or by the Delhi authorities.

Coming to this, one of the reasons why some of this negligence has taken place is the fact that while we speak of decentralisation of authority, in the case of Delhi more and more centralisation has taken place over the last few years. There is not only a multiplicity of authority which creates overlapping and negligence but there are also several layers of decision-making and finally everything ends up with the Central Government. I do not understand why the Central Government should run the Delhi Transport System, or why should the Central Government run the Delhi Power Supply system, why should the Central Government have a hand in running the Delhi Housing System. I cannot understand it. Therefore, I would suggest that Delhi must have a role to run itself, to rule itself, to Govern itself and therefore I take this opportunity to plead with the Government to grant the cherished demand of the people of Delhi to have a Statehood for themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only for Delhi? What about the Andaman & Nicobar Islands etc.?

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): We are having an inferior type of Government there.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: When I plead for Delhi I am not meeting the claims of the others but I would suggest that Delhi has a very special place and Delhi must be given the Statehood. For that matter, at least what the least we can do immediately is to allow the people of Delhi to choose their own representatives, to elect their own representatives. That is the first step. For four years, may be for 8 years in some

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cases, the Municipal Elections have not taken place. The Metropolitan Council is in doldrums. The people of Delhi have no hand in running their affairs. I think this state of affairs must go. While the Government make up their mind about granting the degree of autonomy, granting the Statehood to Delhi it would be fair if at least they announce the dates for the Delhi Municipal Corporation elections and the Elections to the Delhi Metropolitan Council which have been deferred from time to time on many occasions.

There is one more point I would like to make and I am done with. I am a believer in municipal housing. When I was in Algeria as India's Ambassador, I had the occasion to study their housing system. It was a country which had lost practically all dwelling units during ten years of its War of Independence. Everything was in shambles. But they took the model, the model perfected by the great Mayor of Marseilles in France who had created the municipal housing for that city. They built enormous complexes to house the people whose dwellings had been razed to ground by the war operations during the freedom struggle.

I think that once Delhi has a Statehood, instead of these occasional bulldozing that we hear about, there shall be a planned and systematic way of relocating people without disturbing their means of livelihood, perhaps, in high-rise buildings, and in a way, without interfering with their livelihood.

With these few ideas that I have placed before you, I support the Bill and once again, I plead with the Government, at least, to exempt—that is the most important point in my mind—the question of retrospectivity. The new rate should apply with effect from their assessment and not with re-

trospective effect. Secondly, the self-users of the properties should not be subjected to this rise too frequently.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): This is a Bill which is going to be legalised with promulgation that has been made in regard to the Delhi Municipal Corporation and specially for the assessment of properties. I am in one, with the earlier speakers that it should not have the retrospectivity because, this will tell upon the incumbents—the householders—not for their fault. It is because of the fault of the administration; because of some sort of delaying or procrastinating on the part of the administration. And for this reason, the people should not be penalised.

One more thing that I also support is that persons who are owning and using the property for himself for the purpose of dwelling or for the purpose of some sort of business done by himself should get special concession, in the course of assessment of taxes. It is true that in Delhi, the values of properties are getting high day by day and it is also true that the municipal authorities should take this into consideration and assess the taxes commensurating with the rise in the value. This is the order in which taxes are assessed in our country in different cities.

While considering these things, properties used by the owners themselves in the form of business and in the form of dwelling purpose, I reiterate, should get special concessions.

While this Bill has to be supported, because it is merely a legalisation of the ordinance promulgation, I want to make one salient point. That has been mentioned by earlier speaker also and that is about the elections to the Municipal Corporation which are not being held in Delhi for so many years. It is not the case with Delhi alone. In

so many metropolis and in so many cities the ruling party Congress-I is not willing to hold elections. This is the case where they rule. Probably in Delhi also they are not willing to hold elections. In course of supporting this Bill, I want to put a rider through you that the House should resolve that within the time limit given, the Delhi Municipal/Corporation elections must be held. This should be a rider which we want to put on the Government through the House.

In course of supporting this Bill I would like to say that the standard of municipal service has gone down and because of multiplicity of authorities—one is DDA, the other is Delhi Municipal Corporation and the third is Metropolitan Council—there is overlapping of issues as to who will decide things, which is the jurisdiction of which Committee etc. These are the things that complicate simple matters.

I don't say at the present moment that Delhi should be given statehood right now. I am not going into it now. When that point comes up, we will discuss and finalise it. But decentralisation must be there. Delhi people must have their say in their municipal activities, in their municipal services. They must be given powers to do their own jobs as regards the municipal activities. Thousands of crores of rupees are being spent for Delhi; but the slum dwellers remain in the same standard as they were and the dismal picture on the one side remains as it is. Therefore in order to fix accountability and at the same time in order to have participation of the people in the Delhi Municipal activities, Delhi Municipal elections should be held forthwith. The Metropolitan Council elections also should be held forthwith. Coordination among the authorities governing the issues of Delhi should be well identified and things done in that way.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA
 (Andaman-Nicobar): Mr. Chairman

Sir, this Bill has a very limited purpose. However, the Members from the other side try to bring many other questions in it. What was the purpose of bringing this Bill? There was an ordinance issues when this House was not in session. Now the Government wants to repeal that and therefore this Bill has to be passed.

The purpose of the Bill is;

“Consequent upon coming into force of the Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Act, 1988 with effect from 1-12-1988, it became imperative for the Municipal authorities of Delhi to send revised notices to a very large number of property tax payers (over 5 lakhs) as prescribed under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 and the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 as in force in New Delhi.”

Subsequently they say,

“The number of properties due for re-assessment being large, the Commissioner was not in a position to issue notices based on systematic surveys and proper scrutiny of documents. With a view to ensuring that notices were issued after due verification, it was felt essential to extend time upto 31-3-1992 for the purpose of initiating assessment”.

I think, this is the purpose of the Bill. So, there is very little scope for discussion on this Bill. I support this Bill. At the same time, I would like to say a few words for consideration.

I do not agree when Shri Khurana said that there was no election in Delhi and that is why all these issues are lying pending; that is why many things could not be done, etc. It is not so. The problems of the Union Territory are quite different. Each Union Territory has a different type of administrative system. In Pondicherry there is a legislature. It is an Union Territory with a legislature; In

[Sh. Manoranjan Bhakta]

Delhi, there is a Metropolitan Council, and there is a Municipal Corporation; In Andaman & Nicobar Islands, there is a Pradesh Council; similarly in Lakshadweep, there is a Pradesh Council. So, in different Union Territories, different types of administrative systems are prevailing. So, what Shri Khurana should have said and demanded is that there should be one uniform policy for all the Union Territories. In that case, many problems of the Union Territories could be solved.

SHRI MADANLAL KHURANA :
I agree.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
Sir, then I agree with Shri Khurana when he said a point about the assessment of high rates. That point should be taken into consideration. The assessment should be done on the basis of the actual cost of the property purchased either from DDA or from any other authorities. It should not be done on the basis of the market rates because market rate is an unreliable parameter which is fluctuating.

For example, suppose if some NRI people or people from Gulf come and try to purchase properties—they pay any price. So, in such cases we have seen that—suddenly there will be a steep rise in the price of properties. But, actually the real user who lives in his own house which which was purchased from DDA or from any other authorities, cannot pay the tax assessment made on the basis of the market rates. That is why I want that this matter should be considered.

15.48 hrs. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH in the Chair]

There is also another point to be noted. This Bill intends to increase the revenue of the Municipal Corporation. The Municipal Corporation is increasing their revenue earnings, but they are hardly providing any service

to the people. This point has to be taken into consideration. When we are putting more and more burden on the people, we are not providing civic amenities and facilities to the people succinctly. Until and unless this is done, I do not think the Government will be really doing justice to the people or to the occupants of these properties.

I would also like to make a request to the hon. Minister that Shri Subramaniam Rangaraj here has stated that we are following all the old laws by piece-meal amendments.

The Government should consider about a comprehensive amendment to such Bills so that we can cope up with the present requirements of the people and also how these municipal bodies would function effectively in a better manner in the big metropolitan cities, particularly in Delhi.

At the same time, I also request the hon. Minister to consider the other Union Territories where the municipal laws are inadequate and ineffective. In those areas also, they should consider that a comprehensive and unified legislation is brought before this House.

The time at my disposal is limited. I support this Bill for consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with reference to the Delhi Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, which has been presented here, I would like to say that the distribution of authority in Delhi is totally incomprehensible and confusing. In the last session, two of my party colleagues, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Madan Lal Khurana repeatedly made forceful plea for granting statehood to Delhi and for setting up a legislative assembly. However, Delhi has been

deprived of its legitimate rights, because it is the Bharatiya Janata Party which commands the support of the people of Delhi. Unfortunately, even now the work of administering Delhi is divided among four or five organisations. Only yesterday, some traders from Sadar Bazar approached me and requested me to visit their area, which is represented in the House by Shri Jagdish Tytler. They told me that there was slaughter house in the main market, where traders from all over the country come for business and that the sight of blood flowing from the butchery is quite repulsive.

(Interruptions)

Although Shri Jagdish Tytler is known to be a very considerate person and is occupying an important position in the Union Cabinet, yet it is most unfortunate that after winning the elections, he has not visited Sadar Bazar area even once.

Although Delhi Sadar is the constituency of Shri Jagdish Tytler, I would like to tell him that he should not get intoxicated by power and that he should visit his constituency at least once. *(Interruptions)*

I have been the president of the Kota Municipal Council. I would like to mention here that Municipal Councils all over Rajasthan have imposed house tax, but during my tenure as the President of the Kota Municipal Council in 1970 I had taken a decision to abolish house tax. Now the year is 1991 and even now house tax is not levied in Kota. You say that your intention is to provide some relief through this Bill, but I don't think that it is possible to provide any relief. Assessment is made once and some people succeed in getting house tax fixed at a lower rate by greasing the palms of some officials. Then the same amount continues to be recovered for years. This doesn't

provide any relief to the people. It is my humble submission that there is nothing wrong in the convention of making an assessment once, but some tribunal should be constituted thereafter to check whether the house tax has been properly fixed.

I would like to submit that house tax is not properly recovered. You may fix it for 15 or 20 years together. Many amendments were required to be made in this Bill. Hon. Minister, Sir, when you brought forward this Bill, you should have introduced some amendments to the Delhi Municipal laws, along with it. There should have been a provision under which if a person deposits house tax for twenty years in one lump sum, he should be exempted from paying house tax for life. Unfortunately, you haven't brought forward any such proposal. You wanted to provide relief, just keeping an eye on elections. This is obvious from the fact that the house tax had gone up under the Rent Control Act and an increase in house-tax means loss of votes to political leaders. This is precisely the intention behind this amendment.

A committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Jag Parvesh Chandra was constituted. Later on, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra was inducted into it. Unfortunately, no heed was paid to his suggestions. I do support this Bill, but along with it I would like to make a humble submission that taxes like House tax, which creates a lot of difficulties for the citizens, should be completely abolished. The Municipal Councils have many other sources to earn revenue. Lastly, I once again extend my support to this Amendment.

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRA-SAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to point out certain facts, with regard to the Delhi Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill. Under the provisions of the 1989 amendment, the house tax was

[Sh. Bhubaneshwar Prasad Mehta]

to be assessed by 31st March, 1991, but unfortunately, it could not be done. Now the time has been extended to 1992. The notices currently being issued to the citizens of Delhi, show the house tax amount higher by 10 or 12 times and the people are running from pillar to post and finding it difficult to go to the concerned offices to file their objections. The people of Delhi are fed up with all this. Therefore, it is my humble request that such provisions be included in this legislation, which would enable the common man to pay his dues without facing any difficulties or harassment at the hands of the officialdom. Today, they are running from pillar to post, submitting representations to one and all, yet their grievances are not listened to, in time as a result of which they are facing immense inconvenience.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to suggest to the Government that they should not levy house tax from people owning and residing in the L.I.G. (Lower Income Group) and M.I.G. (Middle Income Group) flats of the D.D.A. They should be exempted from the purview of house tax. It is further requested that tax based on D.D.A. rates should be levied from those who have purchased their flats on hire-purchase basis.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to say that the Government should implement the recommendations made in the Malhotra Committee Report. Right now, instead of conducting a house to house survey, the officials concerned fix the house tax sitting in their offices and under this process structures coming under the commercial category get included in the non-commercial category and vice-versa, and consequently, it is the common man, who suffers the most. It was reported in the newspapers sometime back that the Government proposes to launch a Self-assessment scheme. I would

like to know from the Government, whether it is serious about implementing the said scheme. If so, the Government should give it wide publicity and save the people from the inconvenience and the difficulties, they are currently facing. It has been decided to assess the house tax by 1992, but alongwith it, the Government should see to it that the taxes are levied w.e.f. 1992 onwards and not retrospectively from 1988, as proposed. If it is levied with effect from 1988, it would tantamount to perpetrating injustice on the people of Delhi. Election to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is long due and the people of Delhi are finding it difficult in the absence of their elected representatives. Therefore, the Government should see to it that elections to the Municipal Corporation are conducted, wherever and whenever they are due. With these words, I once again extend my support to this Bill and request the Government to ponder over the points. I have raised.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, the first speaker from our Party has given our views on this particular Bill. The problem of not having democratic elections to any of these institutions is that we have to discuss all those matters in Parliament. I would not have taken part in this debate, had I not been hurt by one incident in connection with the NDMC.

Some days ago, one young man came to me and informed me that he had a stall in Janpath near the Indian Oil Bhavan. He told me that he was evicted by the NDMC. The aggrieved persons like him, moved the Supreme Court for redressal and got a stay order also. Despite the Supreme Court's order, they are not being allowed to set up the stalls there. Why? Money plays a very big role

in these matters. Some were permitted to put up their stalls, while some others were denied the opportunity. If somebody comes to me, as a representative of the people, it is my duty to contact the highest authority there. I telephoned the administrator of the NDMC thrice. On the telephone I could not contact him. So I left my number with the office of the Administrator. I do not know who that great man is. He may indeed be great and he may be having lot of work to do in the NDMC. He did not have time to reply my call and the PA of the gentleman advised me to send that young man with a letter from me to meet the administrator. I wrote a letter and I sent that young man to the administrator. His PA sent him to the Director of Enforcement. Do you know what happened there? He threw my letter on the floor and said that nothing could be done. If this is the kind of behaviour that we have to face from the servants of the people, I am really very sorry. How can we inculcate a sense of accountability in the minds of our public servants?

May be this is a very small matter. Nobody bothers in our country, if a man is dying. If this young man dies, nobody will shed a tear for him. Since he has come to me seeking my help, I wanted to help him. Despite the Supreme Court's stay order, he has not been allowed to put up his stall. I want to know why. Who will give me the answer? Though this is a small matter, many important issues are involved in this. How can NDMC behave in this manner? I urge upon the hon. Minister to give a specific reply to this. I am raising this question because in a democracy it is necessary that this kind of people are taken to task. It is not merely my insult. It is an insult to the people of this country. We cannot allow our bureaucracy to function in this way. I have taken part in this debate just to raise this issue. For

that matter, I am helpless. What have I to say to that young man who came to me? I am just reporting this matter to the hon. Minister and raising this issue in the House so that at least this way, we can do some justice to the suffering persons.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria):
 Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no question of speaking against the spirit of this Bill. But some time should have been allowed to the Administration for the reassessment of the House tax. There is no problem in allowing such a time. However, I would like to submit as to how long we shall continue to maintain law and order in Delhi through ordinances and with the help of the Union Government. Much time of this House and the Central Government which has to pay its attention to so many activities of the country is unnecessarily wasted in maintaining law and order and attending to other activities of Delhi in the absence of any democratic set up in Delhi for the last 8 years. Therefore, I demand that elections for the Municipal Corporation and the Metropolitan Council of Delhi should be held immediately. I am in favour of granting statehood to Delhi. It must have its own Vidhan-Sabha for which elections should be held soon. Had the Bill for granting Statehood to Delhi been introduced, we would have perhaps supported it vehemently. I demand that such a Bill should be introduced in the House.

So far as the question of assessment of House Tax in respect of buildings owned by individuals is concerned, I would like to inform the House that 15-20 lakh persons belonging to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are residing in Delhi. Most of them are daily-wage employees and their income is quite limited. They have constructed their houses after obtaining loans either from their departments or from

[Sh. Mohan Singh]

financial institutions. This is a fact that the prices of the properties are raising in the market day by day, but there are many other reasons for increase in the prices of properties. When the prices of the properties go up, there is no increase in the income of the individual house-owners simultaneously. When there is no increase in their income, there is no justification for levying these taxes on them. I would, therefore, like to suggest that no new taxes at the increased rates should be imposed on the residential houses as well as those houses which are used for the small business by a man to earn his bread.

So far as the question of civic amenities to the common man in Delhi is concerned, these are deteriorating day by day in the absence of a responsible Government or a proper set up in Delhi. Do not take New Delhi separately. Think of greater Delhi as a whole. Taxi-drivers and Scooter-drivers go on strike at the interval of every two or three days, but there is no responsible authority to hold talks with them. Filth is piling up in the city, there is no arrangement of even night-shelters for the people and therefore, lakhs of them are compelled to live on the foot-paths. Who is responsible for all these things? Who will take care of all these people? It was the grace of God that there has been no rains this year, otherwise entire city might have been perhaps submerged into water. I, would, therefore like to submit that a proper responsible set up should be formed to augment civic facilities in the city. Our motto should not be to extract taxes only on the pattern of bureaucracy. Civic amenities should also be increased as well. With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill. I got an opportunity to understand the working

of Ministry of Urban Development when I and Mr. Khurana were members of its Consultative Committee. The Metropolis like Delhi where people from all over the country come and reside lacks suitable arrangements for them. The number of persons belonging to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar who have come to Delhi and reside here is 40 to 45 lakhs and not 15-20 lakhs as mentioned just by one of our colleagues.

Sir, they are living in their small jhuggis where they do not have the facility of drinking water or any other facility as corporation elections have not been held for the last 8-9 years. There cannot be greater injustice than this. We are not able to provide them clothes, food-grains, medicines etc. We fail to provide them even drinking water which is essential for survival. This is most unfortunate for this metropolitan city.

Sir, there is the question of granting statehood to Delhi and there is the question of holding of elections to Municipal Corporation, but I would like to submit that there are many families, which have come from other places are living here in Delhi for the the last 10 to 20 years, but till date, they have not got their Ration-cards. I would urge upon the Government that when an amendment is made in this Bill, it should be ensured that the names of all those persons are included in the voter-lists, who have been living in Delhi for the last 10 to 20 years and ration-cards must also be issued to them.

Sir, in the metropolis of Delhi ration card is of vital importance. A person without it even if he is an M.P. does not get a person to stand as surety for bail in case he is implicated in any case or is involved in any court-case. The person facing such a problem rushes to us for bail and we send with him our servants or drivers for whom we have got the ration-cards

issued. This is certainly a sorry state of affairs. I would like to submit that the situation is the same for Punjab migrants also. Being the President of All India Jhuggi Jhonparin Mazdoor Sabha, I have myself seen the condition prevailing in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. I see the condition of jhuggi jhonpari dwellers in all the Metropolitan cities of the country. Just now Shri Saifuddin Choudhury has rightly said that I happen to establish contacts being President of that Sabha. I have written many letters regarding their problems to the concerned Authorities, but unfortunately none of my letter has been replied to by them during the last two years. Now you can easily imagine the situation of an ordinary man in such circumstances when even an M.P's letter is not responded to.

Sir, I would, therefore, like to submit that a date should be fixed for holding the elections of Delhi Municipal Corporation and elections should be held as soon as possible so that the problems do not get complicated further. I would like to say one thing more in this regard that usually 4 or 5 candidates contest elections in a particular constituency of Corporation. They adopt the policy of divide and rule and the people become the ultimate victims. These elections must be held immediately so that the elected representative of the particular constituency may be responsible to take care of the difficulties of the public and to make suitable arrangements to remove the difficulties of the people. This is my suggestion and I support this Bill. I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members who participated in the discussion on this Bill. I was sur-

prised to find that there was so much to say against this very casual, innocuous way of treating the time for extension. Anyway, I am extremely happy that some of the Members have mentioned very valid points though not pertaining to this particular Bill that is before the House but regarding the overall requirement of Delhi.

I agree that Delhi is a growing city. Everyday, people are coming from various States in search of employment, in search of other occupations and the problems of Delhi are enormous.

As you know, I have taken over a part of the responsibility of looking after this only in this very Session.

At the same time, the Parliament Session started. I did not have even the time to go to the houses of the hon. Members at least to know for myself what are the real problems at close quarters. I agree with many of the points raised here by the hon. Members, because a composite plan, a composite thinking is required, a coordinated effort is required before elevating the status of Delhi to a real Capital of India.

I also see the contradictions existing in various institutions as many other hon. Members have mentioned. But I do not want to waste my time at this hour to elaborately answer the problems raised by the hon. Members. Mr. Khurana was arguing about elections again and again in Delhi. The Government is aware of it. Now the Government is actively considering the manner in which the elections have to be held. One of our colleagues just now mentioned that the elections will have to be conducted on the basis of new electoral rolls because many people have come from various parts of India to Delhi, especially from Bihar; he was mentioning about Bihar. He was arguing

[Sh. M. M. Jacob]

that unless their names are included in the electoral rolls, they cannot get their ration cards. So, their names must be enrolled in the electoral rolls; only then they can become full citizens of this Metropolitan city. I agree with them. This is a very good proposal and I will see whether it is possible to do so; and I will be very happy to examine this aspect; and if it is possible, I will be very happy to accept that a new revision of electoral rolls will be required in Delhi.

I don't think the Congress Party is averse to elections. Some of our friends from that side mentioned in the course of their speeches that the Congress Party is not interested in the elections. The first parliamentary election was held in India. I even remember to have read an editorial in the English newspaper, *Guardian*. They said, India has proved that elections are possible in India and the Congress Party under the leadership of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru has proved that they are the cradle of democracy for the whole Asia. Till today, the Congress Party is not against the elections. Every time when the time comes, the Congress Party is prepared for the elections. But Mr. Khurana is upset about that. There are countries across the border where people do not believe in elections at all. But we are running this country for several years who believe in the elections. Never national elections were put off; never State elections were put off until and unless there are valid reasons for putting off elections for one year or two years.

For Delhi, there are issues to be sorted out, as my good friend just now mentioned about electoral reforms; he also mentioned about an argument. There are all sorts of arguments which are coming up. There is a demand for a Statehood. Then

they say, it should be on the model of Pondicherry State. In this connection, I do not want to digress because there are Reports of the Sarkaria Committee; there are Reports of the Balakrishnan Committee. All these Reports are before the Government and the Government is examining which will suit best for Delhi; whether it is full Statehood or whether it is Pondicherry model or immediate elections to the Metropolitan Council and the MCD. All these Reports are before the Government. We are not running away from the fact.

But here it is a simple fact before the House; it is only an extension of time for one year for proper assessment to be made. The issue is simple. An assessment is to be made as per the amendment made earlier in this very House. According to that amendment, we were given time till 31-3-1991 to complete the assessment for New Delhi Administration and the MCD. But they wanted to go deeper into it. They surveyed the records; they surveyed the area. They wanted to find out the actual users, the actual people; and in the process, they took more time; and because of that, out of five lakh people in the MCD, they could complete only 2.5 lakh people. Now half done and half undone. The same is the case with the NDMC. Ninety per cent of the assessments are over. But ten per cent was remaining. So, we thought that a proper assessment has to be done in order to prevent harassment to the poor people and we have to be very reasonable in making the assessment and valuation. So, the ratable tax, whenever you take the ratable rate whenever you assess a person, nobody shall feel hurt.

That was the intention of the Government in asking for the extension of the time. And I hope that my good friends who moved the amendments would agree. I am thankful to

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava for the points he made while speaking on his amendment. But at the same time I request that this has to be taken into reality.

Another point was raised about the various committees appointed. It is true that a committee was appointed of which this House is aware of, and that Committee could not complete its work because suddenly the dissolution of the set-up came. Then the Committee was re-constituted and the re-constituted committee was there. In the meanwhile an expert committee was also appointed. I honestly tell you that the problem is that the expert committee constituted in August 1990 and the Property Tax Committee of November 1990 submitted their reports to Delhi Administration and the Delhi Administration conveyed its views to this Government on the 22nd July, 1991. Even on the day before, on the 2nd August, 1991, we have received another letter from the Delhi Administration that it was in furtherance of what they had conveyed that they were again conveying some more views. We must have some time to look into what they have actually said, what the various committees have said.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: When did you receive the report?

SHRI M. M. JACOB: That is what I said. The full report came only on the 2nd August. On 22nd July they sent a report and on 2nd August they sent another lot. We were not able to apply our mind during the course of a week to two reports giving conflicting views. There is a contradiction between the expert committee report and the Property Tax Committee report, between the recommendations made by them. We have to apply our mind thoroughly to find out what is right and what is wrong. Naturally, it has to be done.

Another important question was which Shri Shahbuddin knows, whether the actual users are harassed in this process. For self-users, prior to 1-12-1988 it was 8.25 per cent of the cost of construction and the market value of the land. From 1-12-1988 it was 10 per cent of the cost of the market value. My distinguished hon. friend was telling that it will be 50 per cent. I assure you that it is not 50 per cent. It may be about 20 per cent or so.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It will be 37 per cent, total.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I am talking of self-users.

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay, South): You do not have to give so many details.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: The point I am driving at is that the ultimate point is that it is done not to harass ordinary people; people having rental value of Rs. 3500 are not at all affected basically. People who are having palacious buildings and earning large amounts of money are distinguished between the users and the non-users.

What we are doing is that this money is meant for the development of Delhi. Without money Delhi is not able to develop. So, if you are not allowing the extension—that much which we have sought—we have to suffer, so many crores of rupees which will be lost and the development may suffer. It will be a set back for the ordinary common people of Delhi.

Considering all these aspects I request Hon. Members not to press for the amendment, and to withdraw it giving us this innocent extension asking for some more time and the ratification of the Ordinance which is before you in the form of the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHAR-GAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra and that committee had submitted its report, but the hon. Minister has mentioned nothing about that. Had the hon. Minister made a mention of the recommendations of that committee, many of the issues would have been resolved here itself.

I would like to put forward some points for the information of the hon. Minister and I believe, these points would prove to be useful to him. There are two provisions in vogue in Delhi to realise house tax and property tax. Under the first provision, house tax is levied on standard rent calculated on the basis of cost of construction whereas in some cases, the house tax is levied on the basis of commercial rent also. What I want to say is that there is no justification for raising the house tax in respect of the houses which were let out a long ago and in the cases of which there has not been any increase in rent during these years. This is my first point.

My second point is that there is no relief in house tax for widows, personnel of the armed forces and the retired persons who have been living in their houses for years. The rent is the only source of their income. The taxation proposed does not clearly indicate as to the limit of rent on which concession would be available for self occupied houses and those let out on rent. The hon. Minister has mentioned about re-valuation of old properties in Delhi saying that the city has since undergone development. But I would say that after all these people had been paying house tax and property tax even before Delhi had undergone any development worth the name. I feel, revaluation of property in the case of those houses which have neither undergone any addition or altera-

tion nor have their ownership changed hands, is an injustice to the house owners. There is no objection to revaluation of old houses to which additions and alterations have been made and ownership in respect of which have changed hands. But if nothing of this sort has taken place, there should be no upward revision of house tax.

The hon. Minister might be aware that in Delhi huge amount of money is taken as 'Pugree' (Advance). Small 'Thadis' (raised platforms) and houses are let out by taking 'pugrees'. My submission is that an amendment should be made in the law by adding a provision under which the landlord should alone be entitled to get his house back in the event of a tenant vacating it so that it might not change hands from one tenant to the other. If this is done, I think, house tax will increase along with the rent of the house owner beside making it convenient for the authorities to realise the house tax. As regards, the realisation of house tax for the year 1988-89, I feel that if the Government realises the house tax from 1-4-87 on the basis of the rates applicable for the year 1987-88, there will not be any difficulty in tax collection. This is my second submission.

Coming to third submission—I would like to ask as to why there is a variation between the rates of house tax being charged in Delhi by the N.D.M.C. and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The rate of house tax being charged by the NDMC is 30 per cent whereas in the case of M.C.D. it is 12 per cent. There should be a parity in the rates. When the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is charging 12 per cent, the NDMC too should change 12 per cent. I am saying this not only for Delhi. The rate of house tax should be uniform throughout India whether it is Delhi, Jaipur, Jabalpur or Punjab and the rate in no case should be more than 5 per

cent of the ratable value. The law should be uniform in the entire country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, talking about Delhi, I would like to point out that there are four types of taxes in this capital city. There is wealth tax, there is income tax, then there is house tax and there is yet another tax known as land and building tax. There are four different agencies to assess these four taxes. All the four agencies assess the ratable value of the house or the property differently. Will you please tell me the justification for this? Four different departments assess the ratable value of the same house or property differently to realise their respective taxes. I would request that this anomaly should be removed and the ratable value of a house or property for the purpose of income tax and house tax should be assessed uniformly. House tax and building tax are the State subjects. As regards, wealth tax, I would request that it should be charged in lumpsum. When there are different kinds of anomalies in the matter of assessment of ratable value, who is there to decide about the authenticity? Let me tell you that in Delhi, four local taxes are charged from the house owners. These are: water tax, sewage tax, education tax and fire tax. These four make the total number of taxes to seven in Delhi. After all, to what extent the Government wants to fleece the people of Delhi after levying these seven taxes. I feel that it is a gross injustice.

Similarly, the Government has allowed exemption upto Rs. 1000. That means the person who is paying Rs. 1000 annually is allowed exemption in Delhi. That means exemption is available only to those who pay Rs. 80 per month. That being so, the one paying Rs. 85 would come in the tax bracket. I demand that either you do away with this nominal exemption limit of Rs. 80 or the exemption limit should be raised on the lines of exem-

ption limit in the case of income tax. If the Government really wants to give some relief, the exemption limit should at least be equal to that of income tax exemption limit, otherwise this nominal exemption is of no use to anybody and it should better be done away with.

Delhi is a Union Territory. Being a Union Territory, the Parliament have to devote its precious time to transact business pertaining to the Union Territory. Mobilisation of resources for Delhi also costs a lot. This being so, Sri Khurana has to struggle daily in the House on the question of statehood to Delhi. All political parties including the Congress Party are demanding statehood for Delhi. We too have promised statehood to the people of Delhi. The Government has been postponing elections to the Delhi Metropolitan Council and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi on the pretext that Delhi is being given statehood and there is no need for holding elections to these bodies. I demand that Delhi should be given statehood as early as possible. The Congress Party does not seem to be sincere in its promise of giving statehood to Delhi lest B.J.P. should take the credit for it. If there is going to be some delay in the matter of statehood, let there be elections to the Municipal Corporation, and the Metropolitan Council at least. The Government should give thought to all these things and rectify the anomalies.

Another point to which I want to draw the attention of the House is that responsibility should be fixed for causing delay in bringing the proposed amendment to the Rent-Control Act. All these points need to be given urgent attention. Through this resolution, I want to draw the attention of the House to these specific points. The people of Delhi are in distress. People in other States are also feeling harassed by these departments. Now, there is no place which has been

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

exempted from taxation. Tax is being levied on each and every human activity. The Congress Party wants to levy tax on air also. People will be required to pay tax for breathing also. You have squeezed the representation of the people of Delhi in seven seats, then how development can take place in Delhi? It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure development and that is why it has all along been levying taxes. The people of Delhi demand that Delhi should be granted statehood so that time of the House is not wasted on discussion of petty matters. Time and again minor amendments are brought in respect of Delhi and the people of Delhi will have bear the brunt. If the Government does not want to grant statehood to Delhi, it should, at least, hold elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Metropolitan Council. It is my appeal to the Government.

[English]

SHRI M. M. JACOB: The suggestions mentioned by him are being certainly looked into. He was rather requested to withdraw and I think the hon. Member is prepared to withdraw.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I know that various promises made here are not fulfilled. In order to ensure that my suggestions are not totally ignored, as the Parliament House is circular in shape. I request the Government to consider my valuable suggestions. With this understanding I withdraw the resolution, in which I had moved for disapproval of the ordinance.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would in-

clude the names of people, who have come over to Dehli from other parts, in the voters' list before the elections(Interruptions).....

[English]

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I think, I have already mentioned this in my speech. That is a very valid point and that is well taken. That aspect will be examined before conducting any election. That is what I mentioned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Girdharilal Bhargava be withdrawn?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes

The Statutory Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put Amendment No. 1 to the Motion for consideration of the Bill moved by Shri Girdharilal Bhargava to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 1 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Motion moved by Shri M.M. Jacob to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 and the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, as in force in New Delhi, be taken into consideration".

The Motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

[Translation]

“That Clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill”.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question is:

“That this House disapproves of the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 (Ordinance No. 1 of 1991) promulgated by the Government on the 16th June, 1991.”

“That Clause 1, the enacting formula and the long title stand part of the Bill.”

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, I beg to move:

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the amendment that has been brought forward here in respect of Kashmir bears a long story of heartrending events. People like me who were involved in the freedom struggle fought for the freedom of the entire country. The people of Kashmir under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah decided to stay in India. The aggressors who attacked in disguise were initially not accepted by Pakistan. I remember that some British and American generals were leading the troops. But they were not duly authorised generals. They belonged to Pakistani troops and were leading them. At the time of attack by Pakistani troops the late Maharaja Hari Singh refused to join the Indian Union. He fled Kashmir Valley without joining the Indian Union. At that time, the very persons who were Governor General and Chief of the Army in the British regime were made Governor General and Chief of the Army of free India. Both of them were bent upon not to send military assistance to Sheikh Abdullah. They categorically derecognised the authority of Mr. Abdullah stating that merging Kashmir into the Indian Union was not the proposal of Maharaja Hari Singh. The National Conference volunteers challenged the aggressors at the cost of their life. Later Hari Singh came to Jammu and under people's pressure joined the Indian Union.

“That the Bill be passed”.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The Motion was adopted.

16.36 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE
 DISAPPROVAL OF THE JAMMU
 AND KASHMIR CRIMINAL LAW
 (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE,
 1991

AND

JAMMU AND KASHMIR CRIMI-
 NAL LAW AMENDMENT (SE-
 COND AMENDING) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up item nos. 13 and 14 together.

We approached the Security Council. Everybody knows what was the

[Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

position of the Security Council at that time. The council put both the aggressor and the defender at par and advised them to maintain *status quo*. Till date the same *status quo* is being maintained.

Kashmir did make progress. The whole country made progress. But a few years ago we committed some mistakes. It is a recent case. The Government at the centre viewed party interests above national interests. It caused a rift in the National Conference and dislodged the Farooq Abdullah Government by installing Mr. Shah as Chief Minister of J and K. The Government was fully aware of Mr. Shah's opportunistic attitude. But the Government sacrificed national interest for the sake of its party interest. The National Conference which had a nationalist tradition and under the leadership of which party Kashmir was an integral part of the country even before independence, was divided. The Muslim League had no existence there. I remember, I was in jail at that time. In 1946, the late Quad-e-Azam, Jinnah went to Kashmir to announce the formation of Muslim League. He could not move out of the airport. The National Conference volunteers gheraoed the airport with black flags. Such a party was split at the behest of the ruling party at the centre for its own benefits. Mr. Shah was installed as Chief Minister. Thereafter, no alternative to National Conference could be formed. No democratic political structure could be formed. None of our parties was prepared to take the place of National Conference due to every one's weak position in the valley. In the meantime the phase of present crisis started in the valley.

In this phase, some more mistakes were committed. Last year also some mistakes were committed when Mr. Jagmohan was forcibly sent there. When Mr. Abdullah became adamant

with the charge that Mr. Jagmohan had a communal outlook and his arrival would create problems in Kashmir,.....

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Bhogendraji, the same Jagmohan saved Kashmir.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: You may also make a submission when your turn comes. Just listen, please. I was also a supporter of that Government which made this mistake. It could have been done under anybody's pressure, but I cannot absolve myself from blame. It was a mistake against country's interest. So, Mr. Jagmohan was sent there. The Chief Minister said that Jagmohan's arrival would cause damage. Even then he was sent and the Chief Minister resigned. After his resignation the Government also resigned but the Assembly was kept under suspended animation. The M.L.As were there. There was no need to dissolve the Assembly.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us concentrate our discussion on the subject. Let us not deviate from it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us concentrate on the subject before us. Why should we deviate from it unnecessarily?

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I would like to ask those persons who believe that the temple was destroyed by Babar, whether they want to be the followers of Babar or the followers of India. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: My request is that after he has finished his speech, you have also a chance to rebut his arguments. Let us understand each other properly.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to discuss the intention of the people who are behind it. But in response to the slogan to demolish the Babri Mosque, the supporters of Pakistan have raised the slogan "Quit Kashmir". Therefore, the slogan of demolishing the mosque has been replied with the slogan to quit Kashmir and riots have started there afresh. (Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, after 1986, this crisis has deepened. I am talking about the present crisis. Nobody wants Kashmir to be separated from India. But you must keep in mind that your utterances at one place, can have repercussions at another place. (Interruptions) You construct the temple, I am happy. You construct the temple with the co-operation of all, I would not mind. But if you destroy the mosque, I would feel hurt. (Interruptions). In the prevailing circumstances, on the one hand people sitting in Delhi have committed certain mistakes and on the other some of our colleagues instigated the people in Kashmir by raising a slogan of destroying the mosque. As a result of it, lakhs of people had to migrate to Delhi and are leading the life of refugees here. Kashmiri people have not forced them to quit Kashmir and this is a matter of great satisfaction and a matter of pride for Kashmir.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we-as well as the country would like to know whether Central Government is going to restore democratic process there. It has already added fuel to the fire in Kashmir by creating rift in the National Conference, of course, benefiting the Congress Party. Does the government want to bring Kashmir back into the national mainstream or establish a direct link with the people of Kashmir. Elections to village Panchayats, Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha should be held and

their elected representatives should come and raise their voice in the House. The voice of elected representatives is missing in Kashmir. It is not being heard in Srinagar, in Delhi. The democratic process has come to a standstill there. It is a matter of regret and a blot on our democracy. I can't escape responsibility for it. My hon. colleagues can't also and should not shrike responsibility for it. We are groping in the dark and there is no ray of hope. Therefore, I would like that Government should make its stand clear, as to by what time elections would be held there. New Governor, Shri Jagmohanji decided to dissolve the Legislative Assembly. By his very first step he proved, what a communalist he was; what an anti-democrat he was. There are many states where Legislative Assembly remains in suspended animation for a long time. Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no democratic link between the people of Kashmir and Delhi due to dissolution of Legislative Assembly. Now there is only one link between them i.e. of military men, machineguns and terrorists and their arms and ammunition. Democratic process has come to a standstill completely. This is a fresh mistake. As per my knowledge, situation has been created to force the people of Kashmir who have been living for generations and from pre-historical age, to flee from there. I am saying prehistoric age because of Kashyap sea. Kashmir has been named after Kashyap sea. Rishi Kashyap had reached there and made his cottage on the mountains and that place was called 'Kashyap Meru' and then it became Kashmir. I may tell my hon. colleagues that the lake on the mountains was divided and later on it came to be known as Jhelam river and only after that this place was made worth living. The same Jhelam river which was made by man became the artificial river. This river belongs to that age. Subsequently the deeper place became the Dal Lake. The people living in Kashmir since that

[Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

age have now come to Jammu and Delhi. This is a regretful tragic story for all of us. The matter of pride for us is that the general public of Kashmir have not forced them to flee. There were no communal riots. But an atmosphere has been created to flee from Kashmir. We, the Indians, also can't claim to be innocent. Some of our hon. colleagues have thought that the act of destroying the mosque in the name of Rama is bigger than the country of Rama. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): 600 temples have been destroyed there, nothing has been said about that. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA: Please have some patience. *(Interruptions)*...I also try to learn and you should also try...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: But don't mislead the House. *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA: That is why they have given a call to destroy the mosque. But it is against the Indian culture, I do not go to the mosque. It is not in the Indian culture to destroy mosque. Indian culture is in favour of integration. Even if Muslims agree to it a man like me would not agree. I would not support the action to destroy the mosque. Therefore our tradition has been...*(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER: When Muslims destroyed the mosque, where were you at that time?...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA: Muslims have not destroyed. You have raised the question, so please listen to me. Muslims have not destroyed. Many invaders who do not care for temples, mosques, 'maths', have des-

troyed them. Muslims have not destroyed. This is wrong. If at all it was demolished—I am using "if", I have read "Babarnama", I can't say that it was demolished by Babar. I have been studying since 1940. Frankly speaking, I can't even say that it was demolished by him. I am saying it because I know it if you ask me, but the people who believe that it was demolished...*(Interruptions)*...I would request my friends to keep their mouths shut and ears open...*(Interruptions)*...

It is not necessary that the people of our choice win elections. There is every possibility that the people of our choice are not elected. But whosoever are the elected representatives of Kashmir, whether they oppose our ideology or favour it, have a right to sit in this House. Their seats should not remain vacant. The seats reserved for representatives from Kashmir should be filled. This point should be made clear by the Government first of all.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Elections too should be free and fair.

SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA: At the moment I would not say about free and fair elections and I don't want to go into details thereof. At present, the question is whether the Government is willing to hold elections or not. *(Interruptions)*

I won't enter into the new discussion this time. I would only say that it is the responsibility of the Government of India to conduct the elections and granting of approval to conduct elections is the right and duty of this House. It is our duty and we want that elections should be held there and people should exercise their franchise. We also want that migrants from Kashmir should be sent back safely and a fresh atmosphere of amity should be created. Purpose will not be served by issuing ordinances after ordinances. If we

go on extending the period of ordinances continuously, it would not be good. It is not a good line of action to entrust the responsibility of the valley to the army indefinitely to combat terrorism instead of defending the borders. Proper course is to initiate the political process.

I hope that hon. Minister will not just recommend it for approval but will give it a political perspective. I may reconsider my resolution regarding disapproval if the Government makes clear its intention, purpose and its plan. I would like to impress upon the House to oppose this ordinance unless the Government explains and makes clear its viewpoint and approach. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That this House disapproves of the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 (Ordinance No. 1 of 1991) promulgated by the Governor on the 16th June, 1991.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1983, be taken into consideration.”

The Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1983 provides for effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals or associations. Under the enabling provisions of this Act, the State Government is empowered to declare the

individuals or associations as unlawful if the Government is satisfied that the said groups or associations are indulging in such activities which encourage to propagate hatred or hostility between different groups or indulges in activities against the interests of the nation.

Sir, the law also prescribes for the constitution of a Tribunal who has to decide about the sufficiency of the cause of declaring the associations as unlawful.

The secessionist and fundamentalist groups in Jammu and Kashmir aided and abetted by a neighbouring country have, for quite some time, been indulging in violent and terrorist activities in the State with the sinister aim of secession of the State from the Union of India. The operations of certain organisations which laid emphasis on theocratic ideas inciting the religious sentiments of the youth and others through education imparted in schools run by some of them and their strong appeal to extra-territorial loyalties, have been, to a great extent, responsible to the present difficult law and order situation in the State. Their nefarious designs and illegal activities to incite the populace, spread terror and fear of gun through intimidation and killings have to be sternly dealt with at the ground level. In an effort to thwart their persistent anti-national and subversive activities, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in April-May, 1990, declared certain organisations and groups as unlawful in exercise of the powers vested with the State Government under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1983.

17.00 hrs.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir also constituted in June, 1990 a three member Tribunal of judicial officers as per the require-

[Sh. M. M. Jacob]

ments of the State Criminal Law. They referred the notifications issued declaring the association as "unlawful" to the Tribunal for an enquiry and adjudication. Under the State Law, as amended by the Parliament and assented to by the President of India on 25-1-91, the Tribunal was to inquire and confirm the action taken by the State Government, or otherwise, within one year from the date of receipt of the reference by it from the State Government that is, by 17-6-1991.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir advised that the enquiry was under way and it was not possible to complete it within the stipulated period that is 17-6-91 because of the practical difficulties faced by the Tribunal in getting the notices served upon the defaulters, hearing of the affected parties in person and disposal of some triable issues that have arisen. They had therefore requested for extending the stipulated time limit for finalising the enquiry by another six months that is from "one year" to "one year and six months."

17.02 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

In pursuance of this and with the prior approval of the Central Government, the Governor, Jammu and Kashmir promulgated an Ordinance amending the State Act extending the time-limit for finalising the inquiry by the Tribunal by another six months.

The present legislation seeks to replace the Ordinance issued by the Governor on 16-6-91. The proclamation of the President dated 18th July, 1990 made under Article 356 in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir provided that "the reference in Section 91 of the State Constitu-

tion to the Governor and to the legislation of the State or the House thereof, shall be construed as reference to the President and to the Parliament or to the House thereof respectively." The Bill has, therefore, been brought before the Parliament.

I commend the Bill for consideration for this august House and kind approval.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1983, be taken into consideration."

Now the amendments to the motion for consideration.

SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th October, 1991."
(1)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 27th October, 1991."
(2)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st October, 1991".
(4)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st December, 1991."
(5)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would

like to remind the hon. Member who spoke just before me that the great leader of Bharatiya Jan Sangh Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, whose portrait was installed in the Central Hall recently, launched a movement in 1953. Under this movement 2 lakhs people were sent to jail. We do not want different laws for different states, we do not want two Prime Ministers and two flags for the same country. Had the Congress Government and the then Prime Minister listened to the voice of late Syama Prasad Mukherjee, had they listened to that slogan, we would have not to amend the laws so frequently. We would not have needed the stringent laws. If there is any party which has associated itself with Jammu and Kashmir, it is my party. Bharatiya Jana Sangh held an agitation. On the call of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, I also took part in that agitation and was lodged in Ferozepur jail for three and a half months. There is no party which launched agitation on such a large scale and whose workers courted arrest and sacrificed their lives to save Kashmir. We launched "Jehad" against the dictatorship of Sheikh Abdullah whose case was headed by all the parties present here. Even today it is a mystery whether S. P. Mukherjee died a natural death or he was murdered.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee repeatedly said that he should not be administered Streptomycin. It is a mystery whether Dr. Mukherjee died or was killed as a result of a conspiracy. Nobody bothers about the laws these days. Laws are being imposed on Kashmir through Lok Sabha and manpower. Laws are being challenged as they are against the spirit of constitution. Shri Bhogendra Jha is pleading the case of Farooq Abdullah. He is an elderly person and one of the senior members of this House. May I know from him whether he and his party ever thought of launching a big agi-

tation in order to save Kashmir or they only played the politics of votes. I would like to say that migrants from Kashmir have come to Delhi. None other than Bharatiya Janata Party gave blankets to them. B.J.P. gave advertisements in newspapers that 2.5 lakh blankets were required for the migrants of Kashmir and the people of India arranged for those blankets. But all other parties turned a deaf ear to it. After all politicians should not have inclination towards a particular community but all the people should be treated at par. You are talking of secularism. B.J.P. does not believe in false secularism. Other parties talk of Muslim-appeasement alone and thus mislead the country. You have asked for more time for taking some action against terrorists. Four days ago I drew the attention of the House to a matter during 'Zero Hour' that nobody raised the case of Doraiswamy. Does the Government want him to meet the fate of Guru Tegh Bahadur? Does the Government want such a situation. The Government is talking of releasing three persons and it has failed to nab the terrorists. It is beyond your control. A person acted as a mediator. Who was that person and at whose instance he came forward to act as a mediator. Would the assassin of the General Manager of H.M.T. be released? Is the Government ready to release three persons who have committed three heinous crimes? The Home Minister may please reply this question. Doraiswamy was threatened that first his right hand and then left hand and leg and head would be amputated. After all where is the Government? I would like to tell you that I was a supporter of Janata Dal. Former Home Minister released the terrorists in exchange of his daughter, with the result that the morale of terrorists was boosted. Today, their morale is high. Should the "Nandanvana" of India, the fields of saffron, which form a part of India, be separated from it and we will remain silent spectator. I would like

[Sh. Dau Dayal Joshi]

to appeal to all the hon. Members of the House to adopt a realistic approach to the Kashmir problem and enact strongest possible legislation.

Some days back a question was asked in the House, whether Government intends to bombard the hide outs of terrorists. The hon. Home Minister replied in the negative and said that the Government had no such intentions. If you do not destroy the hideouts and indulge in mere gossip and paying lip service, the life of Doraiswamy would be in danger. I would like to know about the measures that are being taken to save Kashmir and whether any policy has been formulated in this regard. Kashmir cannot be saved by enacting small temporary legislations or merely amending the existing laws. Just now hon. Member Shri Bhogendra Jha was saying that the people are migrating from Kashmir Valley on their own sweet will. You can never leave your home without locking it or informing the police that you are going out of station. How can you say that they have left their home and hearth on their own sweet will. They have left property worth lakhs of rupees to God's mercy. They are well educated, some of them are I.A.S. officers. They are living like refugees in Delhi and trying to fend for themselves. All other political parties except Bharatiya Janata Party are mute spectators to their plight. Nobody is ready to help them. Had Khurana Sahib not been there, nobody would have helped them. You might be feeling bad, but it is a fact that nobody visited their camps nor did anybody raise their voice for them. I would like to ask the members of Janata Dal, whether they have raised their voice for these hapless people, in the Lok Sabha? The Hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister have never visited their camps. I would appeal to the hon. Home Minister to pay a visit to their camps

and see for himself the miserable conditions, they are living in. Merely paying Rs. 500 to them as relief and thinking that the matter has ended, will not serve the purpose. There should be will power and determination if we want to save Kashmir. I do not think that this minority Government would be able to save Kashmir. I think it was to save Kashmir that the strength of our party rose from two to eighty-six and from eighty-six to one hundred nineteen this time. Next time our number would be two hundred seventy and it is only we who can save Kashmir. We cannot save Kashmir by enacting petty legislations or just amending a few clauses of the existing laws. That is why I had moved this motion of disapproval.

I want to submit that if we really want to save Kashmir we should make a determined effort. Unless we bombard the hide-outs of terrorists or take similar action we cannot save Kashmir.

Everyday, we come across reports of attack on army positions in Kashmir. About four days back, many trained terrorists from Pakistan infiltrated into the valley and thousands are said to be waiting across the border. Therefore, there is urgent need to save Kashmir. I am saying this because I am in anguish. I was lodged in Ferozepur jail for about three and a half months. How many Congressmen have gone to jail for saving Kashmir. Janata Dal was not even on the political scene when we had started our fight for Kashmir. Therefore, my humble submission is, that we should have strong will power and determination, otherwise the beautiful valley, which is the crown of India, would disintegrate.

SHRI AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. Just now, I listened to Shri Dau Dayal Joshi's speech. He is a close friend of mine as we belong to

the same state. But the way he was speaking it seems that as if he was not born in Rajasthan because people of Rajasthan do not speak in this way. People believe in secularism there and that is the culture. Every community and religion is given equal respect. Sir, I know quite a bit about Kashmir. I fought two wars in Kashmir, viz., Indo-Pak war of 1965 and 1971. We faced the Pakistan tanks at that time. We did not allow them to set foot on the sacred Indian soil and made a grave yard of the Pakistani tanks at the border itself. Pakistan will remember that grave yard for ever and the way they had to face our brave army.

AN HON. MEMBER: Those were American tanks.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: They were called the American Patton tanks. But the Indian army was never overawed by them because the soldiers knew this holy land of the Lord Rama and Lord Krishna can never be enslaved. They know that this was the land of patriotic people and it was on this strength that the patton tanks were destroyed. Besides, we saw the civilians of Kashmir and Punjab fighting along with us. They supported us all and there was no question of caste or religion or Hindu or Muslim in Kashmir or Punjabi and Sikh in Punjab. Everybody wanted to defend his motherland. That was the slogan everywhere. The need of the hour today is that a similar slogan should be raised in the Parliament. When we are elected, we do not represent one caste or community but all the communities of our area. It is our duty and responsibility that we speak for all the communities and not be swayed by petty considerations.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since 1984, when I was first elected to Parliament, I have been to Kashmir many times. I got the opportunity of reorganising DCC and PCC. When I met people,

I found that there was lot of poverty in the State. Educationally they were very backward. Whichever Government came to power in the State, it did not do anything for Kashmir. It was because of this ineffectiveness over the years that gradually a fire engulfed the State and hell was let loose. When I went there, I came to know that the then Chief Minister had some tiff with the Education Department. We told him that if education is made free upto 10th class, small children of 3 to 5 years would not be forced to row the boats. But no heed was paid to it and as a result nothing happened.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Home Minister that if these were the facts and this was the condition why was Shri Jagmohan posted there as Governor? On what grounds were Hindus asked to leave the State? Had the situation deteriorated to such an extent that only one community could live there and the rest were to shift elsewhere? Kashmiri people had set an example of peace and amity and earlier they were considered a very subdued community as they never killed even a hen. I would not use the word coward for them, but there was a feeling of fraternity. There was perfect communal harmony and there have never been any communal riots there. When Hindu-Muslim riots had not taken place there, what was the reason of asking—Hindus to leave the state? It was a well planned conspiracy, but nobody is aware of the conspiracy. The conspiracy was to expel the Hindus from Kashmir and ruin the state thereafter on some pretext. Is there any parallel anywhere in the world, where all communities barring one community might have been segregated. Could it happen in Punjab? Such a thing should never happen. It should be the earnest endeavour of all of us to send back all Hindus to their respective native places with honour. Shri Dau Dayal Joshi was

[Sh. Ayub Khan]

speaking just now. Are there any members in his party who might have courage to visit Kashmir and assess the condition of the people there. All of us should go there and assess the situation. We should examine their grievances and troubles. Terrorism has no regard for any religion or faith. It does not respect any religion, caste or community. Its only aim is to terrorise the people. All the Muslims should not be linked with terrorism. I am also a Muslim. Our religion says that if a Muslim is a true follower of Islamic faith, he can never be a traitor. If he is a traitor, he can't be a true Muslim. The teachings of 'Quran' imbibe a spirit that no Muslim can be a traitor. Now I would like to tell you that if anyone is a traitor, he cannot be a Muslim. Our religion also teaches us to respect a temple in the same manner as we respect our religion and mosque. To make a distinction between a temple and a mosque is not the issue here. I have come here after having served in the armed forces. The persons who have served in the armed forces are present here ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should concentrate on the Bill which is before us.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: I would like to appeal to you not to create such feelings which are likely to harm the country and not to deliver such speeches which may lead to the disintegration of the nation. I would urge upon you that with a view to help the people of Kashmir, the terrorism should be dealt with an iron hand. The daughter of Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, the then Home Minister, was abducted by terrorists. A serious blunder was committed at that time. Should the Home Minister of a nation mortgage or sell his country for securing the release of his daughter? It would have been better if Shri Mufti Saheb had said

that he was not father of his daughter alone, but he was like a father of crores of daughters and he should have sacrificed his daughter, but he should not have made a compromise with the terrorists for getting his daughter released. He should have set an example, but such an example was not set. We are not concerned if anybody's name is linked with the name of Shri Mufti Mohammad Saheb. He was the Home Minister of this country. If anybody commits such a mistake irrespective of his position and caste, it is after all a mistake and nobody is greater than our nation. Neither our religion nor anything else is greater than our nation. We should sacrifice all these things, but we should save our country.

I have heard and seen the people who raised the issue of Bofors gun. They never thought that these guns would protect the country. We should not criticise the guns, though we can make criticism of the money involved in it. We should not talk in terms of selling our country, although we can oppose and criticise each other and the party of our opponents, yet we should not harm our country. I would urge upon you that all of us should think as to how Kashmir could be saved. The only way to save Kashmir in my opinion is that Hindu brethren should be sent back to Kashmir with honour and proper arrangements should be made so that they may live there peacefully. A team of Members of Parliament should also be sent there to assess the situation there. Stern action should be taken against the terrorists irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. If someone is a terrorist, he is follower of no religion. If there is any Muslim among terrorists, he is not a true Muslim as a Muslim cannot betray his country and he cannot be a traitor. No Muslim can oppose the temple and no mosque can be built at the site of temple. In our Shariat, it is mentioned

that a mosque can never be constructed at the site of any temple. A mosque can't be constructed on a land lent by anyone or on land of others. If any mosque exists anywhere it must have been built after procuring a piece of land in exchange of hard earned money. It has been explained very clearly in our religion that a mosque can never be built on the land of others. Secondly, we have declared in our constitution that no distinction would be made between a temple and a mosque. We should show equal respect to a temple and a mosque. Then how can the assertions made here hold good. The way B.J.P. members are speaking here and the way emotions have been aroused here, is not proper. I would like to submit to them that their views may be relevant at the party level, but they should speak in the House in such a manner which helps in saying and strengthening the country. One should not express too much bitterness against members of one particular community. If you think that you can gain something by doing so, it is not good, as it would not be in the interest of the nation. I concede that Syed Shahabuddin Saheb is equally responsible as B.J.P. members are, in creating such a situation. Had Shri Sahabuddin Saheb not raised such an inciting slogan on that day, these people would not have been united at one place and talked in such a manner. These circumstances have been created due to the slogan raised by him on 26th January.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to request all the Members to concentrate on the Bill only. There is no need to speak on Kashmir issue or communal riots. You should speak on the subject of the Bill.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: I was speaking on the subject matter of the Bill that most stringent action should be taken against the terrorists and they should be dealt with an iron hand. With these words, I support the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Surya Narayan Yadav, Please confine yourself to the subject matter of Bill only.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise on a point of Order. Our Dau Dayal Joshi has spoken just now. It was his right as he had moved the resolution for disapproval. The first chance should now be given to B.J.P. No member from B.J.P. has spoken till now. A member from B.J.P. should be called first. Other members should be given chance only when Members from B.J.P. have spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will also be given a chance.

(Interruptions)

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: But the first chance should be given to Members from B.J.P.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): After Minister, there is full justification for giving a chance to a Member from B.J.P. First of all, you should please call a member from B.J.P. *(Interruptions)*

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: How did you skip the turn of this side.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: You should kindly call the names out of the list which was sent to the Honourable Speaker. Business should be transacted in an orderly manner. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: One member from your party has already spoken.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: When has our member spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you also a chance. For the time being, you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the objective of this Bill is to initiate

[Sh. Surya Narayan Yadav]
the election process in Jammu and Kashmir, which is long overdue. Understandably, the Government needs some breathing time to tackle the present law and order problem in the state. The National Front Government, which came to power in 1989, used to regularly review the situation in the state after every six months, but unfortunately, the situation there worsened day after day. The then Prime Minister had given a categorical assurance that elections to the State Assembly would be held after six months. Now this Government has brought forward this Bill. I support it because I agree with the Government's perception that the situation in the state is not conducive for holding elections, but I would certainly like to add here that the Congress Party is to be squarely blamed for the present situation in the state, as explained by my friend, Shri Bhogendra Jha. Are we responsible for the present situation in Kashmir? No doubt, we too had committed mistakes. Sir, I don't want to absolve my party of the mistakes, it had committed. I admit that we had set a wrong precedent by releasing some terrorists to free the daughter of the Home Minister from the clutches of the terrorists, who had kidnapped her and unfortunately we are paying the price for that error on our part, to this day. As I said earlier, I have no hesitation in admitting the mistakes committed by our Government, but at the same time, I would like to say that in this Bill, there is no mention whatsoever about what the Government proposes to do or the time frame to solve this problem. I wonder whether Kashmir will continue to undergo the present agony or whether there will be an end to it? There is no point in assessing the success and failure of the policies pursued by the previous Government or the then Governor. I would like to say that the House will support the Bills in this regard. But are you making any serious effort to study the present situa-

tion there? As my friend mentioned here, it is known to one and all that the situation in the state is deteriorating with each coming day. As Shri Joshi emphasised here, the need of the hour is to rise above party lines and consider ourselves as the representatives of the people and the larger interests of the country should be paramount in our minds.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to suggest the hon. Minister that the displaced people from Kashmir should be sent back to their homes and adequate provisions made for their safety. Not only that, a sense of security should be instilled in the minds of all the people living in Kashmir. All efforts should be made to root out terrorism, which is fast gaining ground in the country. The situation in the State is so bad that sometimes it seems that there is no administration worth its name in the State. Therefore, it is necessary that terrorism is stamped out, with all the strength at our disposal.

Sir, by dissolving the State Assembly, the Government had in fact thrown democracy to the winds. Therefore, it is my humble submission, that if the situation in the state is not conducive for holding fresh elections, then the Government should restore the legitimacy of the dissolved assembly so that a democratic environment is created and a sense of confidence is instilled in the minds of the people that they too are living in a democracy.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman: Sir, I welcome and support the Bill brought to replace the ordinance in this regard, but I would like to state that the Government is not taking the steps, it is required to, to check the deteriorating law and order situation in Kashmir.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if one observes the present situation in Kashmir, it becomes obvious that there is no administration worth its name

in the valley. In fact, it is the writ of the terrorists that runs in the valley. Briefly I would like to cite an example in this regard. Last year, on January 26, Republic Day was celebrated throughout the country, except in Kashmir. The Chief Secretary there had convened a meeting of senior officials and had asked them to be present at the Republic Day function, but you may be surprised to know that officials from the lowest level to the District Magistrate chose not to attend the celebrations in Srinagar. Such is the situation there.

Sir, in Kashmir, Government servants go to Pakistan to undergo arms training. They stay there for months, but are marked present in their offices in Srinagar. They receive training in Pakistan camps, but draw their salaries from the state Government. The Police authorities there refuse to file an F.I.R., when people approach them to lodge complaints about the attacks on the houses of the Migrants. The other day, when I had said that the houses of those who have fled the valley are being looted, the hon. Minister Shri Azad had refuted it. Today I have brought with me a copy of FIR, there are 808 First Information Reports in which the Migrants have complained that their houses have been looted that bombs were thrown on their houses. If you permit, I would like to place this list on the Table of the House. This list also mentions about the 26 temples in 13 villages which were bombed and badly damaged. Worse, the Station House Officers and other Police officers insert advertisements in the newspapers stating that they haven't arrested, harmed or killed any terrorists. They do so for they fear reprisals at the hands of the terrorists. What's more, Pakistan is taking advantage of the swear campaign carried out in the names of violation of human rights by the local and foreign press, especially the American Press. Such elements should not be allowed to go scot free.

One more thing that I would say is that we are giving a wrong signal by saying that we are prepared to talk with the ultras. An attempt is being made to create an impression throughout the world that this problem is there in whole of Jammu and Kashmir, which is totally wrong. The disturbances are limited only to the 50 per cent valley. The regions of Jammu and Ladakh have their own problems, which are in no way linked to the problem in the Kashmir valley. No anti-national activities are taking place in both the regions of the state. Therefore, it is essential that we make endeavours to remove this misunderstanding that the whole state want to secede from India or that they want to accede to Pakistan. Although it is reiterated from time to time that terrorism will be strictly dealt with, the actions of the Government, whether it be that of the Chandra Shekhar Government, the National Front Government or the Congress Government that preceded them, goes to show that they have all along been sending wrong signals to the anti-national elements. It would be too premature to assess the actions of your Government, which has assumed office only lately.

Sometimes, it is heard that there are moves to reinstate Dr. Farooq Abdullah. In fact, people started getting influenced by the vicious propaganda of the anti-national elements, from the day Dr. Abdullah bungled the State elections. The people were disillusioned of and came under the sway of the secessionists. It is on the record of the Home Ministry, that when Dr. Farooq Abdullah was the Chief Minister, about 150 people went to Pakistan to undergo training. Therefore, if the Government tries to appoint Shri Farooq Abdullah as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir once again, I do not think the Centre would be able to solve the problem of terrorism in the valley. On the contrary, it will

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flare up further. The Government must consider this point before taking such a step.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is another point which I want to raise in the House. As my hon. Friend mentioned just now, the news reports of the last 3-4 days indicate that trained Pakistani soldiers are intruding into the country along with the terrorists. The personnel of the armed forces of Pakistan in plain clothes are infiltrating into this side of the border with the result that 1965 like situation is developing once again. This is a very serious issue and the Government should pay attention to it.

I would like to repeat one thing which I said last time also that Government is sending wrong signals. The Government says and it is a fact—that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, but the hon. Members would be surprised to know, as most of them do not know, that census have been conducted in the entire country except Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to know why census have not been conducted in the State after 1941? You say that we are communal because we demand abrogation of article 370. I do not want to be drawn into that controversy right now, but I would certainly like to know as to why census were not conducted there? ... (*Interruptions*)... In Assam, Census were not conducted because there were foreign infiltrators. What signals do the Government intend to send to the outside world. Do you want to give a handle to Pakistan so that they may claim that Jammu and Kashmir is not a part of India? I oppose such things which the Government has been doing.

Now I come to migrants. I am really distressed to hear the stories, which some people have been telling about migrants. Some people say that Shri Jagmohan brought only

Hindus from the valley. Whom do you want to deceive? To whose injuries do you want to add salt? Can there be a person who will desert his house and property just for nothing and wander like a nomad? By doing so, the Government is simply strengthening the case of Pakistan. Radio Pakistan and Pak TV will repeat what my hon. colleague belonging to the Congress Party has just now said and then it will become a propaganda plank for the media in that country. If a Member belonging to the ruling party of the country says that since Muslims were to be killed in that part of the country, Shri Jagmohan brought the Hindus from there, the Radio and TV of Pakistan will use it as a handle for propaganda so as to create a bad impression about India in the outside world. To make such statements just to cover up petty political follies is not in the national interest. These migrants are living like refugees in their own country. We have been hearing such statements coming as they did from the Members of the National Conference, but now that a Member belonging to the Congress Party has made such a statement, I would like the Home Minister to clarify their stand. Have the migrants from the valley come under that policy or the Government has a difference of opinion with what their hon. Member has said? The hon. Minister must clarify it lest Pakistan and other countries opposed to us should misuse such a statement. I would like to make it clear why they came here as refugees. Posters carrying threatening to the effect that their daughters would be kidnapped if they did not leave their houses by a specified date were pasted outside their houses. Now that, that have come here as migrants, why are their Bank accounts in Kashmir being freezed. I demand that deposits in their accounts should be paid to them. Why are not their houses being restored to them? Why are their houses being looted? To say that their houses are not being

looted is incorrect. I have with me the proof to the effect that their houses are being looted. It is very rare that their F.I.R. is registered. More often than not, their F.I.Rs. are not registered. But I do have with me a copy of the F.I.R. and all the proofs with regard to the house number etc.....

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): You have just now said that F.I.R. is not registered. How then did you get a copy of the F.I.R.?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: In Delhi, it is a common topic of discussion that more often than not, F.I.R. is not registered. But it does not mean that F.I.R. is not registered at all. But I mean to say is that they avoid to register the F.I.R. just to keep the crime rate undercheck. This is how they show the crime rate to be declining. What I want to say is that the actual number of incidents is far more than what the F.I.Rs show. The migrants are living in pathetic conditions. They are facing all sorts of difficulties whether it is in the matter of employment, admission of their children to educational institutions or the living conditions. They are living in tents and you say that they have come here of their own sweet will. Three-four families are living in one tent for the last two years. As many on 18 families are living in one small room. About 40 people died of sun stroke in Jammu during last summer...*(Interruptions)*... don't say like this, you say that they should go back. Did the migrants from Punjab came here of their own sweet will?

What I want to say is that they did not come here of their own, they were forced to leave the valley. They have come here to protect the honour of their daughters. I do not say that they have been driven out from the valley by the Muslims, the fear of terrorists have forced them to

flee. That is the fact and we should admit it.

The question now before us is as to how to solve their problem. Last two years have seen three Prime Ministers. The present one is the fourth to take over the charge of the affairs of the nation, but I am sorry to say that none of them bothered to visit the camps of migrants in Delhi and Jammu to see the miserable conditions in which they are living. Therefore, will someone go and see the conditions in which they are living.

I would like to be excused, but I cannot help saying that a feeling has gained ground in their hearts today that they had to leave their homes and live here like refugees only because they accepted India as their motherland and the tricolour as their national flag. Had we too accepted the Pakistani flag as our own, they would have allowed us to stay there. They feel that they have been punished for not toeing their line. Therefore, I want to say that what is needed today is to give them a healing touch and find ways to solve their problem. To say that they have come here of their own sweet will or Shri Jagmohan or the B.J.P. have brought them is nothing but adding salt to their injuries and hence at least such things should not be said about them.

I have two-three suggestions to make. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has three regions Jammu, Kashmir valley and Laddakh and we see that there is a lot of regional imbalance there in the matter of development, as a result of which there is a great resentment among the people in Jammu and Laddakh regions. Since time at my disposal is very short, I shall be very brief in my suggestions. Government should deal with the terrorist and anti-national elements sternly and should not hold any talks with them

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as long as they do not agree to abide by the constitution of this country. The Government should not act contrary to this stand because that will send wrong hints across the country. Secondly, I would suggest that the democratic process should be set in motion in the State. I do not say that elections to the Parliament should be held there because I agree to the view that elections should be held only when conditions conducive to holding fearless and impartial elections are created and as of now such conditions do not exist. Elections in the valley had never been impartial. During the last elections, only one—two per cent polling took place and that is why I consider that election too a fraud. I am not in favour of holding elections there until normalcy is restored, but let there be elections to the municipalities and Zila Parishads to begin with. Thirdly, I would request that the Government should constitute regional Councils of Jammu, Kashmir and Laddakh so as to make the people of the respective regions accountable for the development of their regions. Fourthly, I would suggest that a cell should be set-up on war footing for the redressal of the grievances of the migrants.

One more point and I would conclude my submission. I do not consider all people of Kashmir valley as anti-national. There are many tribes such as Gujjar and Bakarwal who are pro-India and we have to win their confidence. The Central Government must create confidence in them by assuring them that the activities of the terrorists will not be tolerated any more. The Government will have to find solution to the Kashmir issue besides removing regional imbalances in Jammu and Laddakh. At the same time, proper plans would have to be drawn up to facilitate development of these two regions and to rehabilitate the migrants from the valley. I want that the Government or the Home Minister should

announce some concrete measures in this direction in the House.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): We are discussing the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law Amendment (Second Amending) Bill. I think there is another Bill Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill. I think we can discuss both the items together. So, my points will be with regard to both.

THE MINISTER OF HOME (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): It is only for unlawful activities.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: That is true. But I am saying that there is another thing which will come just after that. So, on the same lines, the debate will continue. This is for granting another six months' time to the Tribunal that was constituted to go into the matter of declaration of unlawfulness of some organisations.

The State Government wanted some time and we have to give it. It is really necessary that when the Executive takes certain measures which are harsh by nature, there is a certain mechanism to scrutinise the action and to decide whether it was done legitimately or not. Now one year's time had been given for that, but they could not complete their job within that period. So, another time of six months is required by them for completing the job. That is what they wanted. We have to give that time so that the action taken by the Government is genuinely legitimised. Though there may be a necessity in some parts of the country to declare certain organisations as unlawful as they are indulging in anti-national activities with the support of foreign countries, on principle, I believe that only by this kind of measures we cannot tackle the situation in a right manner. There is no doubt that we

have to put an end to the kind of campaign and activities which these banned organisations are pursuing. They are harmful to the interest and the unity of the country. They are secessionists; they want to destabilise our country; they are killing innocent people of our country; they are taking recourse to communal kind of activities.

Now, we have to have a total fight against this; and if we are sincere in launching this kind of fight through the mobilisation of the people, then this technical question of whether to declare some banned organisations as unlawful organisations or not does not matter much.

But what are we doing and what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir? What is happening is that we are taking, on paper, certain technical measures, certain administrative measures which are not being matched by political action. That is why they are not being isolated from the people. They have to be isolated. The way they have created havoc in the valley they should not have any support by now.

The people of Kashmir should have understood that their destiny is tied with India. They understood it before. It may be that, that generation, many of them, have passed away. The new generation has entered. They do not know vividly what happened during those days when we were attaining freedom. They do not know what kind of attitude the leaders of Kashmir at that time had. When Shri Jinnah visited the Valley to enlist the support of the people for Pakistan and Muslim League, people of the valley rejected Jinnah's appeal. And they decided to join India, that is secular. They did want to join a theocratic Pakistan.

Now the people of the same Valley, how have they gone astray? We have

to think deeply about this. It is a very serious matter. Despite all the gloomy picture that we see there in the Valley and despite the kind of reports we receive from time to time, I think, there are certain things which are very positive. For example, the attempt to incite the people on communal lines, on fundamentalist lines, and the elements there have failed to communalise the situation in the Valley of Kashmir.

On the ground, we had the report of a committee one year ago, when we had a Committee on Kashmir Affairs, when we had the opportunity to visit the Valley twice. We did meet the people there. Despite the curfew, people's curfew, imposed by the terrorists, secessionist elements, people in hundreds came to meet us and after the ritual of claiming Azadi and shouting against India, they started giving vent to their feelings of denial, discrimination, their suffering economy and otherwise.

Now that was a time when we understood that the kind of campaign that was going on in the rest of the country portraying that the problem in the Valley was communal. We understood that it was not. Communal elements, Muslim fundamentalists supported by Pakistan and their mentors overseas, they are trying to use religion for their ends.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you propose to do? Do you want to adjourn the House at 6 P.M.?

SHRI M. M. JACOB: We have a problem. Tomorrow is the only sitting for the Rajya Sabha. Unless we pass it today and give the message to the other House they cannot pass it. Tomorrow is the last day. So, please make it positive and conclude it. I request you to extend the time by one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that we extend the time by one hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:
Agreed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Some more
Hon. Members may like to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will accom-
modate all.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling):
You were a member of that Com-
mittee and you visited Pakistan. What
is the solution? What is the way out?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHU-
RY: There is no doubt that the fun-
damentalist elements there are trying
to exploit religion to have a hold over
the people of Kashmir. I have no dou-
bt about it. But despite that, when
we visited the Valley, the people told
us that they were hurt because their
Hindu brothers had to leave the Val-
ley.

18.00 hrs.

We asked them, what guarantee they
could give to make them stay there.
They said: "We also want security."
How can we give them guarantee if
some terrorist comes and kills some-
body in the night? It requires a coor-
dinated attempt by the people and
by the Government to put up a kind
of vigilance. I do not know whether
any attempt was made in this regard.
But then the ground situation was not
communal. We heard that the
houses of the pandits were being
burnt. But when we went there, the
people told us, even when we visited
the camps of the migrants in Jammu,
they told us that they gave the key
to the neighbours and came away.

Even a few days ago, the leaders
of the migrants came to Delhi and
met us. They requested us to raise
their demands in the House. I also
do not agree that somebody could
influence them to leave. I just do not
subscribe to the view that they were

influenced by somebody to leave the
valley. I do not subscribe to this
view because psychologically it was
a very difficult situation for them
to live there. If I were the Governor
of Jammu and Kashmir, I would
have told them to stay there despite
this. Here the Administration failed.
I criticise Shri Jagmohan, who was
the Governor there at that time.. (In-
terruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: (Bombay-
North): What happened after that?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHU-
RY: The leaders of the migrants
came here and requested us to raise
their issue in the House. I raised it
and many Members supported it.
They are living in a very miserable
condition in Jammu and elsewhere.

Now, Sir, their tales are very bad
and so many other problems are there
such as getting loans. What will hap-
pen to the young people in their com-
munity? Then, what will happen to
the HMT workers, their salary? At
that time it was settled that 75 per
cent of the Basic and D.A. will be
given to them though they demanded
full salary. Even that was stopped
after some months. Again we raised
the issue, we talked to the Prime
Minister, and the Industry Minister
and now, I believe, that has been re-
sumed.

Then, there are certain other things
to be done for them. Some of those
who came out from the valley are
employees and they are now, on the
verge of retirement. What will happen
to their retirement benefits? They
cannot go back to the valley imme-
diately. Then, how the papers will be
obtained? All these require sympa-
thetic consideration and attention. We
cannot allow a situation in Jammu
and elsewhere, the migrants to degene-
rate to such a level, whereby it can
be again exploited by other kind of
fundamentalists. While in the Valley

the Muslim community is being attempted to be exploited on communal lines, we should not allow another situation to happen in Jammu, where in other kind of communal elements could exploit the situation there. We should not allow that Communalism of this kind or that kind is bad.

The migrants came and met me. They particularly and individually requested me to raise their demands in the House by our party. They knew very well that our party is secular and we do not indulge in communalism. Many times I raised it in the House. Sir, 'Parliament News' and 'Sansad Samachar' do not bother to mention our names. I never made any complaint.....(Interruptions) On this I must make a complaint now... (Interruptions) Here I tell you how some minds are working. When this issue was raised here in the House, in the Hindu Sansad Samachar bulletin, they forgot to mention as to who raised it. They said that some BJP member raised it. I ask whether the problem of the migrants is a BJP problem and whether somebody with a non-BJP name has no right to raise that issue. Have we become that kind of communal? Has our Doordarshan been like this? I take a very serious note of this because what is needed is that there should be no communalisation of the situation.

I must say that whatever the kind of committee we had, after the dissolution of that committee, this problem has suffered a lot. Nobody gave any political attention to it. We left everything to the administration there. We got ourselves bogged down into petty politicking.

That is how we have neglected a very serious problem in relation to our unity and integrity. We cannot now neglect it any more. Let there be an all-party meeting. Let there be an

advisory committee. Let there be a committee comprising of all the political parties at the level of the Governor, at the district level which can talk to the people. There has been no interaction with the people for the last one year. It is a crime. Now we cannot allow this to continue any more. At that time, we did go there twice and talked to the people.

One thing is that the militants there must understand, and I think they now understand, that they cannot take Kashmir away from India. That is clear. That was told in unequivocal terms. They must also understand that in India there are people who fell for them, feel for their problems. Now what is happening in Pak-occupied Kashmir? There is no democracy there. We talk about no elections in our part of Kashmir despite the fact that we had good elections in 1977 or sometimes later. If there is an aberration, there are voices raised. There are people who criticise any aberration, any rigging. But in Pak-occupied Kashmir, there is no democracy. The whole thing is rigged. The Advisor of Mr. Nawaz Sharief, Mr. Malik, has said that they have rigged the last elections in Pakistan. So in India we have democracy, secularism, we have the attitude for decentralisation of political and economic power. We are concerned about regional identities of all linguistic and cultural people. All these values are required to be reiterated again and again and no attempt should be made to go back on this. If in the rest of the country there are communal elements, who are raising their heads, those have also to be crushed. Then in Kashmir the fight will be easier...

SHRI INDER JIT: You have said that the migrants should have stayed on in the Kashmir valley—all the Kashmir pundits and all those who were forced to come away. Would you support the proposition that it is a national commitment and a duty

[Sh. Inderjit]

of the Government of India to help these migrants to go back to the valley and be re settled there with all security?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: I am happy to say here that the leaders of the migrants who came here, said that they would go back to Kashmir. We must make all ground realities prepared for their going back. They have to go back there. That is their place of living. They cannot remain outside. But right kind of atmosphere should be created for that. If they come out and decide not to go back, then the design of Pakistan will be successful. That we must remember. They have to go back.

I do not want to take much of your time. We must now try to have political interaction with the people there. That will be the harbinger for political process in the valley. I also support Shri Madan Lal Khurana when he said that there has to be consideration for some kind of autonomy of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir State. I think it has to be carefully considered so that these regional imbalances are removed and all parts of the Jammu and Kashmir State live in harmony and in a healthy atmosphere of unity and fuller integration with the country. With these words, I thank you very much for giving me time.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): I rise here to support the Bill. This Bill is for giving more time to the Tribunal for going to the merits of the case. One year is not sufficient, so the State Government has recommended for six more months, for this. I entirely agree with that because the Tribunal must go into the details of the merit of the case and before manning any organisation they have to collect the facts. So, one year and six months are essential for the Tribunal to go into the merits of the case.

Sir, in our country certain organisations are working against the national interests. They are trying to instigate the people on communal lines, to work against the national interests and are trying to create chaos and confusion in the country. They are supporting secessionism and they are trying to disrupt our public life and harmony. These organisations are trying to create communal riots and are trying to create confusion among the different sections of the society. So, not only in Jammu and Kashmir but also in other parts of the country these organisations are working. So, my request to the Central Government is to work on this line and ban certain organisations who are trying to create communal tensions in our country. Of course, certain organisations are trying deliberately to create communal riots and fanaticism and are trying to disintegrate our country. So, these communal organisations must be banned and their activities should be stopped.

Sir, many hon. Members have expressed certain points regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Day-by-day the situation is worsening. Yesterday, I have raised it during Zero Hour. For the last 38 days the Director of Indian Oil Corporation, Shri Doraiswamy, was in the captivity of Jammu and Kashmir militants. Everyday we are hearing in the newspapers that he is going to be released tomorrow and discussions are going on. Today, we saw in the newspaper an ultimatum was given by militants that his right hand is going to be cut. I want to know from the hon. Home Minister what are the steps taken by the Central Government for earlier release of this Director of Indian Oil Corporation. It is highly shameful. I may mention here that former Home Minister, Shri Mufti Mohd. Sayed's daughter was released within four days. And here for the last 38 days the man is in the custody of J & K militants. I do not know what action

has been taken. The Central Government employees are in agony. They can't go out, they can't go for work. Proper protection must be given to the Central Government employees who are working in this particular situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

As regards encouragement which they are getting from Pakistan, the Pakistani Government is giving full support to these militants. Training camps are being run for them in Pakistan. They are using sophisticated weapons. They are crossing the border and coming to Kashmir and are creating all these troubles. I would like to know from the Government what steps they have taken to stop this crossing of the border. If the Government is not going to stop the crossing of the border, these activities will go on and we cannot stop them.

These militants must be dealt with with an iron hand. We have to face them. Definitely we cannot show softness to these militants. As Shri Saifuddin Choudhury has mentioned here, the people in the Valley are fed up with the terrorists. They are not at all associated with these terrorists. They want to remain in the Indian Union. They want to be with the Indians. The only problem is that the Pakistan-trained people who are coming here are working on communal lines and are trying to exploit the sentiments of the poor people of the Kashmir Valley. But now the militants are getting isolated. So, this is the time to act.

There are certain special problems of the people of Jammu and Kashmir especially of the youth. Of course, unemployment is a big problem everywhere, but we have to look after the problems of the youth of the Jammu and Kashmir separately. I visited Jammu two months before. Some of the graduates there are sitting on hunger strike. I met them and discussed with them. For the last four hundred

days they are sitting on hunger strike. Their demand is to fill up the vacancies in the Government departments. They have represented to the Governor. I personally spoke to the Governor. There are certain vacancies in the Food Department but the Government is not taking any measures to fill up those vacancies. This is just one example that I am citing. For the last four hundred days they are sitting on dharna and the Government is not taking any steps to fill up the vacancies. The vacancies are existing and there are qualified persons also available.

There are other issues also which can be tackled very easily by the Government but the Governor as well as the Government officers are not at all keen to solve even the small problems which are being faced by the youth as well as by the people of that area.

As regards the Committees—that was the demand made from all corners of this House—there must be some Advisory Committee and the representatives of all the parties should be there on that committee. We see that nowadays corruption is going on like anything. Since there is nobody to check the corruption—there is no Assembly, there is no democratic process, only the officers are ruling—so, the corruption is also going on. This corruption must be stopped and for the effective implementation of the programmes and for the effective implementation of the developmental activities, there must be some popular committees and representatives of all parties must be there on those committees.

I want to say one word about the migrants. One of our hon. Members mentioned that only BJP is helping them. Without going into the party politics, I would like to say that on the instructions of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, we had gone there and we helped these poor people who are suffering in the camps. A.I.C.C. is

[Sh. Ramesh Chennithala]

still helping the poor people who are suffering in these refugee camps in Jammu and Kashmir. The tents are in a very bad shape. The people in the camps are suffering a lot. They are not given proper protection. Their children are not getting education facilities. They are facing problems for getting the pensions. There are lot of problems in these refugee camps.

I spoke to the Relief Commissioner who said that they are giving all the facilities for the refugees. But, I may mention that in almost all the camps, people are starving and they are not getting the salaries, pensions etc. There is nobody to look after them. This is the state of affairs of the Government. The Governor, his Advisers and Relief Commissioners are all sitting simply in their offices. They are not taking care of the sufferings of the poor people in the refugee camps.

I urge upon the Government to send an all-party delegation to Jammu and Kashmir to study the present situation there. Moreover, stern action should be taken against the J&K militants who are trying to disrupt the peace and harmony in the valley.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law Amendment Bill brought by the Government because without it, it is not possible to run the administration there. Period of one year has been completed on 17th June, 1991. Now the Hon. Home Minister has proposed to extend the period by six months. Whenever a bill regarding any state is presented we extend the period by 6 months, whether it is extension of the President's Rule or extension of the period of such Bills. The Government pleads for extension as if the situation will improve after six months. If the hon. Home Minister is able to do so within six months, I would consider it good fortune of the

country. All the same, I have been to Jammu and Kashmir, and nobody can say that the difficult situation prevailing there would be brought under control within 6 months. The influence of the present Government is so limited that the hon. Home Minister has not been able to go there himself. As my friends have said that people have come from there as refugees and are living in the camps here which have not been visited by the Home Minister. The high officials could not participate in the function held on 26th January in Srinagar, so the influence of the present government is limited only to the airport and the Secretariat, beyond this area the government has got no influence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I went to Doda district, I asked the Deputy Commissioner there as to the number of Government employees, who are on the rolls here and marked present and paid salary here but are receiving training in Pakistan? Initially Deputy Commissioner was reluctant to say anything but later on he gave the number as 12 or 18. I said, "Mr. D.C. the list of such people which we possess has 66 names. The Bill which the Government has brought means that the people, the institutions, who are bent upon disturbing the amity, should be declared unlawful. The activities of such elements should be checked. The Minister may take the trouble of explaining the position as to how many people and how many institutions have been declared as such? I am told that people have gone to foreign countries, they have returned from Pakistan after receiving training and on their return they got their salaries and promotion and are called "foreign returned" people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the question of Doraiswamy is coming up. We have arrived at a situation of pick and choose. During the National Front Government when the daughter of the Home Minister was kidnapped terrorists were released in order to

save her. Shri Khera, General Manager HMT was killed and then we were very strict. Do we think that there is any citizen left who can sacrifice himself when there is such a need! But if it concerns us we can release the extremists. Hon. Home Minister, you shall have to realise that every Indian citizen has his own importance, his life is equally dear to his family members as the life of the daughter of the Home Minister or any high official. Besides, I would also like to refer to the voice often raised in Parliament about the propaganda against us abroad. At times, in order to score a minor point we say something against the interests of the nation and in foreign country the same words spoken by us are projected against us. Electronic media, Television and Radio of Pakistan are propagating against us. Mere amendment of this law won't serve any purpose. Is the Government taking any steps to counter their propaganda? I had been to the Conference of Inter Parliamentary Union held in Uruguay. The delegates from Pakistan said in the conference that the dignity of women is at stake and the children are massacred, there was a reason behind it. Last year when it was being discussed here, several honourable Members may recall that there was pandemonium in the House alleging killing of innocent people and repression and we had to answer in Uruguay, we had to speak for our country and that we did. But the Members who spoke in those terms in the House had unfortunately to face that very situation when they criticised the terrorists. I mean to say that a terrorist is a terrorist, he does not belong to any particular religion or a particular caste. The people who have taken to terrorism, and extremism do not love their motherland and the Government has to adopt a clear policy in dealing with them. If you are soft towards a particular class or community that won't help and if some terrorists are raising any objection or an innocent person is killed we have to consider that also. The Government can definitely do some-

thing if it adopts certain definite policies. It is perhaps then alone that the whole nation, the whole Parliament will follow it and support you, and if the Government delays it then it won't be possible to do anything.

Some of your friends and the Hon. Minister also say that the temples were not attacked there. Hon. Ghulam Nabi Azad is from Doda district. There is a Tehsil Bholderwah and there is an ancient temple of Vasuki Naag. This temple was attacked with bombs. Whenever he visits his district Doda he will see the marks of bombs on the temple. Sir, once it so happened that a person was fleeing after hurling a bomb. People ran after him and caught him, somehow he managed to run away but his identity card fell down. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be surprised to know that when his Identity Card was seen, it was learnt that he was a Jawan of the 9th Battalion of Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police. A Jawan of Police indulged in hurling a bomb at the temple. What action the Government or the State authorities have taken against him is for you to see, but the conditions are such that the administration is giving patronage and protection to the extremists who are engaged in anti-national activities. Therefore, this law should be enforced against organisations and people, who are trying to alienate Kashmir from the rest of India. Ad-hocism and extension of the period by six months is not to last long. The Government shall have to frame a clear policy about Kashmir. Many a time we hear about holding talks with Farooq Abdullah. The speakers preceding me said that this gentleman was also associated with militancy, and during his time also people would go for taking training. Therefore, I request the Government to adopt a clear policy about Jammu and Kashmir. There are some patriots but they are silent. Some terrorists are ruling there. The Government will have to distinguish between a patriot and others. The Government should

[Prof. Prem Dhumal]

support the forces which are in favour of the unity and solidarity of the country and condemn the people who are disloyal to the country.

Finally, I would like to say one thing.

A purpose of bringing this amendment is that people try to disturb the amity there (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): I want to ask one question.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: I am not supposed to explain to you. Let the Minister explain everything to you.

[Translation]

Please take your seat. I have very little time at my disposal. I have not so much time that I could explain each and everything to you. In this Bill there is a special mention about the people who will spoil the atmosphere of brotherhood there. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it must have come to your notice that I had presented a petition on behalf of Buddhists in the last Lok Sabha. People of other communities, I mean Muslim forcibly married to some Buddhist women. I would like to draw your attention towards this matter because the Buddhist community of Laddakh is feeling insecure these days. Voice is being raised in Jammu and in Laddakh for grant of regional autonomy. It has resulted all the developmental activities have come to a standstill there. In spite of Ladakh's population running in Lakhs, there is not a single I.T.I. The Government will have to end this imbalance and take steps to maintain balance. The Government will have to create an order and atmosphere there in which nobody is able to forcibly marry anybody's daughter. Some people are taking

undue advantage of this situation there. Therefore, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that although my party is supporting the amendment in the national interest, yet we would like to strike a note of caution that the government should give up the *ad-hoc* policies and bring forward definite policies. The Government will have to adopt a stern attitude within the country and outside and everywhere in order to save Kashmir from being alienated from India. The Government should not hesitate even to bombard the areas of Pakistan where training is being imparted to extremists. With these words I thank you.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill that is before us is really the culmination of the original sin of Shri Jagmohan dissolving the Kashmir Assembly. If he had not done that, perhaps this Bill would have been before that Assembly.

Sir hon. Members have dilated on the situation in Kashmir. I do not think we have enough time to go over this very wide canvas. So, I sincerely hope that the hon. Minister, in his reply, will touch some of the points that have already been raised on the floor of this House. But permit to say, Mr. Chairman, that the situation in Kashmir is a great national tragedy. The valley was ringing once upon a time in 1947 and 1948 with slogans and I recall them with feeling. I was then in school and I saw the films of the people marching in the streets with whatever they had in their hands in order to resist the invasion of Kashmir and shouted:

“Hamlawar khabardar, hum Kashmiri bain Bedar”

I think many of us will recall that and today, the same valley is ringing

with slogans of rebellion, with the drum beats of war, with inhuman atrocities, with waves of repression. It is indeed a great human tragedy, a great national tragedy, the end of a dream which has turned into a nightmare. This is a failure that we have got to admit and there is no use putting the blame on one or the other.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I spoke of the original sin and I realise that every-one of us has his own private list of saints and sinners. We are counter-posing one against the other, Sheikh Abdullah against Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Farooq Abdullah against Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and so on and so forth and yet that does not help us. I would like to make a very small point, with your permission, that the present Government has no prescription on Kashmir and even the President's Address, which we have debated here, was totally silent and in a number of replies that have been given on the floor of the House, nothing had been said about how the Government propose to tackle the situation in Kashmir, except the formation of some nebulous people's committees, which, of course, is too little and too late and perhaps will not provide any forward step.

There is a political vacuum in Kash-mir. There is indeed no democracy in Kashmir. Permit me to say that with the operation of the four black laws, Kashmir is virtually, I say virtually, *de facto*, under a military administration. There is no civil administration worth the name. The Government may be sitting on the top of the file but the civil administration has neither responsibility nor power. Atrocities are being committed day in and day out. There is a state of repression. I am not the one to condone terrorism or atrocities by any one and the fact is that there is no feeling for human life left. There is no distinction between those who are anti-national and those who are nationalists. We are making no diffe-

rence between terrorists and the people of Kashmir. The alienation of the masses, therefore, is complete. The political disaffection of the people is almost on the margin of rebellion. There are friends in this House who suggest that all of them have revolted against the State, and that we have nothing to do except to go and bomb them out, bomb them out of existence, throw them out, push them out and liquidate them, there can be no place in human society for those who have rebelled against the State. This is the prescription they offer. And yet can that prescription solve the Kash-mir problem? Can that save Kash-mir? Can that help us? No. I feel that something more needs to be done.

SHRI INDERJIT: Give us your remedy.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Such simple solutions cannot do. There cannot be immediate panacea. There has to be a progressive step by step approach and I do suggest that, for a change, let the Prime Minister call a meeting of all the party leaders and consult them on the situation in Kashmir. Let him also follow a suggestion made by Shri Saifuddin Choudhury to form an Advisory Committee on Kashmir consisting of Members of this House and from all regions of the country in order to advise the Governor on how to go about the administration.

SHRI INDERJIT: From Tripura to Tamil Nadu.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: There is a possibility of promoting voluntary organisations, not officially sponsored organisations. Officially sponsored organisations will not cut any ice with the people of Kashmir. But voluntary organisations for the relief of the people, for the rehabilitation of the people and for the welfare of the people, for taking up individual cases of repression, for taking

[Sh. Syed Shahabuddin]

up the question of atrocities, and for getting the people to feel "Yes. There are people who care for us," should be set up. This is the approach.

The time has come when we can perhaps revive the political process if we cannot usher in new elections or revive the Assembly. I personally cannot see that the time is ripe for holding election today.

Having said that, let me say that this Bill that is before us is only a symptom and deals only with the problem only partially and I also join my colleague in questioning the hon. Minister : How is he so sure that after six months or during the next six months, these tribunals should have finished their job? If these tribunals have not been able to function for one year, where is the guarantee that the Government would not come back to us and ask us for another six months, another one year in order to enable them to complete the task? Therefore, I would say that a new approach is called for.

I suggest first that the hon. Minister take the House into confidence. Let him at least place before us the list of organisations and individuals whose cases are pending before the tribunals. We are asked to sign on the dotted line. We are asked to sign a blank cheque. And the hon. Minister is not even prepared to give us the names of the organisations and the charges against them; and the detailed reasons why it has not been possible for the tribunals to deal with their cases. We must know why the notices were not served, why the personal hearing could not take place. Is it not an admission of failure on the part of the Administration? If that is so, doesn't the hon. Minister owe an explanation on the Floor of the House why the Administration has failed even to hold the hearing? Why didn't they serve

notices? Why didn't they present the witnesses in the course of the hearing? Why didn't they try the triable elements that have arisen?

Sir, we would like to know also one basic point. If you look at the law which we are seeking to amend, the reference to a tribunal has a specific purpose. It says that these references must be handled as expeditiously as possible. The term was originally a period of six months. That period was extended to one year. Now that period is sought to be extended to a year and a half. After all, the idea was that this law is basically an abridgement of the fundamental right guaranteed in the Constitution. There is the right to form associations and if the associations function in anti-national manner, the State has the right to curb them. Then, there is a safeguard which says if the State acts capriciously or with ill-will or with a political motive or to settle political accounts, then the tribunal comes in, the quasi-judicial process comes in, in order to save us against the excesses of the State. That is the purpose. Therefore, any extension, *ipso facto*, to my mind, goes against the spirit of the original legislation and it is an example of the excessive use of State power.

Sir, I would like to suggest that there is a third aspect. I would like to point it out. There are organisations all over the country which preach and incite violence; there are organisations all over the country which instigate and organise violence; there are organisations all over the country which promote enmity and hatred and ill-will between social groups; there are organisations all over the country which disrupt public order; there are organisations all over the country which seek to poison and vitiate the social environment and we do not brand them an anti-national organisations. We do not prosecute them. We do not take legal action against them. Does it add to the credibility of the State?

Does it add to our status in Kashmir? Does it add to the faith of the people of Kashmir? They think that they are victims of a double-standard? The fact is that certain things which are said and done in India are beyond the reach of the Constitution and same things when said and done in the Valley are deemed to be within the reach of the Constitution. I am not defending the acts. But I would like to make a political point. There are two ways of dealing with such anti-national organisations, those who seek to subvert public order and sabotage democracy. One is the way of banning them and pushing them underground and there is another way of dealing with them politically; confront them and fight them politically over-ground. You are adopting the under-ground method and you are failing. I am not one of those who suggest that such organisations should all be banned.

SHRI INDERJIT: How do we meet the Pakistani threat and their attack?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No such questions can be asked. This is not the way of a debate. There is no provision for that.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I can deal with them. I am on a specific point that this particular Bill before us raises the issue of double-standard and the issue adds to the ill-will that has been fostered among the people of Kashmir. I would seek your indulgence for a minute.

Sir, something was said about the Temples in Kashmir. I have, in my own ways, tried to save the Temples in Kashmir. In 1986 when I saw Press report that some Temples were damaged, I wrote to Dr. Farooq Abdullah and demanded immediate repairs to the Temples. He reported back to me saying that 4-5 Temples had been damaged and he had got them repair-

ed. After that I got a list from a Kashmiri gentleman and I asked him to provide the details, the names and addresses of those Temples and I am yet to receive a reply. I would like to inform the House that an eminent journalist Shri B. G. Verghese made a very detailed survey and came to a totally different conclusion.

As far as the migrants are concerned, I do not say, that anyone forced them out but they were certainly lured into migration; they were certainly cajoled into migration. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

It is a matter of few days. They were told that they would return to their homes soon and live peacefully after that.

[*English*]

Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to the notice of this House that the only silver lining, I see in this dark situation in Kashmir, is the communal amity and the secular temper of the people of Kashmir. I was there recently and I found that the houses were locked, not looted; I found orchards, all fenced with fruits lying on the ground and nobody touching them. I met people also who questioned why our neighbours have left us; why they do not come back. I would say that let us gain on these emotions of the people of Kashmir. Let us not betray the secular traditions; let us not betray their faith; let us hope and pray that all the people of Kashmir, can go back and serve the Valley. Today, in the Valley there is no administration because those who must run the administration are not in the Valley any longer.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, having said this, I pray to the Government, to please take care of the political situation. This is a very minor measure,

[Sh. Syed Shahabuddin]

though it raises some issues of import. I would suggest that they should go for the list of these barred organisations. If they have not been able to establish a case over the last one year and if they are not guilty of any specific charges which they have been able to prove, then, you should rescind the ban and only pursue those cases in which there is distinct evidence of anti-national activity.

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now if all the formalities are to be completed by 7 O'clock. I am afraid, I should now ask the Minister to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what will be the fate of our amendments?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please extend the time.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME (Shri S. B. Chavan): How many members of one party are going to speak here? A message must go the other House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If more time is to be given, then I do not think that we will complete it by 7 O'clock.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Please extend the time for taking up amendments.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): The other House will

be adjourned. They are waiting for the Bill. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Please help me. The other House will not be there to accept that Bill and tomorrow is the last day. (Interruptions)

The business of the other House is almost over and that is why they are waiting for the message from this House, Everybody is trying to repeat the same point over and over again. There is no new point which is coming forth and that is why, I am requesting all the hon. Members to try to understand the implications. If there is a recess of the Rajya Sabha, then, for almost three weeks, we will not be able to pass this Bill and that is why it is necessary that you have to co-operate with us and see that the Bill is passed. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, by this time, I would have completed my speech... (Interruptions) Let them speak for five minutes and five minutes may be allowed to the mover of amendments. (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please protect our rights. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot ask the other House to wait for us. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Why are you curtailing our rights? I have given a notice for amendment. Therefore, I have a right to speak on it. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): I was present in the meeting of the

Business Advisory Committee and it was specifically told by the Minister concerned that tomorrow they are going to take up this Bill in Rajya Sabha. This needs to be completed here today, but, not that that it should be done before 7'0 clock. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We must complete it and the message must go today. Then only they can take it up tomorrow. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman Sir, there is hardly anything in this Bill. There are eight organisations which in fact have been declared as unlawful and this is only to ratify that. All other factors which have been mentioned here are not relevant to the Bill at all.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is our right to speak on the amendments. Please protect our rights.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who have given amendment for circulation of the Bill I will give them one minute each.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my amendment is very short. Organisations indulging in terrorist activities in the valley have been banned. A tribunal has been set up. The term of the tribunal has already been extended by six months twice and now again the Central Government proposes to extend it by another six months. A lot of things have come to light with this Bill. There are reports in today's news papers about release of Doraiswamy who has been kidnapped by the terrorists. There are apprehensions that he would be killed and thrown but

before that his limbs including hands and nose would be chopped off. The situation is very deplorable there. What his family members might be thinking about all this. The militants have created terror in the minds of people. There the people are totally helpless.

I would like to submit in brief and give statistics which are an eye opener. In 1941 the Muslims were 90 per cent and Hindus 10 per cent. In 1981 Muslim percentage was 97 per cent and Hindus were 3 per cent. In 1991 the Muslim percentage became 99.9 and Hindus 0.1 per cent. A time will come when there will be no Hindu in the valley. But it is not a question of Hindus and Muslims.

Bharatiya Janata Party has said this thing earlier also. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookherjee sacrificed his life for the cause of Kashmir. If Article 370 is not abrogated, the valley will become a muslim majority area. Article 370 is a bottleneck in our way and because of that the Hindus will not stay there. Therefore, Article 370 should immediately be abrogated.

My second submission is that Ex-servicemen should be rehabilitated in the valley so that confidence in the people could be instilled, otherwise people who have migrated will not go back to their homes in the valley.

Similarly, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that about 2000 houses were burnt, destroyed and looted in the valley but the victims have not been given relief worth a single paisa. On the other hand, when 50 houses belonging to musims were burnt here each victim family was not only given Rs. 50,000 as relief but also assistance in other forms was given to them. I condemn this type of discrimination being made by the Central Government.

They observe Friday as a holiday. Their watches are adjusted according

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

to Pakistan time. The top Muslim officers who were earlier terminated have once again been reinstated. I want to emphasize here once again that only 16 per cent of the migrants have been provided tents. There is no arrangement for the rest nor has any provision been made for providing them medical aid. Their children are not getting admission in Central Schools by the Central Government and their bank accounts are not being transferred. The condition of tents is very bad and nothing has been done to implement the announcement made by the Central Government to sanction a monthly ex-gratia payment of Rs. 500 to each family.

There are about two and a half lakh displaced persons in Jammu today. No Prime Minister has ever gone there so far. If the Government wants to take some remedial measures for all these problems of Kashmir, then Article 370 has to be abrogated and Ex-servicemen will have to be rehabilitated there. Only then Kashmir will remain an integral part of our country, otherwise the way Congress party is handling the affairs of Kashmir, it seems the day is not far when Kashmir—for which the great leader Dr. Syama Prasad Mookherjee sacrificed his life—will be snatched away from us. Therefore, I make a strong appeal to the Centre to abrogate Article 370 and rehabilitate the Hindus and Ex-servicemen there.

[English]

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, this is a very simple proposition.....(Interruptions).....

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given a notice for an amendment. I too may please be allowed to speak.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): You gave a ruling just now

that those who have given notices for amendments, would be given one minute each to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you have got the same amendment.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Do you want me to set a precedent by raising a point of order on your ruling? Please let me speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The amendment is the same that the Bill be circulated for public opinion. All amendments are the same. So why not cooperate with the Chair? After this it has to go to the other House also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we will take half a minute each. Please let all of us speak....(Interruptions)...

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we will take one minute only. Not more than one minute...(Interruptions).

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had appealed to the Government earlier also. I would once again ask them to be bold and courageous.

"Arjunasya Pratibaddhen Na Namyam Na Palayanam"

Keep in mind the pledge of Arjuna. Don't be so humble and gracious to Pakistani hounds or terrorists. Fleeing or 'Palayan' is also not allowed in war. If you want to teach the terrorists a lesson, bombard their hide-outs. There is no other way out for Kashmir. Bharatiya Janata Party

is the only party which has been saying this and has drawn the ultimate conclusion that unless Article 370 is abrogated the problem cannot be solved.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make two submissions to the hon. Home Minister. Firstly, the situation in Kashmir is deteriorating about which the entire country is worried. Your administration is not providing protection to the nationalised forces that can improve the situation. The administration is not strengthening them to carry on the political activities in a democratic way. It is being realised today and the people of India are realising that the administrative officials there, who get their salary from Government of India, are strengthening the anti-national forces. The recent incident on 26th January is an eye opener. The gazetted officers who get their salary from the Government of India, did not participate in the Republic Day celebrations. This shows their disrespect to the nation. In this context, the hon. Home Minister will have to ponder over the matter. It is evident that today, the administration is extending facilities to 70 per cent secessionist and terrorist forces operating in Kashmir. Secondly, my submission is that the Government should take the responsibility of renovating all the shrines, be it a temple, or any other shrine that have been damaged in Kashmir. The nation must be assured that hon. Home Minister has got this feeling.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to say that they would certainly get the legal power for a period of six months. But those who get this power should be competent enough to find out the hideouts of the terrorists and apprehend them within this period failing which this amendment would be of no use. An Urdu poet has said—

“Bahadur kab kisi ka assara ahsan le te hain,

Usi ko kar Gujarte to dil main than le te hain,

Dilawar mard ka loha sab man le te hain,

Jo kamjor hota hai, kan uske sab pakar le te hain.”

(The purport of the couplet is; one must be bold and courageous enough to do the right thing). I would request the Home Minister that President's Rule is there and the rein of administration is in the hands of the Central Government. Traitors and terrorists should be dealt with iron hands. Those who have mixed with the public should be identified and brought back to national mainstream. They should also be taught to be patriot. Secondly, the refugees migrated from Kashmir should be sent back. This kind of situation would not have arisen, if the patriotic persons had been taught a lesson of patriotism during the past several years and the Article 370 had been abrogated.....(Interruptions).....

19.00 hrs.

I demand that India should send its Air Force planes to drop bombs in order to kill the terrorists in Pakistan where they are receiving training as also issue a White Paper detailing therein as to how many weapons and how much money Pakistan is giving to terrorists.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I take it that the House concurs with the extension of time for 20 minutes more. Now **Shri S. B. Chavan.**

THE MINISTER OF HOME (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in fact I have been pleading with the hon. Members. I have also to observe the same discipline which I was expecting from them. And that is, the other House is waiting for a message from this House. That is why I have got to be very brief. **Hon. Members**

[Sh. S. B. Chavan]

will please excuse me if I am not able to reply to the points raised by them because of this limitation. (*Interruptions*). We can have the discussion. In fact, Home Ministry is going to be discussed in this House. At that time, you can raise this issue. I will certainly try to give you the detailed reply on all the points that you might raise. (*Interruptions*). You had your full say. (*Interruptions*) I think, you are a very responsible opposition. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): I have a point of order. (*Interruptions*) My point of order is just because the Rajya Sabha is waiting, he will not reply in detail, he will be brief (*Interruptions*) It is not proper. We can understand that he can briefly say. But this is rather derogatory to this House that the other House is waiting. So, we will not get the reply. I suggest that we should be given a proper reply. That is what I wanted to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: It is a very limited Bill. In fact, all other issues which have been raised, are not germane to the Bill itself. The Bill merely says that there are certain organisations which have been declared unlawful.

One of the Hon. Members raised a point that Fundamental Rights are being trampled upon and they must have an opportunity of being heard. That is exactly the purpose that we are trying to serve. Actually, a Tribunal has been constituted consisting of three judicial people. They go into the details. If the person is not available, they even go to the jail and record a statement. To that extent, they have gone. It is the Chairman who has written to the Government saying: we tried our level best to finish this work within one year.

But we have failed. And that is why we require six months.

Now a misunderstanding is being created as if Kashmir issue is going to be solved within six months. I do not think that any Hon. Member who has gone through the Bill, can possibly say that this is the claim that the Government is making, that we propose to solve the issue of Kashmir within six months. Within six months, the Tribunal will be able to discuss all their applications which are in front of them. That is what they have stated to me. I do not know whether they are going to complete or not going to complete it. But it is my duty to come before the House and say that since we are taking away certain Fundamental Rights from the people, they have every right to be heard under the Constitution. That is why these unlawful associations have been declared unlawful by the Jammu and Kashmir Government; They are Jammu and Kashmir Jamat-e-Islami, Islamic Students' League, Islamic Jamat-e-Tulba, Mahazi Azadi, People's League, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Dukhtar-e-Millat and Fleh-i-Aam Trust. These are the eight organisations which have been declared unlawful by the Governor there. An ordinance was issued to extend time. That ordinance has to be converted into a regular Bill. That is why we have come to this House. I would be very grateful to those hon. Members who have stated that some of the people had gone to Pakistan and got trained; they got their promotion and their salaries also. In fact, these are issues which normally should not be raised in the House. If you pass on any information, you are always welcome. Sir, they can always come to me and I will verify the same. I can assure you that the Government does not believe in solving the issue by gun. There are two ways of doing it, that is, we must have both the carrot and the stick. If these things are mixed properly, I

feel quite confident that the problem will be solved. 90 per cent of the people there are against terrorism and atrocities which are committed. In spite of the fact that they are with the Government, they do not have the courage to come out. Even when we have constituted the committee, nobody is prepared to come to the Committee. And even if anybody comes there, he has no courage to speak out because he feels that he might be shot dead. Unfortunately, this is the position which we have to deal with.

I must also clarify another position. The Government does not believe in retaliatory measures at all. Pakistan is training the terrorists which everybody knows. I was very happy when the Prime Minister of Pakistan had openly stated that they are totally opposed to the kind of terrorism which some of the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir have indulged into. I must also make it absolutely clear that for the first time, the UK Government has come out openly by saying that they also do not support the demand of the plebiscite in Kashmir. For the first time, they have taken a very positive stand. In fact, these are very encouraging signs. At this moment, it will not be appreciable to talk on the removal of Article 370. In fact, as per the prevailing situation in Kashmir, it is not appreciable to do so. You are trying to add fuel to the fire. For God sake, for the interest of the country, please do not ask for its removal... (Interruptions) ... You are perhaps seeking some political advantage by giving a call for removal of Article 370. But at the same time, let me make the Government's position very clear that at least, for the time being, we cannot consider removal of Article 370. Let there be no misunderstanding about it. At the same time, we will never allow these atrocities to be committed in the area which is part and parcel of India. We can never agree for any kind of

disintegration of this country. I am personally going over to Jammu and Kashmir... (Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that it is intended to extend the time of the Tribunal. It is true. But the Tribunal has not come into existence on its own. It had to be constituted for one season or the other. The Tribunal is helpless because nobody is appearing before it. Therefore, some of the questions raised here, should be replied to. Millions of people have migrated from Kashmir and a feeling of fear and distress is widespread. What would happen to the Kashmir issue if some people indulge in retaliatory action. Therefore, I am saying that this is a matter full of sorrows. My hon. colleague has said that they have migrated on their own. This shows sheer ruthlessness and cruelty. However, he has given a thoughtful reply that retaliatory measures like bombardment will not be taken. But he should tell the House, the nation and the large number of patriots in Kashmir that the Government of India would provide protection to them. What would be the way of providing protection? Thirdly, what would be the political process? Are we in a position to hold elections or not? Do we revive the Legislative Assembly or not? Does the Consultative Committee do something or not? Would they initiate any political process or try to solve the issue by gun? These are some points, full of sorrows, and which concern the Bill. It would not be desirable to avoid these points. Therefore, I wish that the Government of India should reply to all these points so that the people of the country and of Kashmir can be apprised of the Government views. Firmness coupled with politeness is the need of the hour. I may go to the extent of saying that we would

[Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

embrace the terrorists if they change their attitude and are ready to come back into the national mainstream. But both the processes cannot go together. This is what I want to say. If the hon. Minister has a reply to all those points, I would withdraw my Resolution.

[English]

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, about the migrants who have come here, I do not think there is any purpose being served by blaming one person or the other. We are interested in seeing that they are given all help and assistance which in fact is required. I can assure you that I will personally look into the matter and see that they get all the help and assistance that is necessary....(Interruptions) I think the hon. members have not heard me. I have promised that I will go to Punjab and I will go to Jammu & Kashmir. I will meet the people there, try to find out their grievances and after having political discussions with them, I will be able to come to my own conclusion as to how the situation is and how it needs to be solved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I put the Resolution of Shri Bhogendra Jha to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 (Ordinance No. 1 of 1991) promulgated by the Governor on the 16th June 1991."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are amendments to the Motion for consideration of the Bill moved by Shri Girdharilal Bhargava, Shri Dau Dayal Joshi, Shri Rajendra Agnihotri and Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat.

SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA: I seek leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: I seek leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: I seek leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: I seek leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

The amendment was, by leave withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Jammu & Kashmir Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1983, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Cluses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question

“That clause 1, enacting formula and long title stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

19.14 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following

message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha. I am directed to enclose a copy of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 1991, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th August, 1991.”

19.15 hrs.

[English]

TERRORIST AND DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) AMENDMENT BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 1991, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to reassemble on Wednesday at 11.00 hours.

19.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 7, 1991/Sravana 16, 1913 (Saka)

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