February, 1990. They were to supply three turbines on turn-key basis. They were to prepare the detailed project report and give it to us. Since March, 1991 there is no communication whatsoever in spite of repeated approaches being made by the Government of West Bengal - and I understand by the Government of India also - for the last nine months. The agency which was implementing this project in Soviet Russia, namely T.P.E. - which is the power organisation there - seems to have been dissolved because no reply is being given. The two officers who are there, seem to have vanished, or at least they are not in the position any longer. Therefore, is the hon. Minister aware of this development and is the hon. Minister taking any steps to find out - unitwise - as to what is the position and particularly what is the position with regard to Bakreshwar? The second part of my question is that will the hon. Minister give the Government's reaction to the request of the Government of West Bengal to delink this project from Soviet assistance because none is available now and to include it in the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (O.E.C.F.) of Japan for which the request has been made in July, 1991? I would like to know the Government's response to that.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: All the projects except Bakreshwar thermal power project are in the Central Sector and are being executed by Central Sector power corporations. Bakreshwar project is being executed by the West Bengal Power Development Corporation and is in the State sector. Shri Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal has written a letter to the Government of India that this project of Bakreshwar should not be tied up with Russia and this should now be tied up with the Japanese O.E.C.F. That letter is under consideration ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Three letters were written. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: We have received that letter and it is under consideration of the Government of India. We are thinking to change the funding resource as requested by Shri Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Very good.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Jharkhand State

+

*143 SHRI SIMON MARANDI:
SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand to set up Jharkhand State by including the tribal areas of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal for the speedy development of the tribal areas and speedy implementation of several projects of these areas;

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

(c) the difficulties, if any, in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the Jharkhand State is likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAMLAL RAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Central Government had set up a Committee for Jharkhand Matters in August, 1989. The Committee's report was received in May, 1990. However, the Committee could not reach unanimity. Thereafter, a Review Committee was set up in November, 1990 but this Committee also could not make much progress in its deliberations. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, the hon. Minister has given an incomplete reply. He has mentioned that the Central Government had set up a Committee in this regard. So far as Jharkhand is concerned, a Commission was set up long back and from 1954 the Government has been setting up committees. The last committee set up in this regard, about which an announcement was also made in the House, is yet to submit its report. I would like to get the details from the Government because the hon. Minister has given an incomplete reply.....(*Interruptions*)....

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question when I say come to the question that much only goes on record.

SHRI SIMON MARANDI: He has not replied to the third and fourth part of my question. I had asked about the Government's stand on the demand to form a Jharkhand State and the time by which the Jharkhand State is likely to be formed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the earlier committee that was set up in this regard had submitted an incomplete report. Thereafter, a Review Committee was set up. Further, the Bihar Government also introduced a Bill in this connection in the State Assembly and the initial reaction of the people spearheading the movement for the formation of a separate Jharkhand State was that

[*English*]

this is a right step in the right direction.

[*Translation*]

However, they also added that they were not prepared to accept as it did not provide for the formation of a separate State of Jharkhand. I have come to know that this committee was set up after consultations with the four concerned State Governments. The *prima facie* information available with me is that no consultations have taken place with the four States concerned after the constitution of the committee. As the demand covers a major part of Bihar comprising 13 districts, the State Government is presumably evolving ways and means to solve this problem on the basis of the Darjeeiing pattern and it is being inquired into. It is very difficult to give a definit answer to this question without taking into confidence all the four states involved.

SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government says that the committee set up earlier could not reach unanimity. I would like to know about those people who opposed the committee and acted as obstacles to it.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Who opposed it or who did not, is not the question. If a new State is to be formed, we will have to bring a Constitution Amendment to amend Article 3. Even if another Committee is set up without prior consultation with the four State Governments involved, it would be very difficult to take any concrete step in this regard. Without eliciting the opinion of the concerned State Governments. Therefore, we shall spare no efforts to find out the facts from the State Governments. The Expert Committee set up earlier visited both Calcutta and Bhubaneswar, but unfortunately it did not get any encouraging response from these State capitals. With regard to the inquiries they made with the Government of Bihar and the Madhya Pradesh Government, Bihar's response was found more encouraging. Therefore, they have made efforts to initiate the process in Bihar State itself. A final decision in this regard will be taken after consultations with the hon. Member and even the House can take up the matter for discussion.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs stated that no consultations were held with the concerned State Governments. I was also a member of the said committee. I would like to know the reaction of the Governments of Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to the report sent by the Ministry of Home Affairs to elicit their opinion. I would like to know their reaction.

The State Government in their reply have said that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. They say that they do not agree to it. Before that para of the report is published, we would demand....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: I am asking the question and also providing the information in regard to the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: You should ask your question instead of providing information.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Perhaps the hon. Minister is not aware of it, he wants to hide it, that is why I am providing it (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: In para 34 of the report of the committee, it has been stated unanimously. When Shri Chandra Shekhar, the then Prime Minister did not find unanimity on the issue, he discussed the matter with the MLAs and MPs of Bihar for 2-3 days. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question. Otherwise, I will disallow you.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: All the members in that meeting with Shri Chandra Shekhar demanded Statehood. I would like to know as to what is the reaction of the three Governments on that report? Does the Government propose to publish the report; and if so, how long will it take to implement it?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government do not find any difficulty in publishing the report; it can certainly be published. The Government had been trying to get the information in regard to all the concerned states. But so far as I know, the Central Government have not received any reaction from the concerned state Governments. The Government of Bihar has introduced a Bill in this connection and the Central Government have sought a copy of the same from them. The Bill has been presented in the Lower House and not in the upper House and a copy thereof must be provided to us. We have not received it so far. We shall make efforts to get it at the earliest. The matter can be solved only after holding comprehensive discussion with the State Government. Nothing can be done before that.

[*English*]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Sir, Point of information.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of information. All questions are point of information. Please sit down.

SHRI INDER JIT: I have two short supplementaries.

My first supplementary is, the Home Minister has just said that the Centre has before it a proposal to give to the long suffering people of Jharkhand, an autonomous council short of a full-fledged State in accordance with Darjeeling model which has been greatly praised by the President during his recent visit to Darjeeling. In case the proposal is implemented, will the Home Minister give an assurance to this House that the Darjeeling model will be implemented honestly in its letter and spirit and not reduced to a farce as in the case of Darjeeling model, which is part of my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: If you are asking a question about Darjeeling then that is disallowed please.

SHRI INDER JIT: I am asking that in case they pursue the idea of giving Jharkhand an autonomous council in accordance with the Darjeeling model will they ensure that it is implemented in full, in letter and spirit? The hon. Home Minister has just said that they have now before them the proposal to give Jharkhand area an autonomous council

short of a full-fledged State on the Darjeeling model. In case the idea is pursued and implemented, will the hon. Home Minister assure the House that this model, the Darjeeling model, as applied to Jharkhand, will be honestly implemented, in its letter and spirit so that the grievances of people will be redressed and they will get a fair deal?

My second supplementary is has the hon. Minister noted the recommendation of the UP Government for the bifurcation of the State of UP and the creation of a separate State of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: If I am allowed to say so, the first part of the question itself is hypothetical. It will be too early for me to say either way. This is just the recommendation of the Committee and once the recommendation is accepted by all concerned, then the question of implementing it will arise and whatever be the decision, Government will sincerely try to implement the same. The hon. Member need not have any doubt on that score.

About the second part of the question, I have just read, I have not received any communication from the Government of UP about the bifurcation of the State.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs whether it is a fact that the expert committee have opined that since Jharkhand do not fulfil the stipulated conditions, it cannot be given statehood? Chhatisgarh region to which I belong, is in Madhya Pradesh.... There has been a long standing demand to give it statehood.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN: Can the region, which fulfil the requirements be given statehood?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I have stated in my reply that it is only when all the concerned States give their consent in this regard that the question of implementing it will arise. That stage has not yet come.

SHRI. LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the root cause of this problem is the backwardness in 13 districts of chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana. The agitation has picked up momentum only due to the problems prevailing in that region. Following this agitation, the committee was appointed and it made certain recommendations I agree with the Government's stand that if at all there is demand to merge different regions of the three states to form a new state, no decision can be taken unless the concerned states are involved, I would like to know as to what attitude do the Central Government propose to adopt to the basic problem, what initiative do the Government propose to take to remove the backwardness of chhota Nagpur-Santhal Pargana region? Unless the Government adopt a positive attitude in this regard, the agitation would not calm down. Our demand is that the State should be bifurcated into two parts and the region comprising 13 districts should be declared as Vananchal Pradesh. What do the Government think in this connection?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I reserve my comments on this point. So far as the first question is concerned, the Government do agree that the tribals must get the full benefits of the programmes launched for them. But so far as the question of statehood is concerned, the Central Government cannot take any action unless the concerned State Government convey its opinion to the Centre.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Keeping in view the fact that Orissa, Bengal and Bihar were the parts of a single state and were trifurcated afterwards; Punjab was divided and another state called Haryana was carved out; Maharashtra and Karnataka were divided; I would like to know whether the Central Government is in favour of giving statehood to Jharkhand in order to solve the problems of the Adivasis who remain cut off from the mainstream even after 45 years of

independence? More over it is a matter related to three states having Governments of three different political parties, Besides, there have been demands for giving statehood to various regions in different parts of the country. Keeping this fact in view, I would like to know whether the Government propose to reorganise the big states from administrative point of view?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: If the Members think that the demand of statehood to Jharkhand has given rise to many similar demands throughout the country and if they try to link them up I would not be able to reply to it today.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The second part may not be recorded.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: But so far as the first part is concerned, in fact, I am aware of the fact that this is a totally neglected area. The tribals have not been meted out the kind of justice which, in fact, they deserve. But I cannot possibly give my judgement unless I have clear views of the State Governments concerned. Certainly, if the State Governments are agreeable, then the question of the Central Government taking a decision will arise. But I can assure the hon. House that the Central Government may not be averse to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the hon. Minister's statement, the State Government has made no recommendation to this effect. Perhaps, he is unaware of the facts, or he might not have gone through his papers carefully or he does not want to pay attention. Let me tell him that the State Government has already submitted their report to the Central Government on 29th November, 1990.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, members of all political parties as also the Government know that the demand for a separate Jharkhand State is the oldest one. You know that Assam was divided seven states. You also know that the area of Jharkhand region which is located between Bihar and Bengal is double as compared to Haryana and tripple in comparison to Punjab. The hon. Minister has submitted that the Government is thinking to develop the Adivasi regions. Such proposals were mooted even before Independence. But since they were not implemented an agitation is going on for it now. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the report would be implemented in order to avoid Punjab and Kashmir like situation in Jharkhand or else, do the Central Government want similar incidents to take place in Jherkhand also?

[*English*]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I do not know what exactly is the question to which the hon. Member would like to seek clarification from the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The situation is deteriorating. Can you do something?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: The situation is deteriorating. But at the same time the kind of Bill which has been introduced in the House is totally different from the demand which the hon. Member is making here. May I take it that the hon. Member is now conceding the point that they are prepared to confine their demand only to Bihar and leave the other areas? If that is the disposition, then certainly we can take it up with the Government of Bihar and find out as to what exactly is going to be their reaction because according to my information, in an informal way, we got the copy of the Bill in which I do not find that they have conceded the demand of Statehood because that will require legislation at the Central level, not at the State level. As was stated earlier, it is the same Autonomous Council model, the Darjeeling model that is proposed to be followed. But if it is a demand for a Statehood, I do not think that even the Bihar Government also has conceded the demand. If the hon. Member feels that the Bihar Government is prepared to do

this, let them write to Government of India. Certainly we can consider their suggestion.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is not going on record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Home Affairs for the statement he has given in regard to Jharkhand, though it is quite balated one. But I would like to submit that many States were formed on the basis of 6th schedule of the Constitution even after Independence, but 5th schedule relates to the Centre. Thus demands were raised and fulfilled under the 5th schedule. But no demands have been taken into consideration under the 5th schedule. May I know as to why the Government delayed a decision in the matter? I would like to submit that keeping in view the fact that the development matters relate to schedule 5, but even today the tribal areas.....

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point now.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Government take initiative for speedy implementation to solve the problem?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I fully agree with the hon. Member's view that there is need to pay attention to the Adivasis and that we have not paid due attention to them so far. Besides, there are no two opinions that the benefits of the schemes launched for Adivasis has not reached to them. Now the question is whether granting of statehood can be a solution or is there any other alternative also. Unless we know the views of the concerned state Governments in this regard, it will not be possible for me to say that which alternative will be acceptable to the Central Government.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: The hon. Home Minister is repeatedly saying that unless the views of the concerned states are not knows, it will be very difficult to take any decision in this regard. He is also saying at the same time that we should sympathetically consider the problems of Adivasis. When he agrees in principle that the Centre will have to formulate a legislation and take a decision in the matter, why has the opinion of the State Governments not been sought on this issue so far. Therefore, instead of writing letters to them and waiting for their reply, will the hon. Minister convene a meeting of the four Chief Ministers in this regard, because now this issue is agitating the minds of the masses and taking the form of a movement. I would like to know whether a meeting of the Chief Ministers would be convened to avoid this situation.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: The Centre will not make it a prestige issue. We do not have any objection or difficulty in convening the meeting of Chief Ministers of four States.

[*English*]

STD Facility in Coimbatore

*144. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bombay and Delhi have been provided with international STDs facilities through the medium of satellite communication;

(b) whether such facility is not available in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide this facility in Coimbatore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

*Not recorded.