

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 9, 1999/Agrahayana 18, 1921
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

**Financial Health of Indian Airlines and
Air India**

+

*161. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Indian Airlines and Air India have recorded huge losses during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

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

(c) the steps taken to restore the financial health of Indian Airlines and Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) During the years 1997-98 and 1998-99, Air India has incurred loss of Rs. 181.01 crores and Rs. 174.48 crores respectively, whereas Indian Airlines has earned profits.

Air India's losses are due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition and cost of operations, increase in wage bill and other staff costs and landing, handling and navigational charges, depreciation of rupees value, etc.

(c) Air India has taken following steps to improve its financial performance :-

- (i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue;
- (ii) Network rationalization and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability;
- (iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by

undertaking more in-house repairs; (iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished; (v) Freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories; (vi) Two voluntary schemes have been notified viz. shorter working week scheme and leave without pay/allowances scheme for a period of two years extendable upto five years; (viii) introduction of Automated Revenue yield Management Systems (ARMS) and curtailment of advertisement and publicity budget.

The Disinvestment Commission in its VIII Report on Air India has interalia recommended infusion of Government equity of Rs. 1000 crores and induction of a strategic partner on the basis of global bids. The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

For improvement of its financial position further, Indian Airlines has also taken various steps such as increased utilisation of aircraft, deployment of capacity on the criteria of economics and traffic demand, marketing initiatives, improvement in customer services and various cost cutting measures to reduce expenditure such as freeze on capital expenditure etc.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Prime Minister that it is the first time that portfolio of Ministry of Civil Aviation has been assigned to the person who is down to earth. I hope that in future he will try to make airlines more efficient. Sir, it has been told that Indian Airlines is earning a little profit, but nothing can be expected from Air India because having a few years after independence, it has been running in loss for many years. The number of Directors and General Managers in Indian Airlines is 30 and 50 respectively. Indian Airlines is overstaffed. The post of Planning Director has been created under some Directors, and there are 10 employees under one Director Planning. There are many things like that., The Metro Shuttle Promotion Scheme has been introduced between Delhi and Mumbai and complimentary tickets were issued in such a large number that in next six months, no private person could get ticket for Singapore and Bangkok. The officers are posted in non-operating stations abroad and for giving them benefits in foreign currency these routes are sold out. I do not want to elaborate more in this regard.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards another issue. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Alliance Air was set up in 1996 and the intention behind it was that

[Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy]

[English]

"Alliance Air would operate with trim organisation with least burden of capital investment, over-staffing or infrastructural costs and the personnel policy of Alliance Air was priority to seek availability from the Indian Airlines. In only those circumstances, if there is non-availability of staff from the Indian Airlines, we would appoint contractuales from outside."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rudy, it is a very good question. Now, please put your question.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : I am coming straight to my question after this brief background. The whole country knows today that there is a blanket ban on appointments in public sector undertakings. The Alliance Air was constituted in the year 1996. From 1996 till date, there are 600 contractual appointments were made in the Alliance Air.

The question which I would like to ask is, if you can recall, between the year 1990 and 1995, there were private airlines which had come in this country and most of our pilots and staff were going out to join private airlines. At a later stage these pilots were thrown out of the companies were closed down.

[Translation]

Will the Minister reply. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He will definitely reply.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I would like to know whether pilots who left Indian Airlines to join private airlines had been given contractual appointment in one way or the other in Alliance Air? Have you ever heard that a contractual appointee has been promoted? Have you ever heard that somebody has been appointed as contractual supervisor and later on he has been promoted as Manager? Have you ever heard that any vacancy falling under any department, has been announced without the approval of the public enterprises bureau and have been filled up internally. The incidents that took place in Alliance Air. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rudy, see how many hon. Members want to ask supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I have not yet started speaking on this subject. This is a very comprehensive

matter. On one side, there is a complete blanket ban, and on the other in 1996 you had began the process of recruitment of your own people in this department by setting up a new subsidiary. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the happenings that took place in Alliance Air. What does the hon'ble Minister want to State in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked a number of questions, but he has particularly asked about Alliance Air. We definitely have received various types of complaints in regard to Alliance Air, but the appointments of Pilots and cabin crew in Alliance Air have been made on contract basis. The most of the staff is on deputation from Indian Airlines. The irregularities have been definitely found in the matters towards which the hon'ble Member has drawn our attention. I will seriously look into the matter related to irregularities committed in Alliance Air whether it relates to appointment of employees on contract basis or their promotion or any other thing. It will definitely serve the purpose for which it has been set up. I would like to assure you in this regard.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, You might also be aware that more than seven thousand youth of this country who are holding CPL licence are unemployed. In Alliance Air, a number of Pilots who are working on contractual basis and out of them several pilots have been appointed to perform the ground duty. Later on they were sent on Pilot training in the name of international employees. When they went to Hyderabad at the lost of Alliance Air, it was told that the expenditure incurred on their training would be adjusted from their salaries and in advertisement for recruitment in Indian Airlines it was written 'commercial pilot' licence holder with twin engine and 25 hours experience.' Indian Airlines gave an advertisement that the pilots who were having 25 hours experience could apply. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how all those young unemployed pilots who have no access to Indian Airlines or Air India were deprived of appointment and by violating the rules and regulations. Other persons were appointed through back door entry. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he is proposing to conduct a high level inquiry and to take action against the person or persons who have plotted this scheme?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon'ble Member that there are 2000 trained pilots in India, and there is a lot of unemployment. Irregularities are also noticed in this regard. The Government and the Pilot himself spend a lot of amount on his training. The irregularities or favouritism -has not been made in this regard. If the hon'ble Member is having any list of these

irregularities, any probe is not required to be made through anybody, because we are capable of rectifying it. If the hon'ble Member produce the concrete evidence in this regard, a probe will be conducted.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon'ble Minister provides me an opportunity, I will definitely make available all the informations to him and I hope a high level inquiry from you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : 'Shri Rowdy', please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, I am not 'Rowdy', I am Rudy.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, Shri Rudy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, I am a very disciplined Member. I am neither 'Rabri' nor 'Rowdy', I am Rudy. I am Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry please. Shri Rudy, you should not be rude also!

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, he is never rude also. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my learned friend Shri Rudy has presented very important issues before the hon'ble Minister and this House. We are satisfied from the reply given by the Minister. Besides, this the hon'ble Minister has told in his reply that some steps have been taken to improve the condition of the Air India. I would like to know as to how much loss has been reduced by these steps or during the last 6 months, how much loss have been reduced, please clarify it. What steps are being taken to reduce the wasteful expenditure in both the airlines? How much profits have been earned by the Indian Airlines during the last year and the first six months of this financial year? Besides, what is the number of aircrafts owned by Air India and Indian Airlines? How many of these aircrafts are new and how many are old? What is the proposal with regard to buying new aircrafts?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any proposal to buy new aircrafts? That is his supplementary?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do not have small aircrafts, all the available aircrafts are old and out of these some aircrafts are in the good condition and are used for flying. Government are seriously considering the proposal to buy new aircrafts. Kelkar Committee has recommended in this regard and we have been considering those. There is a provision to buy new aircrafts.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : From driving bullock-carts, tractors and trolleys we have started flying aircrafts?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh ji uses and has used these things maximum. If these things have come in our hands, it will only benefit and not harm you.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What I am saying is as to where we have arrived. Where the persons driving tractors and trolleys have reached for flying aircrafts?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, alongwith driving bullock-carts and tractors, I took admission in Engineering college. Therefore I have come to this destination also. Definitely I will drive both bullock cart and aircraft well. . . .(Interruptions) Now that is not in our hands.

The hon'ble Member has asked a few things. The Condition of Air India is not good. But he has asked that the losses suffered by it were more earlier and now it has gradually decreased. To give a bit of information. I would like to tell that the losses worth Rs. 272 crore were suffered in 1995-96, Rs. 269 crore in 1996-97 and it declined to Rs. 181 crore in 1997-98 and further to Rs. 174 crore in 1998-99. It is estimated to be Rs. 125 crore in 1999-2000. I do admit that there are many reasons for this loss. Owing to implementations of fifth Pay Commissions's recommendations. Air India has been forced to spend a big amount on the salaries of their employees. Among the major reasons of profit to the Air India was its presence in the Gulf. Now the Indian Airlines too has cut a big share in it and the financial position of the Indian Airlines has improved due to it but that of Air India has taken a plunge. With regard to the remark made by the hon'ble Member that the financial position of Air India is not good, we have been thinking over it as to what course of action should be taken to improve it. We will try to present the facts after debating and considering the issue. I definitely agree with the fact that Indian Airlines too is not in a good shape. It is earning profits but these profits have been attained very marginally. Improvement has taken place but still these is a room for further improvement. The condition of Air India is definitely precarious. There are many reasons behind it. We have tried to improve it by several means. One, we have to discontinue many unprofitable routes. Air

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

India is a very old institution with a glorious record. We have closed down several important routes and the routes which we have been running presently are also not very profitable. Definitely, to solve this entire problem we have been using our expertise to come over the crisis and make it viable. Deliberations are being going on in this regard and when the discussion is over, we will try to bring it before the cabinet and you.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, some year back, open sky policy was created so that the efficiency could be increased due to competition and the commuters could be provided a better air service. In this way, I feel that we have got a lot of success and today as the saying goes the consumer is king, which was not the case earlier. But one provision which we had made at that time was that entry in the field of aviation should be free so that the efficiency of the Indian airlines could be improved due to the pressure of the fierce competition. I had laid the stress on only one thing and about that I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the provision for safety audit has been maintained fully in view of the fact that most of the aircrafts especially in alliance air have become obsolete.

These aircrafts have become 19, 20, 22 and 23 years old. There should be a safety audit for them which should be semi-autonomous body other than the corporation, for conducting random and yearly inspections. Until the safety audit is passed, whether it is a Government or private airlines and the certificate for safety audit is issued, they should not be allowed to continue air service. Have you made any arrangements or have you thought in this regard as it is very necessary.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has a lot of experience in this department and the suggestion given by him is under consideration in the Ministry and I would surely like to assure you that the suggestion which you have given will be a right step in the direction of improving the condition of all these airlines and we will quickly try to implement the suggestion of turning it into an autonomous body.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding what hon'ble Member Shri Scindhia ji has asked, I am happy to reply that the safety audit is being done but the suggestion of making it a autonomous body, will surely be taken up for consideration and we will try to give it a concrete shape.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, basically this question is linked to the economic condition of Indian airlines. There are several reasons for the present pathetic state of the economy of the Indian Airlines. The existing discrepancies in its set up is the major reason for it. I will cite an example and afterwards ask the questions. Khajuraho is a tourist centre of eminence not only in India but at the world level and a proposal to connect it to Mumbai came up in the last few years and the airlines, twice operated such a flight over that route. But the Government has not planned it properly for the facility of the tourists that if it announce the route six months in advance, I may remain in the notice of the international travel agencies and they can make their itenary accordingly so that the tourists would be available six months after on that route. We announced the route and started to operate it the next day. After a few days we said that this route is economically not viable and closed down the route. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether he will introduce such a procedure at the level of planning by which a route would not be declared unviable even if it is viable and will you try to connect Khajuraho to Mumbai through a flight in the next tourist season and intimate the international travel agencies six months in advance regarding this decision.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have information about the matter which the hon'ble Member has tried to bring to my knowledge. But surely when I think about Khajuraho it seems that it is a wonderful place for not only India but for the entire world which has been created by our artisans. It has a lot of potential as a tourist spot and I think that it is the biggest archeological centre for which we are going to develop the international airport. It is also our desire to upgrade it by developing an international airport there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : I would like to remind you only one thing that the one thousandth year of the establishment of Khajuraho temples is being celebrated as the millennium year. This programme has been inaugurated by hon'ble Mr. President. You should specially consider it keeping in view its importance.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : It can even become a big source for generating foreign exchange. It means that it can set an example. Chennai, Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Agra should be airlinked to Khajuraho through flights. Not only Khajuraho but there are so many places even in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and rest of the country and Konark which are needed to be brought on the air map, there is a need to make publicity of these places from tourism point of view.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Special suggestions should also be invited from the Ministry of Tourism in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : This question is related to the Indian Airlines and not to the Tourism.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of tourism is the past of Khajuraho while I am the future.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : It takes a time to get rid of the past, keep this thing in your mind.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Air India was previously making profit but now it is running into loss. The hon. Minister, in his reply, has mentioned about so many steps for improving its financial condition. One of the steps he has stated is : "The Disinvestment Commission in its VIII Report on Air India has interalia recommended infusion of Government equity of Rs. 1,000 crore and induction of a strategic partner on the basis of global bids." Will the hon. Minister tell what is the recommendation of this Committee and whether the Government is seriously considering to take Government equity and a partner on the basis of global bids ?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what hon'ble Member has said, is being considered seriously and I have already said that the health of the Air India is not good and that is being examined. What is the role of strategic partner in improving the condition of Air India, all these aspects are being considered and when the consideration is over, I will be able to explain all these things in detail.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister will be aware of the fact that the travellers hesitate to travel by Indian Airlines where both Indian Airlines and; private airlines operate. They prefer to travel by private airlines. It is really so ? Second thing which I would like to say is that the hon'ble Minister has shown the Indian Airlines in profit but whether the Indian Airlines is running in profit or loss as against other private airlines ?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The hon'ble Member has asked about the profit and loss. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that Rs. 258 crore profit occurred in 1993-94, Rs. 188 crore profit in 1994-95, and the 109 crore loss occurred in 1995-96.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Are not you telling about the Air India ?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am telling only about Indian Airlines. A loss of Rs. 14 crore occurred in 1996-97 and profit of Rs. 47 crore occurred in 1997-98. A profit of Rs. 14 crores occurred in 1998-99.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Minister, Sir, it means that loss took place. As you told, profit of Rs. 47 crore occurred in 1997-98 and of 14 crore in 1998-99 i.e. last year we earned less profit, it means loss took place.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has made profit so far in the year 1999-2000 and upto the month of April, an estimated profit of Rs. 14 crore is likely to be earned and till October or November this profit should reach upto Rs. 30 crore.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked the hon'ble Minister about the comparative position of private airlines and Indian Airlines, but the hon'ble Minister has not replied.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that I do not have the figures pertaining to private airlines. Mr. Speaker, Sir, one thing I would surely like to say is that the time since the entry of private airlines in Indian aviation sector, it is not so that no improvement has taken place in the condition of Indian Airlines.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 177 also is on the same subject. Shall we club both the questions 161 and 177 ?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : A lot of improvement has taken place in its condition and it is our effort that this improvement may continue i.e., the improvement should continue in dealings and other things. On trunk routes, there is a flight after every one hour for Mumbai. Earlier, the position which. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I have asked for the comparative study. If you do not have that information right now, will you send it to me afterwards ?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Yes, I will.

MR. SPEAKER : Sharadji, this question has taken half an hour.

(Interruptions)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please fix some time. There are other questions too. . . .(Interruptions) You please allow an Half-an-hour discussion on it. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : These should be Half-an-hour discussion, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Sharadji, are you ready for a Half-an-Hour discussion on it ?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am ready but I have to give reply in the Rajya Sabha also. . . .(Interruptions) Hence, I will intimate you later on. Now, I am ready to reply all questions.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : Only one supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : No, there are other questions also.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I want to reply a Question. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak but I have to give chance to all the Members.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : If there is a question of comparing the uniforms of air-hostesses of Indian Airlines to that of private airlines, we will also bring about changes in their uniforms.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, Half an Hour discussion.

Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment

+

*162. SHRI. P.D. ELANGOVAAN :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) Programme has achieved its goal of making the rural youth self employed or at least wage employed.

(b) if so, the number of youths trained under 'TRYSEM' during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the percentage of self employed persons as against the total number of TRYSEM trained youths has been very low;

(d) if so, the number of people provided self employment after the training, State-wise;

(e) whether there is any plan to increase the target of youths to be trained under TRYSEM during the Ninth Plan and have more youths self employed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (c) The Scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) was started in the year 1979 and was aimed at providing basic technical and entrepreneurial skills to the rural youth from families below poverty line to enable them to take up self-employment (and from 1983 to include wage employment as well). However, the 'Quick Evaluation' of TRYSEM (June-August, 1993) showed that 47% of the TRYSEM beneficiaries were unemployed. The Fourth round of Concurrent Evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme (1992-93) showed that only 3.02% of the IRDP beneficiaries had received training under TRYSEM.

(b) and (d) An Annexure is enclosed.

(e) and (f) In the context of restructuring of Self-Employment programmes, TRYSEM has ceased to exist from 1.4.1999. A new comprehensive self-employment programme-Swarnjayanti Gram-Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) has been launched w.e.f. 1.4.1999., which focuses on 4 to 5 key activities per block. For each activity, the Minimum Skill Requirements are to be laid down. Persons to be assisted under SGSY will be assessed and wherever they do not possess the minimum skill required, suitable training is to be given to enable them to acquire these skills. Only persons who are selected for giving assistance under SGSY will be provided training so that the training effort is not wasted. Subject to availability of funds, SGSY aims to cover 30% of the rural poor in the next five years.

Annexure

*State-wise Physical Progress of trained youth and Self Employed under
TRYSEM during 1996-97, 1997-98 & 1998-99*

| S.No. | State/UTs | 1996-97 | | | 1997-98 | | | 1998-99 | | |
|-------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | | Trained Youth | Trained Youth self employed | %age | Trained Youth | Trained Youth self employed | %age | Trained Youth | Trained Youth self employed | %age |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 83716 | 40557 | 48.45 | 20850 | 5166 | 24.87 | 12933 | 2853 | 22.06 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 739 | 203 | 27.47 | 698 | 436 | 62.46 | 370 | 211 | 57.03 |
| 3. | Assam | 6277 | 1123 | 17.89 | 7302 | 1145 | 15.68 | 6714 | 1987 | 29.59 |
| 4. | Bihar | 34477 | 7281 | 21.12 | 33337 | 5643 | 16.93 | 32504 | 4543 | 13.98 |
| 5. | Goa | 3863 | 987 | 25.55 | 1769 | 550 | 31.09 | 2463 | 388 | 15.75 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 9371 | 2207 | 23.55 | 7284 | 2958 | 40.61 | 6560 | 2542 | 38.75 |
| 7. | Haryana | 3519 | 1072 | 30.46 | 1541 | 345 | 22.39 | 938 | 139 | 14.82 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 803 | 313 | 38.98 | 857 | 293 | 34.19 | 721 | 161 | 22.33 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 4294 | - | - | 2252 | 198 | 8.79 | 3045 | - | - |
| 10. | Karnataka | 18096 | 4900 | 27.08 | 15914 | 3163 | 19.88 | 10603 | 2924 | 27.58 |
| 11. | Kerala | 5036 | 1234 | 24.50 | 3846 | 1068 | 27.77 | 2995 | 989 | 33.02 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 39806 | 13703 | 34.42 | 14125 | 7884 | 55.82 | 12094 | 9193 | 76.01 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 21447 | 6128 | 28.57 | 13843 | 4086 | 29.52 | 18580 | 3368 | 18.13 |
| 14. | Manipur | 362 | 107 | 29.56 | 836 | 330 | 39.47 | - | - | - |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 352 | 105 | 29.83 | 361 | 75 | 20.78 | 271 | 181 | 66.79 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 445 | 186 | 41.80 | 552 | 139 | 25.18 | 401 | 36 | 8.98 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 486 | 122 | 25.10 | 832 | 186 | 22.36 | 245 | 43 | 17.55 |
| 18. | Orissa | 18555 | 7422 | 40.00 | 14951 | 4588 | 30.69 | 11614 | 4040 | 34.79 |
| 19. | Punjab | 1824 | 694 | 38.05 | 1656 | 380 | 22.95 | 2058 | 584 | 28.38 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 5766 | 812 | 14.08 | 7381 | 779 | 10.55 | 5891 | 2050 | 36.02 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 660 | - | - | 216 | - | - | 217 | 84 | 38.71 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 7687 | 1742 | 22.66 | 10972 | 454 | 4.14 | 10882 | 883 | 8.27 |
| 23. | Tripura | 2597 | 1395 | 53.72 | 3503 | 658 | 18.78 | 2894 | 339 | 11.71 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 69272 | 30090 | 43.44 | 65875 | 25567 | 38.81 | 64829 | 28636 | 44.17 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 24199 | 8420 | 34.79 | 19970 | 7192 | 36.01 | 12673 | 5562 | 43.89 |
| 26. | A&N Islands | 486 | 9 | 1.85 | 293 | 13 | 4.44 | 150 | - | - |
| 27. | Daman & Diu | 75 | - | - | 151 | - | - | 58 | - | - |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|-----------------|---|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| 28. D&N Haveli | | 107 | - | - | 82 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 29. Lakshadweep | | 12 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 30. Pondicherry | | 8 | - | - | 138 | 42 | 30.43 | 128 | 55 | - |
| All India | | 364337 | 130812 | 35.90 | 251387 | 73358 | 29.18 | 222431 | 71791 | 32.28 |

"-" not available

[English]

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN (Dharmapuri) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government will provide 27 per cent reservation for OBC people from families below poverty line under this new programme, Swarnjayanti Gram-Swarozgar Yojana. If so, what are the details thereof, and if not, what are the steps taken by the Government to benefit the OBCs ?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member wants to have information regarding the Swarnjayanti Gram-Swarozgar Yojana. Following the consultation with State Governments and banks the schemes like TRYSEM, SITRA, Ganga Kalyan, Dwakra, 10 lakh wells etc. have been included in the programme of Swarnjayanti Yojana since 1.4.1999. The objective of the Swarnjayanti Gram-Swarozgar Yojana is to increase the income of poor rural people and simultaneously to give practical shape to the local requirements at national level according to the resources.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon'ble Minister has stated that during the year 1998-99, an effort has been made to train 2,22,431 youths under TRYSEM. My point is that in the absence of adequate employment opportunities in the villages many youths are rushing to cities from villages. Many young men are taking to militancy or a feeling of resentment is developing among their minds against the Government. Crores of young men are unemployed in the country. I would like to know whether any policy is being formulated by you to provide training or employment to 10-15 lakh youths in a year ? The scheme of TRYSEM started in the year 1979 has ceased to exit from 1.4.1999. Instead of it the Government has launched Swarnjayanti Gram-Swarozgar Yojana. It has been stated in the reply that the focus will be on 4-5 activities per block, however, it will not serve the purpose of removing unemployment. The Government should formulate a scheme to impart training to atleast 10-15 lakh youths in a year if it really wants to provide employment to unemployed persons. I would like

to know whether the Government has formulated any such plan ? You have come into power only because of the mandate given by these people. If the Government fails to pay attention towards the poor, they may make efforts to remove it. Therefore, I would like to know from you whether there is any scheme to provide employment opportunities to the young people.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has stated that TRYSEM is going to be ceased but it is not so. Earlier an amount of Rs. 110 crore was used to be spent to impart training under TRYSEM. Now following the inclusion of TRYSEM in Swarnjayanti Gram-Swarozgar Yojana a provision of Rs. 123.13 crores has been made for training under it. Besides, we have made a provision of Rs. 246 crores for infrastructure under which arrangements are being made to impart training to the poor young men. Unemployed youth trained under Swarnjayanti Gram-Swarozgar Yojana will get a facility of loan and subsidy for self-employment. Previously, out of 45 lakh trained unemployed youth, 18.5 lakh were sponsored for self-employment under TRYSEM, but actually 6 lakh youth got the real employment out of 45 lakh. Undoubtedly, the target fixed under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana will exceed by 1½ times than that of earlier.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is that Swarnjayanti Gram. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can not ask the second question. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. You do not know how to pose a question. Please sit down. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I will certainly sit down but my question still remains unanswered.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, the Statement of the hon. Minister which is laid on the Table of the House

accepts that 47 per cent of the TRYSEM beneficiaries were unemployed. That means the rest of the 53 per cent of the people trained under TRYSEM were benefited and it was well received in the country. Right from the year 1979, this scheme was working and it ceased to exist after 20 years, just before the dissolution of the previous Lok Sabha. The difference between the two schemes is that the TRYSEM Programme gives training for self-employment even without having any assurance; but they will get the employment somewhere on their own because it is self-employment. The new programme which this Government has introduced, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), gives training only to those people who get assistance and limits the scope for the training. You cannot deny the people for having some training and he has been giving training only to those people who can get employment. So, the difference is very much there. Unemployment is there. Self-employment training programme has been removed.

Will the Government re-think about it after assessing the whole situation ?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question asked by the hon'ble Member I would like to state that only 54% of the total number of youth trained under TRYSEM got its benefit. And more than 3% of the youth adopted some other schemes of employment and self-employment. The training centres which were set up earlier will be used under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana. Adequate arrangements have been made to provide training to the young men in these centres. There is also a provision of trained teachers. The provisions which was made earlier in this regard is still continued. Earlier an amount of Rs. 300 was given as stipend to the youths while on 6 months training. Now, this provision has been stopped, instead Rs. 15 per day or at the maximum of Rs. 450 per month will now be given to them. Besides, adequate means of employment will also be made available to them during the course of the training.

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been noticed that under TRYSEM the entrepreneurs or units which impart training to the beneficiaries, indulge in corruption by giving fake names to get stipend whereas the actual number of trainees are less. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any provision to assess the actual number of beneficiaries under this scheme or these schemes are being implemented only to get stipend.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not so that only corruption has taken place under TRYSEM

schemes. Under these schemes we trained 3.64 lakh youths in 1996-97. 2.51 lakh youths were imparted training in 1997-98 and 2.22 lakh were trained in 1998-99.

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Whether any fake unit has also been detected and whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : I have laid a statement on the Table which gives details regarding all the States. If you want to get some other details, I am ready to give that. Earlier these institutions were given Rs. 300 which have been increased to Rs. 450 now.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon'ble Minister has stated that after withdrawing of TRYSEM and DWAKRA schemes, the Swarnjayanti Gram-Swarozgar Yojana has been started since 1.4.99. Whether the Central Government will issue instructions to the State Governments or the concerned agencies, that as India is a country of villages and cottage industries, therefore, people should be imparted training in trades and industries required for the local needs so that unemployed people could earn more profit and become self-reliant. My second question is that six months have passed, how much funds have been allocated for it and whether any evaluation has been done ?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : A detailed analysis has been done for the period from 1979 to 83 and upto 1998-99 and after that the issue was discussed in details with banks and State Governments, later on from 1.4.99 all these schemes TRYSEM, SITRA, Ganga Kalyan Yojana and Dwakra have been taken under the Swarnjayanti Gramin Swarozgar Yojana. More number of youths will be imparted training under these schemes. The number of youths whom we want to train will increase. All these schemes will enable them in providing employment and people of all the States will get employment. Therefore, it is not so that these programmes have been scrapped. It is still going on and increasing.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Whether instructions will be issued to cater to the local requirements.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : After collecting information we will definitely issue such orders and instructions.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Hon'ble Minister has stated that 47 percent beneficiaries were unemployed. I would like to ask my question in two parts. The first part is that whether any other scheme has been launched by your department to provide employment to people rendered unemployed. Whether any provision was made to provide employment to them. In context of the Swarnjayanti Gramin

[Shri Anant Gudhe]

Swarozgar Yojana, do you feel that beneficiaries imparted training under these schemes will not remain unemployed or this scheme will also be withdrawn afterwards. Whether any provision has been made by your department for providing employment to youth who have been imparted training under this scheme or not?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is provision of imparting training under TRYSEM and after the training, it is their own decision whether they want to join the trade or not. The Government was ready to provide benefit to them and different schemes were launched for this purpose and several persons joined other trades after getting training under these schemes and the Government had no mean to call them back. But now the Government has improved this scheme and youth imparted training under the Swarnjayanti Rozgar Yojana will be provided employment under several other schemes and requires means will be provided for it. All these things have been taken care in these schemes.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, in the reply given, the hon'ble Minister, has admitted that 43 percent youth remained unemployed even after getting training. This scheme was started in 1979 with good intention. But the Government admits and it is also a fact that this scheme failed. What were reasons for its failure. You can go through figures given in this regard. Now the Hon'ble Minister has stated that since 1.4.99 this scheme has been started again in form of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana. I am of the view that we cannot achieve our purpose by increasing the stipend from Rs. 300 to Rs. 450 and by imparting training, unless we take follow-up action in the shape of providing financial assistance for getting employment. I would like to say that hon'ble Minister should discuss it and coordinate with Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry, Agro-based industries and banks otherwise the youth imparted training under this scheme will remain unemployed. Therefore, I would like to say that this scheme cannot be successful without linking it with bank loan facility. I would like to know as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard or you will keep on appeasing us by giving figures. In place of ten thousand, one thousand is shown and where percentage is high and favourable there figures are given in percentage. This scheme should be linked with credit card for its efficient implementation.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Shri Pilot has stated, this time beneficiaries will be selected under SGSY and then training will be imparted to them. After training they will be linked with several other

schemes. Now under this scheme unemployed youth will be imparted training and provision has also been made for providing loan to them and arrangements have also been made to monitor the implementation of this scheme throughout the country.

[English]

Allocation of Foodgrains to States

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*163. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

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

- (a) the total quantum of wheat, rice and levy sugar allocated to States during 1999-2000, State-wise;
- (b) whether some State Governments have demanded for increase in the allocation of these items; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) WHEAT AND RICE

The quantum of wheat and rice allotted from the Central pool to the States/Union Territories and Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and for calamity relief during 1999-2000 (upto February 2000) is given in enclosed Statement-I

LEVY SUGAR :

The norm for supply of sugar in the Public Distribution System (PDS) for most of the States/UTs is 425 gms per capita per month based on the 1991 census. In addition, Government also releases about one lakh tonnes sugar per annum as festival quota which is allocated amongst the Sates/UTs. The statewide monthly quota of levy sugar and annual festival quota is given in enclosed Statement-II

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) WHEAT AND RICE

Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) launched in June, 1997, the monthly entitlement of foodgrains of States/UTs for families Below Poverty Line (BPL) have been fixed so as to provide 10 kg. foodgrains to each BPL family per month at specially subsidised rates. Transitory allocation of foodgrains for families above the poverty line (APL) is also made equal to the difference of past 10 (ten) year's average annual lifting of foodgrains under PDS and the BPL entitlements. Bifurcation of monthly allocation into wheat and rice is made as per choice of States/UTs.

The details of demands received from various States/UTs for increase in allocation and reaction of Government thereto is given in enclosed Statement-III.

LEVY SUGAR

Requests were received from Kerala, Mizoram, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, U.P., Assam and Rajasthan for enhancement of their monthly levy sugar quota due to increase in population. In view of inadequate availability of levy sugar, it was not found possible to accede to the requests.

Annexure-I

Statement Showing Statewise Quantity of Rice and Wheat Allotted for TPDS including Calamity Relief to States/UTs during 1999-2000 (April 99—February 2000)

(In '000 Tonnes)

| Sl.No. | States/UTs | Rice | | | | Wheat | | | |
|--------|-------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| | | BPL | APL | ADDL | Total | BPL | APL | ADDL | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 415.58 | 1693.12 | 0.00 | 2108.70 | 0.00 | 88.00 | 40.00 | 128.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 7.70 | 64.46 | 27.84 | 100.10 | 0.77 | 5.83 | 0.00 | 6.60 |
| 3. | Assam | 209.66 | 215.34 | 185.00 | 610.00 | 0.00 | 183.30 | 10.00 | 193.30 |
| 4. | Bihar | 377.96 | 87.12 | 0.00 | 465.08 | 566.94 | 130.68 | 100.00 | 797.62 |
| 5. | Delhi | 0.00 | 141.78 | 0.00 | 141.78 | 0.00 | 444.40 | 220.00 | 664.40 |
| 6. | Goa | 2.86 | 39.27 | 27.50 | 69.63 | 1.32 | 18.59 | 11.00 | 30.91 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 90.00 | 198.00 | 0.00 | 288.00 | 130.00 | 324.50 | 220.00 | 674.50 |
| 8. | Haryana | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.63 | 7.92 | 55.00 | 143.55 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 57.53 | 77.00 | 134.53 | 46.86 | 35.20 | 48.51 | 130.57 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 51.71 | 137.61 | 211.73 | 401.05 | 16.27 | 80.96 | 238.94 | 334.17 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 253.00 | 407.00 | 185.00 | 825.00 | 83.25 | 101.75 | 220.00 | 385.00 |
| 12. | Kerala | 168.85 | 1209.67 | 220.00 | 1598.52 | 0.00 | 249.92 | 165.00 | 414.82 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 264.00 | 113.85 | 0.00 | 377.85 | 322.74 | 139.15 | 0.00 | 461.89 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 232.76 | 245.18 | 220.00 | 698.94 | 432.30 | 455.18 | 220.00 | 1107.48 |
| 15. | Manipur | 14.30 | 31.46 | 69.24 | 115.00 | 0.00 | 18.81 | 0.99 | 19.80 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 15.73 | 104.83 | 69.72 | 190.28 | 0.00 | 11.00 | 1.46 | 12.46 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 5.83 | 74.91 | 33.91 | 114.65 | 0.00 | 11.11 | 0.95 | 12.06 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 8.47 | 94.93 | 11.30 | 114.70 | 2.08 | 16.94 | 1.00 | 20.03 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------------------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 19. Orissa | | 435.51 | 40.92 | 495.04 | 971.47 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 390.00 | 390.00 |
| 20. Punjab | | 7.48 | 3.08 | 0.00 | 10.56 | 39.82 | 16.61 | 0.00 | 56.43 |
| 21. Rajasthan | | 2.75 | 8.18 | 3.89 | 14.83 | 235.95 | 343.14 | 0.00 | 579.09 |
| 22. Sikkim | | 3.74 | 32.67 | 44.00 | 80.41 | 0.00 | 1.10 | 0.79 | 1.89 |
| 23. Tamil Nadu | | 503.69 | 422.84 | 723.00 | 1649.53 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 330.00 | 330.00 |
| 24. Tripura | | 25.41 | 100.32 | 55.57 | 181.30 | 0.00 | 14.08 | 0.52 | 14.60 |
| 25. Uttar Pradesh | | 346.50 | 123.20 | 208.00 | 677.70 | 704.00 | 243.87 | 454.00 | 1401.87 |
| 26. West Bengal | | 242.71 | 118.03 | 115.00 | 475.74 | 260.15 | 711.70 | 0.90 | 972.75 |
| 27. A&N Islands | | 1.85 | 25.85 | 0.00 | 27.50 | 0.77 | 7.48 | 0.00 | 8.25 |
| 28. Chandigarh | | 0.22 | 1.87 | 1.21 | 3.30 | 1.76 | 10.67 | 7.37 | 19.80 |
| 29. D&N Haveli | | 1.32 | 1.98 | 2.75 | 6.05 | 0.33 | 0.55 | 1.87 | 2.75 |
| 30. Daman & Diu | | 0.22 | 1.21 | 5.17 | 6.60 | 0.11 | 0.44 | 1.85 | 2.20 |
| 31. Lakshadweep | | 0.22 | 5.56 | 0.00 | 5.78 | 0.00 | 0.46 | 0.00 | 0.46 |
| 32. Pondicherry | | 7.15 | 3.19 | 11.66 | 22.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 | 8.03 | 8.25 |
| Total | | 3696.98 | 5805.98 | 2983.63 | 12486.59 | 2906.06 | 3673.56 | 2745.98 | 9325.60 |

Annexure-II

Levy Sugar Quota and Festival Quota (Based on Population as per 1991 Census Effective From 1.1.1996)

(Figures in Tonnes)

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | Monthly Normal Quota | Festival Quota for each year |
|---------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 28267 | 7614 |
| 2. | Andaman & Nicobar | 282 | 74 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 366 | 94 |
| 4. | Assam | 9524 | 2896 |
| 5. | Bihar | 36707 | 10078 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 391 | 112 |
| 7. | D & N Haveli | 60 | 14 |
| 8. | Delhi | 11973 | 2316 |
| 9. | Goa | 508 | 150 |
| 10. | Daman | 26 | 12 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|------------------|-------|------|
| 11. | Diu | 17 | 0 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 17557 | 4878 |
| 13. | Haryana | 6996 | 1924 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 2197 | 608 |
| 15. | Jammu & Kashmir | 3567 | 868 |
| 16. | Karnataka | 19117 | 5350 |
| 17. | Kerala | 12368 | 3600 |
| 18. | Lakshdweep | 81 | 22 |
| 19. | Madhya Pradesh | 28127 | 7536 |
| 20. | Maharashtra | 33550 | 9014 |
| 21. | Manipur | 782 | 208 |
| 22. | Meghalaya | 752 | 200 |
| 23. | Mizoram | 293 | 78 |
| 24. | Nagaland | 542 | 128 |
| 25. | Orissa | 13456 | 3730 |
| 26. | Pondicherry | 360 | 64 |
| 27. | Karikal | 86 | 18 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------|---|-------|------|-------------------|---------------|---|--------------|
| 28. Mahe | | 18 | 4 | 33. Tamilnadu | 23741 | | 6790 |
| 29. Yanam | | 8 | 2 | 34. Tripura | 1173 | | 302 |
| 30. Punjab | | 8619 | 2392 | 35. Uttar Pradesh | 59122 | | 15936 |
| 31. Rajasthan | | 18704 | 5092 | 36. West Bengal | 28934 | | 7796 |
| 32. Sikkim | | 174 | 50 | Total | 388445 | | 99950 |

Annexure-III

Details of the Demands Received from the States/UTs during 1999-2000 for Increase in the Allocation of Wheat and Rice and decision taken by the Government

| S.No. | States/UTs | Demand Made | Decision Taken |
|-------|-------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Addl. alloc. of 1,00,000 MT rice for natural calamities | Not agreed to |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | Enhancement of monthly quota by 4,900 MT rice and 5,400 MT wheat per month for PDS | Not agreed to |
| 3. | Assam | (i) Addl. alloc. of 20,000 MT rice for flood relief | 20,000 MT rice allotted |
| | | (ii) Enhancement of present allocation by 30,640 MT rice and 21,700 MT wheat for PDS | Not agreed to |
| | | (iii) Enhancement of TPDS monthly quota by 50,000 MT rice and 21,700 MT wheat | Not agreed to |
| | | (iv) Enhancement of wheat quota to 30,300 MT | Under consideration |
| 4. | Bihar | Addl. alloc. of 1,95,000 MT wheat for flood relief | Allotted 1,00,000 MT wheat |
| 5. | Jammu & Kashmir | Addl. alloc. of 7,789 MT rice per month from Sept. 99 for drought relief at APL rate | Agreed to |
| 6. | Maharashtra | Addl. alloc. of 2,000 MT wheat per month from September, 99 onwards | Not agreed to |
| 7. | Manipur | (i) Addl. alloc. of 1,000 MT rice per month at BPL rate for June, July & August, 99 for drought relief | Agreed to |
| | | (ii) Addl. alloc. of 1,000 MT rice per month for September and October, 99 at BPL rate for drought relief | Agreed to |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---------------|---|--|
| 8. | Meghalaya | (i) Restoration of addl. alloc. of 1,460 MT wheat from May, 99 onwards | Not agreed to |
| | | (ii) 1,460 MT wheat per month as addl. alloc. | Not agreed to |
| 9. | Mizoram | (i) Restoration of addl. alloc. of 950 MT wheat from May, 99 onwards | Not agreed to |
| | | (ii) Addl. alloc. of 1,083 MT wheat | Under consideration |
| 10. | Nagaland | (i) Addl. alloc. of 6,000 MT common rice for April, 99 for MOATSU festival | 300 MT rice allotted at APL rate |
| | | (ii) Restoration of addl. alloc. of 1,000 MT wheat from May, 99 onwards | Not agreed to |
| | | (iii) Addl. alloc. of 2,000 MT rice per month for May, June and July, 99 | Not agreed to |
| | | (iv) Addl. alloc. of 5,000 MT rice per month for July and August, 99 | Not agreed to |
| | | (v) Addl. alloc. of 2,000 MT rice for July, August and September, 99 at BPL rate for drought relief | Not agreed to |
| | | (vi) Addl. alloc. of 3,000 MT rice at APL rate and 3,000 MT wheat at BPL rate for Christmas festival | Under consideration |
| 11. | Orissa | (i) Addl. alloc. of 14,000 MT rice per month at BPL rates for 8 KBK districts in Orissa | 10,686 MT rice per month at BPL rate being allotted to the State exclusively for 8 KBK districts in Orissa |
| | | (ii) Special addl. alloc. of 2,19,540 MT rice and 50,000 MT wheat at BPL rate for relief to cyclone affected people in 14 districts of Orissa | Agreed to |
| | | (iii) Further addl. alloc. of 96,710 MT rice at BPL rate for cyclone relief | Under consideration |
| 12. | Sikkim | Restoration of addl. alloc. of 790 MT wheat from May, 99 onwards | Not agreed to |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | Addl. alloc. of 56,000 MT rice per month from July, 99 to April, 2000 at APL rate | Agreed to |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | Addl. alloc. of 4,300 MT common rice and 1,400 MT wheat for earthquake relief from May, 99 to March, 2000 | Demand agreed to May, 99 – June, 99 – APL rates, July, 99 – March, 2000 – BPL rates |
| 15. | West Bengal | Addl. alloc. of 5,000 MT rice for Oct., 99 at APL rate for flood relief | Agreed to |

[English]

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Sir, the allocation of sugar through the Public Distribution System is based on the 1991 Census. Considering the increase in population, would the hon. Minister consider increasing the allocation of sugar to different States ?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the norm for supply of sugar is 425 gms per capita per month. It is not possible to increase the allocation of levy sugar.

[English]

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Sir, I would like to know from the Minister as to what criteria the Government is following now for making additional allotment of rice and wheat to various States.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, allocation is made under B.P.L. and A.P.L. and besides this allocation is also made in case there is any natural calamity. If we receive any demand from State for an additional allotment without any reason we also consider that. Recently, we received demand from a North-East State. Since the Minister and Chief Minister of that State requested for an additional allotment due to Christmas we agreed upon their request and made additional allocation for that State. Additional allotment is also made on the basis of natural calamity. In case we receive demand for an additional allotment without any reason then that demand is rejected. If a reason is given, then the demand is always accepted.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even today, the allocation of wheat, rice and sugar to States is made on the basis of 1991 census. According to 1991 census, there are 33 lakh low poverty families in Gujarat. But the Union Government allocates wheat, rice and sugar for only 20 lakh families. I would like to know whether the Government possesses sufficient quantities of wheat, rice and sugar or not ? If not then what step Government are taking to provide sufficient quantities of wheat, rice and sugar to the States. Whether the State Government of Gujarat has written any letter in this regard. From the reply, it seems that the letter of Gujarat Government has not been received. I have got a letter of State Government of Gujarat in which they have stated that they have written a letter to Union Government on 20th October but the Union Government has replied that they have not received any such letter. I do not know whether the Statement of Government of Gujarat is true or the Statement of Union Government is true. I would like to know as to where that letter has vanished.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : As I had said earlier, the allocation of wheat, rice and sugar is fixed by planning Commission to the B.P.L. families on the basis of recommendations of Lakkarwala Group. Approximately 6 crore families and 30 lakh people come under it. For those people allocation of foodgrain is made on the basis of 10 kg. per family. It was decided that the allocation of foodgrains for families above the poverty line is made equal to the difference of past ten year's average annual lifting of foodgrains under PDS and the BPL entitlements. Besides this, demand is also met, when there is any special reason. What we had said about Gujarat will be verified from records.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know as to how much quantity of wheat and rice is procured from the farmers and how much of it is stolen or vanished at the intermediate level of supplying it to the fair price shops from the godown ?

Second part of my question is that even today huge quantities of rice and wheat have been shown only on paper but in reality very less quantity is available in FCI godowns. It is only shown on papers that so much quantity has been stored in FCI godown but in reality that much quantity is not available there. Hon'ble Minister should give clarification in this regard.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member is requested to ask a separate question for this, but it is true that some losses and damages do take place such a huge quantity is procured, stored and distributed, some damages are possible. We have received complaints that at many places this damage is much more. Efforts will be made to prevent this damage.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, in the Statement that has been laid on the Table of the House by the hon. Minister, it has been very clearly stated that of some States who had requested for an additional allotment in view of the natural calamities, in the case of certain States, this demand has been agreed upon while there are also certain States where this demand has not been agreed upon. Out of the 15 States that had put up their demands for additional allotment of funds in view of the natural calamities, only in the case of Orissa, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur and Tamilnadu, the Central Government has given an additional allotment. In this regard, Andhra Pradesh had also requested for an additional allotment both for drought as well as cyclines to the extent of one lakh metric tonnes, but they have not been given any additional amount for this purpose.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

Even earlier also, in the Lakrawala classification, a grave injustice has been done to Andhra Pradesh. Even for the most unprecedented droughts that had hit Andhra Pradesh, no additional allotment has been given to our State.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the criterion is that is being adopted in making this additional allotment. Why has Andhra Pradesh not been given any additional amount? Sir, I would like to place on record that on several counts, this discrimination has been done to Andhra Pradesh. I would like to know whether the drought that had been reported to there, had not been on par with the natural calamities. In the case of other States where the Central Government has agreed upon to give an additional amount, whether they were on par with the natural calamities. Why is this discrimination being done?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I had said earlier where there was any specific reason, we have despatched additional foodgrains to those areas. He is talking about Andhra Pradesh. We will look into it and if there is a necessity, additional allocation will be made.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It was decided during the tenure of United Front Government that the people who are below-poverty line will be supplied foodgrains at special subsidised rates. At present 10 kg of foodgrains is given to each BPL family. This is not sufficient. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to enhance the minimum requirement from 10 kg to 20 kg per family. We have sufficient buffer stock with us. Will the Government look into it?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : When the issue of bringing improvement in Public Distribution System was raised and the targeted Public Distribution System was adopted, the issue of BPL and APL came up, at that time it was decided that the people who are above poverty line should not be given these benefits but the States did not agree to it. Therefore, at present 10 kg is being given. We have sufficient foodgrains but if we provide more foodgrains to them then it will involve huge amount of subsidy. At present Government is giving subsidy of Rs. 10,000 crore. We have sufficient foodgrains and can provide more foodgrains also, but subsidy is involved under BPL and therefore, such a proposal is not under consideration.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : While procuring wheat and rice buffer stock is ensured but when we procure sugar we do not ensure buffer stock. Due to this sugarcane

producers and mills have to suffer heavy loss. What steps are being taken by the Government to remove this disparity? The Government procure sugar at lower rates due to which sugarcane producers and sugar mills have to bear losses. The losses due to subsidy are suffered by the producers and not by the Government. What do you want to say in this regard?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ratio of sugar in PDS and open market is 40-60. There is no need to ensure buffer stock for sugar because Government procures sugar from sugar mills and after that sugar is released for free sale. As the sugar stocks remains preserved in sugar mills, sugar is procured as per demand. In this way, we release as much quantity of sugar as is required for free sale. There is no need to maintain buffer stock. Since the production is more than the requirement, therefore there is no need to maintain buffer stock.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : There were press reports that the Union Government is going to withdraw subsidy, This has created panic in Kerala. Kerala is the first State in the country to start statutory rationing system. This happened because paddy cultivation in Kerala is going down year after year. Most of the farmers are shifting to cash crops. We in the Government get the benefit of foreign exchange. Considering this special situation, will the Government extend the food subsidy and strengthen the statutory rationing system of Kerala?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : There is no such proposal before the Government at present. Therefore, there is no cause for any panic.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Generation of Renewable Energy

*164. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the potential of generation of renewable energy in the country; and
- (b) the details of the Government plan to fulfil the demand of renewable energy during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The estimated potential of the major sources of renewable energy in the country is given

in enclosed Statement-I. The Government has drawn up a detailed plan for providing energy through renewable sources during the Ninth Plan. Details of programme-wise physical targets and budgetary allocations are given in enclosed Statement-II

Statement-I

Estimated Potential of Renewable Energy in the Country

| Source/System | Estimated Potential |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. Wind Power | 20,000 MW |
| 2. Solar Photovoltaic | 20 MW/sq. km. |

| | 1 | 2 |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 3. Solar Thermal | | 35 MW/sq. km. |
| 4. Biomass Power | | 17,000 MW |
| 5. Bagasse based Cogeneration | | 3500 MW |
| 6. Small Hydro Power (upto 15 MW) | | 10,000 MW |
| 7. Energy Recovery from Wastes | | 1700 MW |
| 8. Biogas Plants (No.) | | 120 lakh |
| 9. Improved Chulha (No.) | | 12 crores |
| MW = Mega-watt | | Sq. km. = Square Kilometer |
| Sq.m. = Square Meter | | |

Statement-II

Details of Programme-wise Budgetary Allocation and Physical Targets during 9th Plan Period

| Sl.No. | Programmes/Schemes | (Financial) (Rs. in crores) 9th Plan Allocations | (Physical) 9th Plan Physical Target |
|--------|--|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Biogas | 286.00 | 10 Lakhs |
| 2. | Community/Institutional/Night-soil based Biogas Plants | 30.00 | 800 Nos. |
| 3. | Improved chulha | 84.00 | 150 Lakhs |
| 4. | Biomass/Gasifier | 25.00 | 40 MW |
| 5. | Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) | 53.00 | 660 (Old Blocks) 200 (New Blocks) |
| 6. | Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Demonstration | 219.00 | |
| | SPV Home Light | | 2 Lakhs |
| | SPV Lanterns | | 3 Lakhs |
| | SPV Power Plants | | 1.6 MW |
| 7. | SPV Pumps | 46.50 | 4000 Nos. |
| 8. | SPV Research & Development | 25.00 | |
| 9. | Solar Thermal (ST) Energy | 34.00 | |
| | Solar Water Heating Systems (M.sq. collector area) | | 1.5 Lakh |
| | Solar Cooker | | 1.5 Lakh Nos. |
| 10. | Wind Pumps & Hybrid Systems | 8.00 | 1000 Nos. 250 KW |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------|----------|
| 11. | Wind Power | 63.00 | 1000 MW |
| 12. | Small Hydro Power (SHP) | 187.00 | |
| | (SHP) | | 130 MW |
| | (Water Mills) | | 700 Nos. |
| | (Repair & Maintenance) | | 65 MW |
| 13. | Biomass Power | 226.00 | 314 MW |
| 14. | Solar Power | 63.00 | 141.5 MW |
| 15. | Urban & Industrial & National Bio-energy Board | 62.00 | 42 MW |
| 16. | Research & Development and other support activities | 150.64 | |
| 17. | Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. | | |
| | (a) Equity | 250.00 | |
| | (b) Technology Commercial Funds | 10.00 | |
| Total Domestic Budgetary Source (DBS) | | 1822.14 | |
| 18. | Externally Aided Projects (EAP) | 300.00 | |
| Total Gross Budgetary Sources (GBS) | | 2122.14 | |
| 19. | Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) | 1678.00 | |
| Total Outlay | | 3800.14 | |

MW = Mega Watt; KW = Kilo Watt;

M.sq. = Meter Square

[English]

Gauge Conversion

*165. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of requests received from various State Governments for gauge conversion during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and current financial year so far, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to convert all metre and narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines in a phased manner;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of metre and narrow gauge lines on which the gauge conversion work is in progress alongwith the date of their completion and expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, project-wise;

(f) the details of those projects which are lagging behind their original schedule alongwith the cost over-run thereby; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to expedite the conversion work of these rail lines ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) The number of requests received from State Governments for gauge conversion during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and current year so far alongwith action taken thereon are as under :

| State | No. of request | Action taken by the Government | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| | | Works sanctioned | Shelved due to unremunerative returns and constraint of resources | Survey in progress |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1 | 1 | | |
| Assam – North Eastern Region | 2 | 1 | | 1 |
| Gujarat | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1 | | | 1 |
| Karnataka | 1 | 1 | | |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1 | | 1 | |
| Orissa | 1 | 1 | | |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---------------|---|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Rajasthan | | 5 | 3 | | 2 |
| Tamil Nadu | | 4 | 4 | | |
| Uttar Pradesh | | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| West Bengal | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Total | | 28 | 15 | 5 | 8 |

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A Statement is enclosed.

(f) and (g) The progress of gauge conversion projects which has been taken up is being regulated as per availability of resources. Targets are fixed each year depending on operational and strategic priority and the amount provided for gauge conversion works in the budget. All works are progressing as per these targets.

Statement

e-Gauge Conversion Works in Progress

* Indicates Projects for which target dates will be fixed each year depending on operational and strategic priority and budget allotment each year

| Rly | Project | Cost (Rs. in crs.) | Probable Date of Completion |
|-----|--|--------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| CR | Miraj-Latur | 339 | *Part section Kuruduwadi to Pandharpur is targeted for March, 2000. |
| NER | Mathura-Achnera | 33.7 | * |
| | Kaptanganj-Thave-Sivan-Chapra | 268 | * |
| | Samastipur-Khagaria | 70 | * |
| | Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj | 233 | * |
| | Mansi-Saharsa-Forbesganj PHI | 210 | * |
| | Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand nager Nautanwa | 250 | * |
| | Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow-PHI | 48 | * |
| | Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura | 395 | * |
| | Kashipur-Lalkuan | 44.5 | March, 2000 |

| 39 | Written Answers | DECEMBER 9, 1999 | to Questions | 40 |
|-----|---|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| NFR | Katihari-Jogbani | 137 | * | |
| | New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri | 536 | * | |
| | Lumding-Silchar | 648 | * | |
| | Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked figures | 652 | * | |
| | Katakhal-Bairabhi | 200 | * | |
| NR | Sriganganagar-Sarupsar | 68.7 | * | |
| | Luni-Barmer-Munabao | 240 | * | |
| | Viramgam-Jodhpur, Bhildi-Samdri | 185 | * | |
| | Phulera-Jodhpur-Pipar Road-Bilara | 45.7 | * | |
| | Rewari-Sadulpur | 198 | * | |
| SCR | Mudkhed-Adilabad | 170 | * | |
| | Dharmavaram-Pakala | 251 | * | |
| | Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati | 113 | * | |
| | Guntur-Guntakal & Guntakal-Kalluru | 506 | | *Guntur to Guntakal completed. |
| | Secunderabad-Mudkhed & Jankhampet-Bodhan | 276 | * | |
| | Solapur-Gadag | 266 | * | |
| SER | Naupada-Gunupur | 46.5 | * | |
| | Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori | 193 | * | |
| | Rupsa-Bangariposi | 58 | * | |
| | Bankura-Damodar River Project | 100 | * | |
| | Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi | 386 | * | |
| SR | Villupuram-Pondicherry | 30 | * | |
| | Quilon-Tirunelveli-Trichendur & Tenkasi-Virudhnagar | 280 | * | |
| | Madurai-Rameswaram | 240 | * | |
| | Cuddalore-Salem via Vriddhachalam | 199 | * | |
| | Tiruchchirappali-Nagore-Karaikal | 139 | * | |
| | Thanjavur-Villupuram main line | 223 | * | |
| | Bangalore-Hubli-Birur-Shimoga | 451 | * | |
| | Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore | 218 | * | |
| | Mysore-Hassan | 212 | | Dec., 2000 |
| | Mysore-Chamarajanagar | 175 | * | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|----------------------------|------|------------|
| WR | Agra-Bandikui | 161 | • |
| | Gadhidham-Palanpur | 318 | • |
| | Ajmer-Udaipur-Chittaurgarh | 262 | • |
| | Rajkot-Veraval | 100 | • |
| | Gandhidham-Bhuj | 41.0 | June, 2000 |
| | Wankaner-Malia Miyana | 82.5 | • |
| | Surendernagar-Bhavnagar | 356 | • |
| | Dharangadhara-Kuda siding | 8.77 | Dec., 2000 |
| | Neemuch-Ratlam | 117 | • |
| | Bhildi-Viramgam | 59.9 | • |

[Translation]

Defence Budget

*166. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of the G.D.P. being spent on the defence services in India;

(b) the percentage of G.D.P. being spent by China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries on their defence services;

(c) whether the amount spent on the defence services by India is sufficient in view of the threat to the security of the country; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government for strengthening the defence services further ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) As percentage of GDP, the Defence expenditure in India during last ten years including the current financial year is as under

| Year | Defence Expenditure as Percentage of GDP at market price |
|-----------|--|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1990-1991 | 2.65 |
| 1991-1992 | 2.44 |
| 1992-1993 | 2.29 |
| 1993-1994 | 2.49 |

| 1 | 2 |
|----------------|------|
| 1994-1995 | 2.24 |
| 1995-1996 | 2.20 |
| 1996-1997 | 2.09 |
| 1997-1998 | 2.26 |
| 1998-1999 (RE) | 2.33 |
| 1999-2000 (BE) | 2.28 |

2. As per data available with the Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses (IDSA) the Defence expenditure as percentage of GDP in the countries in our neighbourhood during last 5 years was as below :

Table indicating percentage of GDP spent on Defence by countries in India's Neighbourhood

| Country/Year | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|--------------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| Bangladesh | 1.82 | 1.68 | 1.75 | 1.90 | N.A. |
| China | 4.05 | 3.44 | 3.56 | 3.90 | 4.05 |
| Myanmar | 12.85 | 7.60 | 7.69 | 7.86 | N.A. |
| Nepal | 1.07 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.88 | N.A. |
| Pakistan | 5.55 | 5.32 | 5.30 | 4.85 | 4.32 |
| Sri Lanka | 4.41 | 5.14 | 6.24 | 5.95 | N.A. |

(N.A. – Not Available)

However, as per IMF working paper on Military spending, the % of the GDP spent on defence by countries in the Indian neighbourhood is as under :

(As per SIPRI Year Book 1998)

| Country/Year | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Bangladesh | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 | - |
| China* | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Myanmar | 2.2 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | - |
| Nepal | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Pakistan | 6.5 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.6 |
| Sri Lanka | 2.1 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 5.1 | 6.0 |
| India | 3.4 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |

* Figures are official data, although these are known to be an underestimate.

3. All aspects concerning national security encompassing a host of complex and inter-twined factors spanning international, regional and domestic spheres of geo-strategic, geo-economic, social and technological factors that impinge upon the defence of the country are reviewed regularly and are taken into account by the Government while making allocations to the Defence Services. While ensuring optimal utilisation of available resources, indigenous capabilities and infrastructure, the Government is committed to provide the requisite resources to the Armed Forces. It reviews their requirements continually to ensure that their fighting capability is not compromised and they remain fully equipped to ensure the inviolability to our borders, island territories, off shore assets and maritime trade routes. Over the last three years period the allocation has been increased from Rs. 29505 crores to Rs. 45694 crores - an increase of 54.86%. In addition to the allocations made to the Defence Services in the Union Budget the Government provide further need-based budgetary support to the Armed Forces during the course of the year as may be warranted. It will not be in the national interest to provide further details in this regard.

Employment to Handicapped

*167. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the scheme formulated to give employment on priority basis to the handicapped persons in the Railways; and

(b) the number of handicapped persons provided employment during 1997, 1998 and 1999, Division-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) In the matter of provision of jobs to Physically Handicapped persons, Ministry of Railways follow the instructions of the Department of Personnel & Training, which is the nodal Department for this purpose. The instructions provide for reservation of 3% against direct recruitment quota vacancies for Physically Handicapped persons (1% each for Visually Handicapped, Hearing Handicapped and Orthopaedically Handicapped persons) with the appointments being given to them against the posts identified as suitable for them. A special recruitment drive is being undertaken to wipe out the shortfall in the quota reserved for handicapped persons.

(b) The number of handicapped persons provided employment on the Railways during 1997, 1998 and 1999 (as on 31.10.99) Division-wise ?

| Railway | Division | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 (upto 31.10.99) |
|---------|----------|------|------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Central | Mumbai | 5 | 12 | Nil |
| | Bhusawal | 7 | 14 | 12 |
| | Nagpur | 1 | Nil | Nil |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|
| | Sholapur | 1 | 4 | Nil |
| | Jabalpur | 1 | 1 | Nil |
| | Jhansi | 10 | 4 | 1 |
| | Headquarters | Nil | Nil | 4 |
| | Total : | 25 | 35 | 17 |
| Eastern | Asansol | Nil | 1 | Nil |
| | Howrah | Nil | 1 | Nil |
| | Chief Works Manager/Jamalpur | Nil | 1 | Nil |
| | Divisional Controller of Stores/Howrah | Nil | 1 | Nil |
| | Headquarters/ Calcutta | Nil | 3 | Nil |
| | Total : | Nil | 07 | Nil |
| Northern | Allahabad | Nil | 13 | Nil |
| | Bikaner | 01 | 02 | 13 |
| | Lucknow | 09 | 05 | 05 |
| | Moradabad | Nil | 13 | Nil |
| | Jodhpur | Nil | Nil | 11 |
| | Ferozapur | 03 | Nil | Nil |
| | Delhi | Nil | 06 | 04 |
| | Workshops | Nil | Nil | 11 |
| | Total : | 13 | 39 | 44 |
| North Eastern | Izzatnagar | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Lucknow | Nil | 01 | 01 |
| | Varanasi | 02 | 04 | 03 |
| | Sonepur | 04 | Nil | Nil |
| | Samastipur | Nil | Nil | 01 |
| | Gorakhpur | Nil | Nil | 17 |
| | Headquarters | | | |
| | Total : | 06 | 05 | 22 |
| Northeast Frontier | Katihar | Nil | 20 | Nil |
| | Alipurduar | Nil | 03 | 10 |
| | Lumding | Nil | 15 | Nil |
| | Tinsukia | Nil | 13 | Nil |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---------------|---|-----|-----|-----|
| | Headquarter Maligaon | Nil | 05 | Nil |
| | New Bongaigaon Workshop | Nil | 01 | Nil |
| | Dibrugarh Worksop | Nil | 01 | Nil |
| | Total : | Nil | 58 | 10 |
| Southern | Palghat | Nil | Nil | 01 |
| | Bangalore | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Trivandrum | Nil | Nil | 02 |
| | Total : | Nil | Nil | 03 |
| South Central | Hyderabad | 08 | 05 | 14 |
| | Hubli | 13 | 04 | Nil |
| | Vijayawada | Nil | 15 | 22 |
| | Secunderabad | Nil | 01 | 29 |
| | Guntakal | Nil | 02 | Nil |
| | Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer | Nil | Nil | 11 |
| | Total : | 21 | 27 | 76 |
| South Eastern | Adra | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Kharagpur | Nil | 12 | 30 |
| | Waltair | - | Nil | Nil |
| | Bilaspur | Nil | 04 | 10 |
| | Chakradharpur | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Sambalpur | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Nagpur | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Khurda | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Headquarters Calcutta | Nil | 07 | Nil |
| | Kharagpur Workshop | Nil | Nil | 04 |
| | Raipur Workshop | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Mancheshwar Workshop | Nil | 03 | Nil |
| | Total : | Nil | 26 | 44 |
| Western | Ratlam | 04 | Nil | Nil |
| | Rajkot | Nil | 06 | Nil |
| | Vadodara | Nil | 04 | 06 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|----------------------|
| | Ajmer | Nil | Nil | 14 |
| | Headquater/Mumbai | Nil | Nil | 14 |
| | Ajmer Workshop | Nil | Nil | 14 |
| | Total : | 04 | 10 | 48 |
| Zonal Railways | Total : | 69 | 207 | 264 |
| Production Units | | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 (upto 31.10.99) |
| | Chittaranjan Locomotive Works | 20 | 01 | Nil |
| | Diesel Component Works | 01 | Nil | Nil |
| *combined selection held for 97-98 | Diesel Locomotive Works | Nil | 14* | Nil |
| | Integral Coach Factory | 04 | Nil | 01 |
| | Rail Coach Factory | Nil | 03 | 03 |
| | Wheel and Axle Plant | Nil | 01 | Nil |
| | Total : | 25 | 19 | 04 |
| | Grand Total : | 94 | 226 | 268 |

[English]

(Rs. in crore)

Subsidy for Public Distribution System

*168. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) the amount of subsidy given in running Public Distribution System during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have thought of any substitute for subsidy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent of price rise in case of reduction of subsidy ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) The amount of subsidy borne by the Central Government for providing PDS commodities, viz, foodgrains, sugar, Edible Oil and Kerosene under Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last three years are as follows :

| Year | Foodgrains | Sugar | E.Oil | Kerosene | Total |
|---------|------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1996-97 | 5166 | 900 | 50 | 6540 | 12656 |
| 1997-98 | 7500 | 400 | 20 | 5820 | 13740 |
| 1998-99 | 8700 | 400 | 105 | 5770 | 14975 |

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Extent of price rise in case of reduction of subsidy has not been assessed by the Government.

Transportation of Tourism Promotional Material by Air India

*169. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news – item captioned, "Audit ordered into Tourism Ministry's white elephants" appearing in the *Indian Express* on September 21, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts in respect of each of the points mentioned therein; and

(c) the measures proposed to ensure that the tourist offices abroad work diligently to promote tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) The performance is constantly being monitored. Other steps include :

- (i) Review and assessment by CAG
- (ii) Internal Audit
- (iii) Review by Ministry officials as well as Committee of Officials.
- (iv) Annual Review Meeting in the Ministry.

Statement

Point 1. Only 17 people visited India from Buenos Aires last year. Yet, a huge tourist office with official paraphernalia was opened in Argentina last year to promote tourism.

Fact : 3776 people visited India from Argentina during 1998. The Argentina office is a

very small office with only one officer and one local staff. Report is thus not substantiated.

Point 2 : Air India recently refused to transport tourist promotional material free of charge to Tourist Offices abroad as the pamphlets remained uncollected in airports— in some cases for 2 years.

Fact : Air India has been regularly transporting promotional literature to its nominated online stations. Our Tourist Offices collect them regularly.

Point 3 : Nearly half the Tourism Ministry's budget of Rs. 160 crores is spent on 18 Tourist Offices across the world while the figures establish that tourist traffic has actually dropped after some of the offices were opened.

Fact : Approx 40% of the Plan Budget of the Ministry of Tourism is spent on Overseas marketing promotion. Since 1996, new offices have been opened in Tel Aviv (1996), Moscow (1997), Johannesburg (1997) & Buenos Aires (1998). The flow of traffic from these regions is as follows :

| Country | Tourist Office Location | Arrival from the Country | | | % Improvement in arrival during Jan-Jul 1999 as compared to same period during 1998 |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------|---|
| | | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 (up to July) | |
| Israel | Tel Aviv | 20162 | 21103 | 11740 | 14.4% |
| CIS | Moscow | 32190 | 29493 | 20481 | 23.1% |
| South Africa | Johannesburg | 22218 | 20397 | 12429 | 30.3% |
| Argentina | Buenos Aires | 3202 | 3776 | 3168 | 58.8% |

Point 4 : It seems that the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission have decided to order an Emergency Audit of the Tourist Offices abroad.

Fact : Ministry of Tourism is not aware of any "Emergency Audit" in respect of Govt. of India Tourist Offices abroad being ordered by the Finance Ministry.

Point 5 : Whether the 17 Tourist Offices in India are merely duplicating the work of the State Governments.

Fact : The State Governments are serving and promoting their particular State whereas Govt. of India Tourist Offices in India are promoting the entire country, besides monitor-

ing the Central Plan Schemes. The overall spheres of operation are therefore different.

Point 6 : The Finance Ministry's Proposal to shut down 10 major offices was sent to the Ministry of Tourism on 15 July.

Fact : Not correct.

Point 7 : The Ministry of Tourism wants to open more Tourist Offices abroad and has repeatedly asked the Finance Ministry for more funds.

Fact : No request has been made to open more offices.

Point 8 : The Ministry of Tourism spends 75 crores a year on Tourist Offices abroad. The smallest

offices have no less than four officials drawn from the Director General office.

Fact : The total Plan and Non Plan expenditure on the Overseas Offices has been approx. Rs. 65 crores during 1998-99. The officewise position of officials of as follows.

| Office | No. of Officials from DG's Office |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| New York | 3 |
| Los Angeles | 2 |
| Toronto | 2 |
| London | 3 |
| Frankfurt | 3 |
| Amsterdam | 2 |
| Paris | 3 |
| Madrid | 1 |
| Milan | 1 |
| Stockholm | 1 |
| Moscow | 1 |
| Tel Aviv | 1 |
| Sydney | 3 |
| Singapore | 2 |
| Dubai | 2 |
| Johannesburg | 1 |
| Tokyo | 2 |
| Buenos Aires | 1 |

**Electronic Alarm System Lying
idle in Defence Lab**

*170. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an electronic alarm system to help the detection of enemy intrusion in border areas has been gathering dust in Defence Laboratory since the past several years;

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

(c) the reasons for not procuring the electronic alarm system by Defence forces; and

(d) the persons responsible for this lapse and the steps the Government propose to take to fix such systems in future to avoid any intrusion ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The indigenously developed electronic alarm system is not so effective in hilly and mountainous regions. Approval has been accorded for procurement of 'Unattended Ground Sensor' capable of detecting personnel and vehicles using seismic, magnetic and passive IR sensors.

**Development of Women and
Children in Rural Areas**

*171. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts covered under Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) so far in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of districts likely to be included under the scheme during the remaining period of Ninth Plan particularly from Maharashtra;

(c) the allocation made for implementation of the scheme to each State during the last two years and 1999 upto November; and

(d) the physical achievements made under the scheme during each of the last two years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) All the districts in the country were covered under the programme of Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA).

(b) DWCRA has ceased to exist with effect from 1.4.99. A new comprehensive Self Employment Programme - Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) - has been launched with effect from 1.4.99. All the districts of the country including those in Maharashtra are covered under this programme.

(c) and (d) A statement showing State-wise allocation and physical achievements for the last two years (1997-98 and 1998-99) under DWCRA is enclosed

Statement

State-wise Progress of DWCRA during 1997-98 & 1998-99

| Sl. No. | Name of States/UTs | 1997-98 | | | 1998-99 | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------|----------------------|------------|---------|----------------------|
| | | Allocation | | Achievement | Allocation | | Achievement |
| | | Central | State | No. of Groups Formed | Central | State | No. of Groups Formed |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 362.25 | 362.25 | 7178 | 414.29 | 414.29 | 2557 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 22.55 | 22.55 | 154 | 21.42 | 21.42 | 20 |
| 3. | Assam | 143.01 | 143.01 | 1256 | 561.20 | 561.20 | 369 |
| 4. | Bihar | 383.29 | 383.29 | 2354 | 1357.52 | 1357.52 | 4834 |
| 5. | Goa | 4.54 | 4.54 | 36 | 1.01 | 1.01 | 12 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 130.16 | 130.16 | 1375 | 155.99 | 155.99 | 1365 |
| 7. | Haryana | 73.84 | 73.84 | 553 | 91.73 | 91.73 | 366 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 38.30 | 38.30 | 348 | 38.56 | 38.56 | 295 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 110.88 | 110.88 | 695 | 47.88 | 47.88 | 659 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 195.05 | 195.05 | 2243 | 312.98 | 312.98 | 1364 |
| 11. | Kerala | 90.72 | 90.72 | 1355 | 140.36 | 140.36 | 1397 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 352.17 | 352.17 | 2717 | 688.21 | 688.21 | 3290 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 288.29 | 288.29 | 2324 | 618.41 | 618.41 | 2763 |
| 14. | Manipur | 30.87 | 30.87 | 247 | 37.55 | 37.55 | 0 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 55.44 | 55.44 | 261 | 42.08 | 42.08 | 33 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 8.57 | 8.57 | 136 | 9.58 | 9.58 | 25 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 15.37 | 15.37 | 104 | 28.98 | 28.98 | 121 |
| 18. | Orissa | 204.50 | 204.50 | 1730 | 473.76 | 473.76 | 2379 |
| 19. | Punjab | 83.54 | 83.54 | 529 | 44.60 | 44.60 | 338 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 155.99 | 155.99 | 360 | 237.64 | 237.64 | 90 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 21.92 | 21.92 | 126 | 10.84 | 10.84 | 138 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 245.83 | 245.83 | 2041 | 366.41 | 366.41 | 2292 |
| 23. | Tripura | 11.34 | 11.34 | 182 | 68.04 | 68.04 | 220 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 512.57 | 512.57 | 6098 | 1493.35 | 1493.35 | 9205 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 227.56 | 227.56 | 1986 | 526.68 | 526.68 | 1440 |
| Union Territories | | | | | | | |
| 1. | A & N Islands | 7.31 | - | 28 | 2.52 | - | 14 |
| 2. | D & N Haveli | 4.03 | - | 0 | 2.02 | - | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|----|-------------|------|---|----|------|---|---|
| 3. | Daman & Diu | 3.53 | - | 0 | 0.50 | - | 0 |
| 4. | Lakashdweep | 4.03 | - | 6 | 0.50 | - | 6 |
| 5. | Pondicherry | 4.03 | - | 14 | 2.52 | - | 7 |

**Prevention of HIV Infections
amongst Armed Forces**

*172. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Medical Officers and others in Indian Medical Corps responsible for carrying out periodical medical checks of armed forces personnel are required to inform the families of such personnel who are found HIV positive about the infection;

(b) whether divulging of such personal health secrets runs counter to medical ethics and disrupts the family and social life of such personnel; and

(c) if so, the details of such orders, and what other checks are deemed fit to prevent spread of HIV infections in armed forces ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Health secrets of Armed Forces personnel, including HIV infection, are not required to be divulged to their family members. The following steps are being taken to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS among the Armed Forces personnel :—

- (i) Health education activities on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS through audio-visual and other medium have been stepped up. Such activities are undertaken by medical, nursing and paramedical staff, and also by Commanders at all levels, and religious teachers. A video film highlighting the causes and prevention of HIV/AIDS specifically among the Armed Forces Personnel developed by the Armed Forces Medical College has been distributed to all units for exhibition.
- (ii) Only HIV infection-free blood is used for transfusion to Services personnel and their families.
- (iii) Condoms are made available freely in the units for Services Personnel.
- (iv) Services personnel found sero-positive for HIV are examined frequently and preventive measures are taken against the spread of infection from such personnel.

Corruption in Railway Reservation

*173. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Ministry called a meeting of General Managers of various Zonal Railways in the Third week of November 1999 in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of discussions and decisions taken therein;

(c) the actions taken or to be taken to implement the decisions taken;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the rampant corruption and rackets are prevailing in getting reservations;

(e) if so, the names of Railway Employees, touts and Mafia agents involved in such corruption and rackets and action taken against each of them; and

(f) the concrete steps taken or likely to be taken to avert such corruption, rackets and illegal practices from the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) A Conference of General Managers of Zonal Railways was held on 30.10.99 and not during the 3rd week of November, '99.

(b) and (c) Important issues like Security, Passenger Amenities, Safety and Performance of Zonal Railways including Production Units were discussed and guidelines were given to them in order to bring about all-round improvement.

(d) Some cases of corruption in reservations have come to the notice of Government.

(e) The voluminous information of names of staff and touts/travel agents caught is not practicable to furnish. However, during the period April to Sep. 1999, 1454 touts were apprehended; 10981 cases of Transfer of ticket were detected; 4171 staff working in Mass Contact areas of reservation, booking and ticket checking were taken up for various irregularities.

(f) The following steps are taken :—

- (i) Regular checks are conducted to nab the touts in railway premises by Railway Protection Force (RPF), Vigilance and Commercial departments.
- (ii) Joint raids on unauthorised travel agents are conducted with the help of Government Railway Police (GRP) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- (iii) Checks are conducted on the premises of authorised Rail travel agents to see if any irregularities are committed by them.
- (iv) Preventive checks are conducted in a discreet manner by Vigilance to detect cases of irregularities and malpractices in booking and reservations with the connivance of the railway staff. These checks and raids are intensified during summer, important festival times and year ending rush. The staff held responsible are taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules.
- (v) Railways have endeavoured to reduce the problem of the gap between supply and demand of reserved accommodation on trains by introducing new trains, augmenting the capacity of existing trains and running special trains during busy season. Important trains have been augmented with 24 coaches.
- (vi) Close Circuit TV cameras have also been installed at a few reservation offices in order to keep an eye on the activities of unscrupulous elements.

Discounts Allowed by Foreign Airlines

*174. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that extra commission and heavy discounts are being given by the Foreign Airlines to their agents which cause a heavy loss to Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this loss ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Discounting is a common airline practice based on pricing strategies of the airlines determined by factors like traffic potential on the route, competition, seasonality etc. The discounts on IATA published fares vary for different fare types and different sectors. Heavy discounting no doubt results in yield

reduction and adversely affects all airlines including Air India.

(c) Board of Airlines Representatives of India consisting of all airlines operating to India has formed Yield Improvement Programme Committees for the Gulf and Western Routes to discuss and resolve issues relating to discounting.

Fund Crunch Derailing Upgrade of Technology for Railway Safety

*175. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Fund crunch derailing upgrade of technology for railway safety" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times', dated October 25, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to make sufficient funds available for upgradation of technology for railways ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While the contents of the news item are generally appreciated, it has to be emphasised that ensuring safety in railway operations requires a multi-pronged approach covering all aspects of railway working including improvements in Signalling and Telecommunications.

The percentage increase in Passenger Kilometres between 1950-51 and 98-99 has been 507%. Corresponding figures for increase in Track Kilometres is 37% and for increase in Net Tonne Kms. (Revenue Traffic) is 649%. The Accident Statistics for the last five years reveal that 67.12% of the accidents were on account of failure of Railway Staff and 15.35% on account of road users.

As far as ensuring safety at unmanned level crossings is concerned, the primary responsibility lies with the road user. However, keeping in view the cost of disruptions and loss of life and property due to accidents at unmanned level crossings, Railways have embarked upon a plan of manning a large number of such level crossings in a need based and a phased manner.

(c) Upgradation of technology and modernisation of railways is a continuous and need based exercise which takes into account the availability of resources and requirements of the system for upgrading its services and for ensuring better safety standards. While Modern

technology in the form of track circuiting, Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Mobile communication between guard and driver, mechanized maintenance of track, provision of route-relay- interlocking/solid-state-interlocking, safety devices at level crossings, Centralised Traffic Control, Train describer Systems, high powered diesel and electric locomotives, high axle load wagons, modern track etc. has been inducted on the Indian Railways. Investments in upgradation of human resources in the form of training of operation and maintenance staff using modern and better training facilities like simulators etc. are also undertaken concurrently. These measures are expected to help in bringing about further improvements in the safety standards of the Railways. Resource constraints do, however, exist. Efforts continue to be made with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance in this regard. In order to further augment the availability of funds, increased emphasis is being laid on revenue generation through better marketing efforts, private sector participation in Railway Projects and through other innovative measures like commercial exploitation of land and airspace, leasing of communication channels etc. Efforts are also being made to effect reduction in expenditure to improve the finances of the Railways.

Railway Booking through Internet

*176 SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry propose to introduce railway ticket booking through internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof and modalities so far worked out for this system;

(c) whether booking for all the classes of reservation in trains will be available on internet;

(d) if so, whether her Ministry has kept in view the travelling of rural masses who have a little access to internet or computerisation in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to safeguard their interests ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the proposal is being examined in detail to take care of various connected issues like security, the types of plastic currencies to be permitted, timings during which the services will be available, cancellation and refund over the internet, delivery of tickets to the passengers, etc. Cyber laws are still to be enacted by Parliament and only after these are in place, the above mentioned issues can be finally sorted out.

(c) As and when the proposal is implemented, booking for all the classes of reservation will be available in phases.

(d) and (e) The interest of the masses will be kept in view while formulating modalities for making reservation available through internet.

Purchase of Aircraft

*177. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and the Air India started negotiations with bidders to purchase new Aircraft after inviting the tenders;

(b) if so, whether the Central Vigilance Commission has issued instructions to the Ministry of Civil Aviation to stop any post-tender negotiations for the purchase of new aircraft; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Vigilance Commission guidelines ban post tender negotiations except with the lowest tenderer. The matter for relaxation in post-tender negotiations with regard to purchase of aircraft was taken up with the CVC but they have not agreed to it.

Availability of Food Items for People living Below Poverty Line

*178. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the specified food items are generally not available at the ration shops for the people living below poverty line in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure the availability of the items of good quality under PDS/revamped PDS ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities up to

the central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of PDS rests with the State Governments/UTs. The States are also required to formulate and implement foolproof arrangements for identification of families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) both in rural and urban areas. Allocation of PDS items viz, rice, wheat, sugar and edible oil to the State Governments and UTs is made more than a month in advance by Central Government to ensure timely availability to the consumers.

With a network of over 4.5 lakh Fair Price Shops out of which about 80% are located in rural areas, Public Distribution System (PDS) in India is perhaps the largest distribution network of its type in the world. In an operation of such magnitude with a long chain of distribution involving many agencies including State Governments, State Civil Supplies Corporation, Fair Price Shops etc. instances of failure to reach PDS items at times is not ruled out. Further, on account of large difference between specially subsidised Central Issue Prices of foodgrains for BPL families and the open market price, there is a propensity among some unscrupulous functionaries involved in PDS to divert foodgrains in the open market.

Under the guidelines for implementation of TPDS, State Governments have been asked to draw up inspection schedule of Fair Price Shops (FPS) for the District/Taluk level officers. Further, the Collector/District Magistrate should hold weekly review meetings on PDS to ensure that problems and bottlenecks are reviewed. State Governments have also been asked to involve Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas in the identification of eligible families below poverty line. Central Government has further issued detailed guidelines in June, 99 for greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) in the functioning of the TPDS in rural areas to bring about a more transparent and accountable system as a measure of social audit.

Foodgrains distributed under TPDS, are procured strictly conforming to uniform specifications. The quality of these items is continuously monitored during storage. Foodgrains conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) standards and free from insect infestation are issued for PDS.

Medical Facilities in Trains

*179 SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide medical facilities in long distance trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the above facilities are likely to be provided; and

(d) the other new facilities that are likely to be provided in trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Plan of action in this regard is under preparation.

(d) Railways have upgraded the facilities for the convenience of the passengers on some selected trains which would have better coaches, cleanliness arrangements, on-board maintenance staff and improved catering services.

[Translation]

Y2K Problem

*180. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any emergent scheme to keep the Airports totally free from 'Y2K' problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Y2K readiness on systems and equipment at the airports have been completed after a thorough Y2K assessment followed by necessary renovation of the affected systems and confirming Y2K compliance by vendors certification. This was followed by in-house testing of systems and audit by external agencies which has also been completed. The Passenger Facilitation Services at International & Domestic airports & all Communication, Navigation, Landing & Surveillance systems of the Airports Authority of India including Radars at Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Trivandrum, Ahmedabad, Calcutta & Guwahati airports are Y2K ready. Contingency Plans for the airports and Air Traffic Services & Routes have been finalised and personnel given training to ensure uninterrupted and safe flights during the roll-over period.

(c) The Action programme comprising of the following elements have been completed :

(i) Assessment & Inventory Listing of equipments & systems completed by December, 1998.

- (ii) Renovation/Replacement completed by March, 1999.
- (iii) Vendors Certification completed by June, 1999.
- (iv) In-House testing completed by September, 1999.
- (v) External Audit by Electronics Corporation of India Limited Completed in October, 1999. External Audit by ICAO experts commenced on 29 November, 1999 and is to be completed by 14th December, 1999.
- (vi) Contingency Plans prepared by September, 1999 and training of personnel is in progress.

[English]

Violation of LoC by China

1571. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether seven heavy vehicles carrying four Chinese officers and 102 soldiers of the Peoples' Liberation Army crossed the LoC in the Eastern Ladakh sector in the first week of July, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government have lodged any protest with Beijing in regard thereto; and

(c) if so, the reaction of China's Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The resolution of boundary between India and China remains outstanding. The two sides also have differences in perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas, including in the Ladakh region in J&K. Both sides carry out patrolling on India-China border areas according to their respective perceptions of the LAC. Violations of the LAC are taken up through diplomatic channels and at Border Personnel Meetings/Flag Meetings. With reference to our protests, the usual Chinese reaction has been that their troops carried out activities on their side of the LAC.

2. Both India and China have been discussing the issue of resolution of the boundary in the framework of the Joint Working Group. Both sides have reiterated the objective of seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through dialogue. The Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the LAC in the India-China Border Areas signed in 1993 and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the LAC in the India-China Border Areas signed in 1996 provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace of tranquillity in the India-China border areas.

3. The Government remains vigilant and all necessary measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India are taken.

Funds to Andhra Pradesh under Rural Development Schemes

1572. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to provide additional funds under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, National Old Age Pension Scheme, 58 Sub-Mission Project and Integrated Wasteland Development Programmes;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have provided funds to complete all the above projects; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Funds under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission and National Old Age Pension Scheme are allocated to the States in the beginning of the year and released in installments, as per norms specified in the guidelines of these programmes. Funds for Sub-Mission Projects and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme are released on project to project basis depending upon the progress and furnishing of requisite documents. Keeping in view the budgetary constraints, it would not be possible to release additional funds to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Losses and Damages to Biju Patnaik Airport

1573. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of losses and damages caused to Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar and other Airports in Orissa by the severe cyclone on 17th, 18th, 29th and 30th October, 1999; and

(b) the steps taken for the restoration of the air services there ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Airports Authority of India manages two airports in the State of Orissa, namely, Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda. Jharsuguda airport did not suffer any damage. The Loss caused to the Biju Patnaik Airport has been estimated to be Rs. 25 lakhs. Various communication, equipments, furnitures and fixtures in the Air Traffic control tower and terminal were damaged.

(b) The air services were restored with effect from 1.11.99 and Indian Airlines and relief flights have since been operating to/from Bhubaneswar airport.

[Translation]

Outstanding Amount of Sugarcane Growers

1574. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total outstanding amount of sugarcane growers on sugar mills in the country particularly in Western districts of U.P. as on date;

(b) the reasons for not paying outstanding amount so far;

(c) the plan formulated by the Government for making payment of outstanding amount to sugarcane growers; and

(d) the details of the latest position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) As per information received from the sugar mills as on 30.9.99, the total outstanding amount of sugarcane growers as cane dues on sugar mills for the sugar season 1998-99 (Oct-Sep) was Rs. 288.64 crores including Rs. 37.87 crores pertaining to mills of western districts of U.P.

(b) to (d) Accumulation of cane price arrears could be attributed to a number of factors such as poor financial position of sugar mills, high cost of production, excessively high State Advised Cane Prices, inadequate sales realisation etc.

The responsibility for ensuring timely payment of cane price dues lies with the State Govts. who have necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payments. However, the Central Govt. besides taking up the matter with the State Govt. at the highest level, has been pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious releases of freesale quota and helping deserving specific cases with higher freesale sugar quota as measures to enable clearance of cane price dues of the farmers.

Panchayati Raj Act

1575. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has requested the Union Government to extend the time limit for the implementation of Panchayati Raj Act;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the amount allocated and released to Bihar for Panchayati Raj Institutions during each of the last three years and till date; and

(d) the time by which the balance amount is likely to be released ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Department of Rural Development does not allocate any funds for Panchayati Raj Institutions. However, the Tenth Finance Commission awarded the State of Bihar a grant of Rs. 507.19 Crores for devolution to the Panchayati Raj Institutions during the period 1996-97 to 1999-2000. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 126.80 Crores was released in the year 1996-97. Thereafter, further installments were not released in the subsequent years.

(d) As per the guidelines for release of grants devolved by the Tenth Finance Commission, it is imperative that Panchayats are in position in the States where constitution of elected Panchayats are mandatory under the Constitution. Bihar has not held Panchayat elections and Panchayats are consequently not in position. Release of funds to Bihar can be considered only after elections are held in that State and other conditions stipulated in the guidelines under reference are also fulfilled.

[English]

Bursting of Tyres of Airbus

1576. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the four tyres of Airbus A-310 flying on Mumbai-Chennai-Singapore route with 189 passengers on board burst while landing at Chennai in June 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the precautionary measures being taken to ensure full safety to the passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Four tyres of Air India Airbus A-310 aircraft were damaged during landing at Chennai on June

24, 1999 due to an error of judgement on the part of the pilot The aircraft undershot the runway and the wheels hit the objects placed thereon, for runway maintenance.

(c) The involved pilot was kept off flying for about six months after the incident and was imparted training refresher/checks, including route checks, before releasing him for flying. Directorate General of Civil Aviation has advised Airports Authority of India (AAI) to ensure that the runway markings should be as per the latest ICAO Annexures. AAI has also initiated one-time inspection for strict compliance for runway and apron markings.

B.I.S.

1577. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) propose to set up a training Institute at NOIDA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning; and

(d) the efforts proposed to be made by the institute to reorient professionals dealing with quality standards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) Bureau of Indian Standards has already set up National Institute of Training for Standardization and Quality Management in 1995. The Training Institute is presently functioning from the Bureau's premises at New Delhi.

Land has been acquired by BIS at NOIDA for construction of the Institute's building. The Government of India are providing Rs. 8 crores for this scheme under Ninth Five Year Plan. When the building and infrastructure at NOIDA are ready, the Training Institute will shift there. The Training Institute is conducting various types of training programmes relating to Quality Management for orienting the professionals from Industry, Government and Public Sector Organisations. These programmes relate to ISO 9000 - Quality Management, ISO 14000 - Environment Management, Laboratory Management etc.

New Routes for Indian Airlines and Air India

1578. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new route services started by the Indian Airlines and the Air India during the last three years, year-wise and sector-wise;

(b) the details of routes that are incurring losses; and

(c) the steps taken to make them profitable ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The Details of new routes started by Air India and Indian Airlines during the last three years are given in Statement.

(b) Details of routes that are incurring losses have also been given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The airlines have taken following steps to make them profitable :-

Air India

(i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue; (ii) Network rationalization and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability; (iii) Ensure optimum utilisation of Capacity (iv) Introduction of Automated Revenue yield Management Systems (ARMS) and curtailment of advertisement and publicity budget.

Indian Airlines

Indian Airlines has also taken various steps such as increased utilisation of aircraft, deployment of capacity on the criteria of economics and traffic demand, marketing initiatives, improvement in customer services.

Statement

(a) New routes operated by Air India/Indian Airlines are as under :-

Air India

| | |
|------|---|
| 1997 | Mumbai/Delhi/Hong Kong/Seoul and v.v., Jaipur/Jaisalmer |
| 1998 | Hyderabad and Singapore |
| 1999 | Kochi and points in the Gulf/Abu Dhabi/ Dubai/Muscat/Bahrain/Doha/Dhahran |

Indian Airlines

| | |
|------|--|
| 1997 | Agati - Goa, Jaipur - Jaisalmer, Delhi Jaisalmer, Bangalore - Singapore, Calcutta Singapore, Yangoon - Singapore, Trichi |
|------|--|

Kuwait, Coimbatore – Sharjah, Amritsar Sharjah.

1998 Delhi – Vizag, Mumabi – Jaisalmer, Mumbai Raipur, Ahmedabad – Pune, Calcutta – Pune, Mumbai – Varanasi, Aizwal – Imphal.

1999 Delhi – Shimla, Delhi – Kullu, Mumbai Lucknow, Mumbai – Patna, Mumbai – Ranchi, Delhi – Coimbatore, Delhi – Calicut, Lucknow – Varanasi, Delhi – Jabalpur, Jabalpur Bhopal, Delhi – Dehradun, Delhi Dharamshala, Bangalore – Coimbatore, Gwalior – Jabalpur, Mumbai – Jammu, Mumbai – Srinagar, Mumbai Pune, Lucknow – Sharjah, Bangalore – Kulala Lumpur, Cochin – Sharjah, Bangalore Bangkok, Cochin – Muscut, Cochin – Kuwait.

(b) Loss making routes are as under :-

Air India

As per the routewise profitability of scheduled services for the financial year 1998/99, operating losses have been incurred on the sectors USA, UK, Continent, Russia, Hongkong, Japan, Jakarta, Singapore. The operating losses have also been incurred on domestic operations and hub and spoke operation.

Indian Airlines (April to September, 1999 (Provisional) :-

Mumbai – Vadodara, Hyderabad – Tiruvananthapuram, Madras Hyderabad, Madras – Coimbatore, Calcutta – Gauhati, Deli Guwahati, Chennai – Bangalore, Chennai – Calicut, Gauhati Agartala, Mumabi – Bhavanagar, Calcutta – Agartala, Chennai – Tiruchirapally, Jammu – Leh, Madras – Coimbatore – Cochin – Madras, Calcutta – Kathmandu.

Cases under Vigilance of Super Bazar

1579. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the vigilance cases that have occurred during 1999 in Super Bazar; and

(b) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) 18 vigilance cases have occurred during 1999 so far in Super Bazar.

(b) Out of 18 cases, two cases have been finalized and penalty imposed as per Super Bazar Service & Conduct Rules, Investigation proceedings in rest of the cases are in progress.

[Translation]

Construction of Link Roads

1580. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the development of connecting roads during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(b) the number of villages which have been linked or are to be linked with the roads in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Capture of Panamanian Cargo Vessel

1581. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a 8000-tonne Panamanian cargo vessel, taken over by 15 pirates from Indonesia, was captured 270 miles off Goa in a dramatic 12 hour joint operation by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard on November 16, 1999; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) In a joint operation conducted by the Coast Guard and the Navy, a pirated ship "MV Alondra Rainbow" registered in Panama was apprehended along with pirates on 16 November 1999 in the Indian Ocean. The vessel and the pirates have been handed over to the police for investigations.

Internet Facility on Computers in Defence

1582. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Internet facility has been provided on computers in his Ministry and other subordinate offices;

(b) if so, the details of policy formulated in regard thereto and category-wise/post-wise officers made eligible for the same;

(c) its impacts on the security of the nation; and

(d) the justification for providing this facility in such sensitive offices and the steps taken to ensure that such facility is not misused ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the decision of the High Powered Committee for improving administrative efficiency by using Information Technology, Internet connectivity has been provided to selected Senior Officers in the Ministry of Defence and other subordinate Offices. In addition, Internet connections have also been provided to selected Officers in the Armed Forces on need basis.

(c) and (d) All internet PCs are standalone (not connected to LAN/WAN/or any other computer). There is no classified information stored on these computers. The only information stored on these computers is that which is downloaded from Internet itself. Detailed instructions have been issued on the use of internet to prevent any security compromise. Internet is the most versatile source of vast real time information at an extremely cheap cost. It is possible to download information from various foreign institutions, private institutions and national agencies on defence related issues.

[Translation]

Supply of Sugar Under PDS

1583. SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to discontinue the distribution of sugar under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the price of distributed wheat under P.D.S. in view of its higher price than that of prevailing in the market now-a-days; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Lowering of Central Issue Price under Public Distribution System will raise the food subsidy bill to unmanageable level.

[English]

Construction of Godown

1584. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has acquired land for the construction of a proposed godown at Koppal in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the construction work of the godown has been taken up;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In 1985, the Joint Storage Committee of FCI and the Central Warehousing Corporation drew a tentative plan for construction of godowns all over the country, including Koppal in Karnataka, for which land was also acquired by the FCI. Thereafter, due to paucity of funds and the need to construct godowns at the most strategic locations, the plan for construction was reviewed. As there is no B.G. Railway siding the proposal for construction of godown at Koppal was not found operationally viable.

Landing and Take-Off Equipment at IGI Airport

1585. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the equipments used for landing and take-off are lying unused at Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) the amount that is involved in the purchase of these equipments; and

(c) if so, the time by which these equipments are likely to put to use ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rail Travellers Service Agent

1586. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to increase the number of Rail Travellers Service Agents at various places under South Central Railways;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of RTSA's who have surrendered their agency, division-wise;

(d) whether steps have been taken to appoint new RTSA's in their place;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which new RTSA's are likely to be appointed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (f) There is a demand for allotment of Rail Travellers Service Agents (RTSAs) at some places of South Central Railway. Six RTSAs, one on Hubli and five on Vijayawada Divisions have surrendered their licences. Applications for appointment of RTSAs will be called for as and when need for appointment of RTSAs is felt.

[Translation]

Procurement of Paddy

1587. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN :

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

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

(a) The details of the procurement of paddy, rice and wheat during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government agencies including Food Corporation of India have made less procurement than fixed quota;

(c) if so, the reasons for making less procurement;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated regarding procurement of foodgrains in the States in future;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the projection made for procurement for 1999-2000;

(g) whether the buffer stock is to be sufficient to meet the demand of foodgrains in the country; and

(h) if not, the steps taken/to be taken to meet the demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Details of State-wise procurement of paddy, rice and wheat during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir. Since procurement operations are voluntary on the part of the farmers, no quotas are fixed for procurement of foodgrains.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) A scheme of "Decentralized Procurement of Foodgrains" has recently been approved by the Government in terms of which the designated State may procure, store, and also issue foodgrains as per allotments indicated by the Central Government.

Procurement under this scheme started in West Bengal for rice in 1997-98, whereas in U.P. and M.P. the scheme commenced with effect from Rabi Marketing Season of 1999-2000 for wheat. Other States such as Gujarat, Orissa, J&K, Assam, Manipur etc. have been asked to submit proposals to implement the scheme. Their response is awaited. Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are, however, not in favour of the scheme.

(f) The projection for procurement of Rice in the Kharif Marketing Season 1999-2000 is around 14 million tonnes.

(g) Yes, Sir, The stocks in the Central Pool as against Buffer Norms as on 01.07.1999 and 01.10.1999, are indicated below :-

(In lakh tonnes)

| Position as on | Buffer norms | | Stock in Central Pool | |
|----------------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| | Rice | Wheat | Rice | Wheat |
| 01.07.1999 | 100.00 | 143.00 | 107.35 | 216.35 |
| 01.10.1999 | 65.00 | 116.00 | 88.18 | 204.05 |

(h) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise details of total Quantity of Rice, Paddy and Wheat Procured during the last 3 years

Rice Marketing Season : (October-September)

Wheat Marketing Seasons : (April-March)

(in ' 000 Tonnes)

| State/UT | 1996-97 | | | | | | 1997-98 | | | | | | 1998-99 | | | | | | 1999-2000 (Till 3.12.99) | |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Rice | Paddy | Wheat | Rice | Paddy | Wheat | Rice | Paddy | Wheat | Rice | Paddy | Wheat | Rice | Paddy | Wheat | Rice | Paddy | Wheat | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 4503.59 | 31.90 | 0 | 3854.53 | 0.05 | 0 | 5051.66 | 16.48 | 0 | 542.47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Assam | 0.86 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Bihar | 0 | 0.39 | 0 | 608 | 24.87 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Delhi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.09 | 0 | 0.16 | 7.61 | 4.19 | 0 | 1.55 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Haryana | 1057.26 | 220.70 | 2021.66 | 1160.86 | 161.45 | 2290.28 | 223.03 | 115.58 | 3157.66 | 423.20 | 3865.23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Gujarat | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.70 | 0 | 0.41 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Karnataka | 82.73 | 0 | 0 | 91.87 | 0 | 0 | 100.44 | 0 | 0 | 1.19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Madhya Pradesh | 543.76 | 54.45 | 4.45 | 623.24 | 605.74 | 107.44 | 271.91 | 235.95 | 530.14 | 54.12 | 541.71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Maharashtra | 32.35 | 0.06 | 0 | 31.52 | 0.17 | 0 | 5.02 | 0.28 | 0 | 4.85 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Orissa | 489.05 | 11.16 | 0 | 683.83 | 24.80 | 0 | 480.87 | 0 | 0 | 35.69 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Punjab | 787.99 | 5164.70 | 5641.69 | 1328.62 | 7080.42 | 5960.74 | 413.67 | 5955.07 | 6146.49 | 819.28 | 7831.09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Rajasthan | 3.17 | 0 | 228.95 | 1.76 | 6.60 | 319.81 | 3.08 | 0.60 | 666.62 | 6.22 | 636.78 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Uttar Pradesh | 910.43 | 0.01 | 260.71 | 1064.62 | 13.03 | 617.44 | 861.24 | 10.34 | 2140.94 | 247.06 | 1281.16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| West Bengal | 158.85 | 0 | 0 | 203.20 | 0 | 0 | 140.63 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Pondicherry | 1.56 | 3.23 | 0 | 7.62 | 0.16 | 0 | 8.29 | 1.20 | 0 | 1.40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chandigarh | 13.95 | 0 | 0 | 10.88 | 0 | 1.77 | 0 | 8.06 | 0 | 0 | 17.18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Tamil Nadu | 0 | 1084.57 | 0 | 0 | 1837.65 | 0 | 0 | 1094.65 | 0 | 0 | 160.19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| All India | 8565.55 | 6571.17 | 8157.45 | 9068.63 | 9734.94 | 9297.59 | 7559.84 | 7436.37 | 12651.78 | 2139.67 | 8875.59 | 14137.93 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |

**Appointments in Jabalpur Army
Base Workshop**

1588. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees category-wise appointed in 506 Army Base Workshop, Jabalpur since January, 1998;

(b) the criteria fixed, if any, for the appointments;

(c) whether certain complaints have been received regarding gross irregularities in the method of selection;

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

(e) the number of vacant posts as on date category-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The number of employees, category-wise, appointed in 506 Army Base Workshop, Jabalpur, since January, 1998, is as below :-

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Stenographer | 01 |
| Labourer | 22 |
| Firemen | 01 |
| Instrument Mechanic | 02 |
| Telecom Mechanic | 04 |
| Storekeeper | 01 |
| Chowkidar | 01 |
| Rubber and Plastic Moulder | 01 |

(b) The appointments are made strictly in accordance with the relevant recruitment rules prescribed by the Government.

(c) and (d) A Court Case regarding appointment of Telecom Mechanic has been filed by apprentices at CAT, Jabalpur, to appoint them without going through examination. This case is still subjudice.

(e) The following posts are lying vacant at present, at 506 Army Base Workshop :-

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Labourer | 16 |
| Firemen | 03 |
| Instrument Mechanic | 06 |
| Telecom Mechanic | 26 |
| Storekeeper | 07 |
| Chowkidar | 07 |

Price Rise in Essential Commodities

1589. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "Primary articles pushed up the living cost on 1998-99" appearing in the Observer dated August 25, 1999.

(b) if so, whether inordinate rise in the prices of essential commodities has burdened the family budget immensely in the year 1998-99;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for the said increase in the living cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was an increase in the prices of certain primary articles like vegetables cereals and manufactured products like edible oils during 1998-99.

(c) and (d) The main reasons for the increase in the prices of commodities like pulses. Vegetables and edible oils during 1998-99 were decline in area under cultivation resulting in lower production adverse and untimely rainfall affecting the crops and lower imports due to non-availability and high prices of these items in the international market. In order to meet the situation and to reduce the burden of the common man the Government had taken measures like permitting imports under OGL at zero percent duty for pulses and onions and reduced rate of duty for edible oils to augment their availability Apart from strengthening the Public Distribution System the distribution of onion through public agencies at subsidised rates was undertaken by the Government at Delhi and also some State Governments to provide relief to the common man.

**Contract Work in Rifle Factory
Ichhapur, West Bengal**

1590. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the work in Rifle Factory Ichhapur (West Bengal) is accomplished through contractors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the works getting done through contractors;

(d) whether the workers of the factory do not carry out their job properly resulting in emergence of the contract system; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to do away with the prevailing contract system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The factory resorts to engaging contractors in limited and inescapable areas, which is normal to its size and scale of operations.

(c) The factory's requirements such as raw materials and some components/sub-assemblies of the order of 15 to 19% of its turn over are outsourced from indigenous industries.

(d) No, Sir. All the factory's workmen are fully engaged in the production activities.

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

[English]

Drinking Water Schemes in Rajasthan

1591.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether drinking water schemes costing hundred of crores have become defunct due to fall of under ground water level in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to bring water from perennial source viz Indira Gandhi Canal and Narmada Dam Project to create new water sources and to reactivate existing water sources; and

(d) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Government of Rajasthan has informed that no scheme has been defunct in totality. The ground water sources, which have depleted, have been augmented either by deepening or by developing alternative source benefiting the schemes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Rajasthan is contemplating to bring water from perennial source viz.

Indira Gandhi Canal and Narmada Dam Project. As per the information furnished by the Government of Rajasthan the feasibility report is yet to be prepared.

Visit of Foreign Tourists

1592.DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the figures of foreign tourists arrivals during the last five calendar months;

(b) the reasons for the perceptible fall in the figures of tourist arrivals; and

(c) the steps being taken to attract foreign tourist inflow into India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) The foreign tourist arrivals during the last five calendar months of the year 1999 are as follows :-

| Month | Tourist Arrivals |
|-----------|------------------|
| July | 189045 |
| August | 184808 |
| September | 169200 |
| October | 219442 |
| November | 257251 (P) |
| Total | 1019746 (P) |

P : Provisional

(b) There is no fall of tourist arrivals.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to attract tourists in India include improvement of infra-structure facilities, strengthening of marketing efforts and sustained human resource development and encouraging private investment.

[Translation]

Air Bus Service for Bhopal and Indore

1593.SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the airports in Madhya Pradesh where from air-bus-service can be introduced; and

(b) the time by which air-bus-service is proposed to be started for Bhopal and Indore ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Infrastructure facilities are available for

operation of Airbus-320 type of aircraft at Bhopal, Indore, Raipur, Khajuraho and Gwalior (Civil Enclave) airports in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Airline-operators are free to operate air-bus-service depending upon traffic-potential, commercial viability and availability of aircrafts.

**Construction of Road Over Bridge
at Nandurbar**

1594. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct a road over bridge at the railway crossing in Nandurbar city, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the total estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There had been a proposal from Municipal Corporation and Railways had already sent Plan and Terms & conditions to Nandurbar Municipality Council in 1996 for acceptance, which is still awaited.

(b) Work is estimated to cost Rs. 2.84 Crore (Railway's share).

(c) No schedule can be fixed at this stage.

[English]

Use of Airstrips in Andhra Pradesh

1595. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have sought financial aid for the development of airstrips at Cuddapah, Warrangal, Rajahmundry, Adilabad and Nagar Junasagar to improve the air traffic network and provide links to neighbouring States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Construction of Road Over
Bridge at Patparganj**

1596. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a road over bridge is being constructed at Patparganj railway level crossing in Delhi for the last many years;

(b) if so, the date on which the construction work started and the cost estimated thereon alongwith the target fixed for its completion;

(c) the reasons for not completing the construction work within the stipulated time; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Instead of a Road Over Bridge, a Road Under Bridge is being constructed at Madhuban Chowk-Patparganj as a deposit work of Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The Work was sanctioned in 1993-94.

(b) Construction of this under bridge started in 1997 after shifting of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited cables, Delhi Vidyut Board cables and Main water pipe lines interfering with the work by Municipal Corporation. Railway portion of the work is estimated to cost Rs. 775.39 lakhs and target of completion is 31.3.2000.

(c) Municipal Corporation of Delhi has not deposited the balance amount of Rs. 219.07 lakhs for completing the Railway's portion of work. Work on approaches has also not yet been started by Municipal Corporation.

(d) Railway's portion of work is likely to be completed by 31.03.2000 provided full funds are deposited by Municipal Corporation with Railways. Expenditure incurred till date is Rs. 555.73 lakhs.

[English]

**Construction of Kumarghat-
Agartala Rail Line**

1597. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in regard to construction of new Broad Gauge -railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala under Northeast Frontier Railway;

- (b) the progress made so far in regard to survey work for construction of new Broad Gauge railway line from Agartala to Sabroom;
- (c) whether the progress of above works is going on as per schedule; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) 560 acres of land has been acquired out of 929 acres required. Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress in a length of 42 km in the plains. The final location survey is in progress in the hilly area and work would be taken up as soon as the alignment is identified and land becoming available thereafter.

- (b) The survey is in progress and the report is expected by 31.3.2000. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report is received.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Decline in Tourist Inflow

1598.SHRI G.GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is decrease in the inflow of foreign tourists in the country during 1999;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether tourist offices abroad could help in fetching more tourists to the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to boost tourism through these offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Various steps proposed to promote tourism abroad include more focus on marketing coverage, use of information technology for dissemination of tourist information, promoting India as a tourist destination through organising seminars, workshops, road shows, etc. and developing joint promotion programmes with the travel industry.

Complaints about Corruption and Bribery

1599.SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received a complaint from a Freedom Fighter dated November 16, 1999 against a Railway employee of New Delhi Railway Station in connection with corruption;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the action taken on the above complaint ?

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

(b) The complaint is against a Railway employee working as Parcel Porter at New Delhi Railway Station. It is alleged that he is charging Rs. 50/- per item illegally at the time of booking, keeping many items of theft at his residence and harbouring anti-social elements for intimidating the Railway users. It is also alleged that he brings illegal wine and sells it in the Railway station and that he has direct contacts with local police and Railway Officials.

(c) In terms of extant instructions, the genuineness of the complaint has first to be verified which has since been done and investigations are now in progress.

Category II and III Instrument Landing System at Airports

1600.SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the International Airports in India that have category II Instrument Landing System (ILS);
- (b) whether the work for upgrading the ILS category II to category III at Delhi Airport is in hand; and
- (c) if so, the time by which it is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Only Indra Gandhi International Airport at Delhi is equipped with category II Instrument Landing System (ILS).

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) The work is likely to be completed by September, 2000.

Allocation for Gauge Conversion

1601.SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allocate sufficient funds for the survey and conversion work of Lalkuan-Bareilly and Bhojpur-Tanakpur rail lines into broad gauge under North-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above lines are likely to be converted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The survey for gauge conversion of Lalkuan-Bareilly and Bhojpur-Tanakpur rail lines into broad gauge have already been completed. Due to unremunerative nature of the projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found possible to take up the projects for the present.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

1602. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the towns in Panch Mahal district of Gujarat which have been selected for forestry and horticulture development under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana;

(b) the number of such developmental schemes under JRY which have been implemented up to now along with the criteria for selection of such schemes;

(c) whether probability of achievement and success of these schemes is being taken into account while implementing the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is likely to be implemented in all parts of the country for improving the condition of poor people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) The erstwhile Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) the primary objective of which was employment generation was intended for implementation only in rural areas of the country.

(b) There was no separate earmarking of funds exclusively for forestry and horticulture development under JRY. The implementing agencies were free to take up and execute various rural development works including forestry and horticulture development works as per the felt need of the local area. The expenditure incurred under JRY up to 1998-99 since inception of the scheme is Rs. 30155.65 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has since been restructured and a new program called Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) has been launched w.e.f. 1.4.1999 with the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village infrastructure in rural areas. Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme all over the country except Chandigarh and Delhi on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and the State in the ratio of 75:25.

[Translation]

Concessional Air fare to Coast Guard Deployed in Port Blair

1603. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coast Guard deployed in Port Blair is proposed to be given 50% concession in air fares from this Island to main land like other armed forces which they have been demanding for a long time;

(b) if so, the time by which the said demand of Coast Guard is likely to be accepted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No proposal to give concession in air fare to the Coast Guard personnel deployed in Port Blair is under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) The Coast Guard personnel are not members of the Armed Forces.

[English]

T-90 Tanks from Russia

1604. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to purchase T-90 tanks from Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its specifications; and

(c) the terms of agreement signed and the time schedule of its delivery ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Government have signed an Agreement regarding trial-evaluation of T-90S tanks from Russia.

(b) Trials have been completed and finalisation of the evaluation report is in process. Specifications of this

Tank are comparable to the affordable contemporary Main Battle Tanks of the world.

(c) The Agreement related only to the trial evaluation and the delivery schedule was not part of this Agreement.

Export of Sugar

1605. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government exported the sugar produced by sugar mills; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the countries to which sugar is being exported and the total foreign exchange being earned therefrom during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government does not undertake export of sugar. However, exports of sugar made during the last three financial years, as per data of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), Calcutta, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Statement showing Country-Wise Export of Sugar during Financial Years 1996-97 and 1997-98

| Sl. No. | Name of the Country | FINANCIAL YEAR | | FINANCIAL YEAR | |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
| | | Quantity (in tonnes) | Value (in Rs./Lakhs) | Quantity (in tonnes) | Value (in Rs./Lakhs) |
| 1 | Afghanistan | 3 | 0.21 | - | - |
| 2 | Australia | 13 | 1.81 | 33 | 5.89 |
| 3 | Austria | 26 | 2.98 | - | - |
| 4 | Baharin | 14 | 2.35 | 39 | 8.29 |
| 5 | Bangla Desh | 12821 | 1662.36 | 99 | 12.19 |
| 6 | Belgium | - | - | 9 | 2.60 |
| 7 | Barbados | - | - | - | - |
| 8 | Brazil | - | - | - | - |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------------------|---|---|--------|----------|-------|---------|
| 9. Bhutan | | | 2434 | 285.81 | 2429 | 258.01 |
| 10. Canada | | | 281 | 41.49 | 344 | 55.08 |
| 11. Chile | | | - | - | - | - |
| 12. Chinese Taipe | | | 68 | 7.30 | - | - |
| 13. China P Rp | | | 20 | 2.70 | - | - |
| 14. Czecho Rep. | | | - | - | N.R. | 0.01 |
| 15. Denmark | | | 2 | 0.26 | - | - |
| 16. Ethiopia | | | 62 | 8.29 | - | - |
| 17. Egypt A. RP | | | - | - | - | - |
| 18. France | | | 11009 | 3026.03 | 10032 | 2779.23 |
| 19. Fizi IS | | | - | - | - | - |
| 20. German F Rep. | | | 74 | 16.44 | 14 | 11.02 |
| 21. Greece | | | - | - | - | - |
| 22. Guinea | | | - | - | 72 | 10.03 |
| 23. Hong Kong | | | - | - | - | - |
| 24. Indonesia | | | 154846 | 18739.55 | - | - |
| 25. Israel | | | 8 | 1.37 | 3 | 0.88 |
| 26. Italy | | | 5 | 2.95 | 8 | 1.13 |
| 27. Ivory Coast | | | - | - | - | - |
| 28. Ireland | | | - | - | 9 | 2.84 |
| 29. Japan | | | 1 | 0.13 | 9 | 3.31 |
| 30. Jordan | | | 3306 | 442.29 | - | - |
| 31. Kenya | | | 40015 | 5094.20 | 16 | 5.83 |
| 32. Kiribati Rep. | | | - | - | - | - |
| 33. Korea Rp. | | | - | - | - | - |
| 34. Kuwait | | | 12 | 2.96 | 42 | 9.14 |
| 35. Malawi | | | 2 | 0.29 | 22 | 3.12 |
| 36. Malaysia | | | 22105 | 2497.16 | 2689 | 315.31 |
| 37. Maldives | | | 643 | 83.78 | - | - |
| 38. Male | | | 46 | 4.83 | - | - |
| 39. Mauritius | | | - | - | - | - |
| 40. Myanmar | | | - | - | 2550 | 297.53 |
| 41. Mexico | | | - | - | - | - |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 42. Nepal | | 4444 | 418.12 | 45 | 9.69 |
| 43. Netherland | | - | - | 52 | 5.32 |
| 44. New Zealand | | 9 | 1.77 | 41 | 9.28 |
| 45. Oman | | 122 | 19.83 | 61 | 12.41 |
| 46. Pakistan | | 232666 | 30821.00 | 103250 | 13269.67 |
| 47. Phillippines | | - | - | 1 | 0.10 |
| 48. Portugal | | - | - | 10500 | 1619.21 |
| 49. Qatar | | 26 | 4.72 | 42 | 7.89 |
| 50. Russia | | 46375 | 6413.86 | 12500 | 1815.39 |
| 51. Reunion | | - | - | - | - |
| 52. Saudi Arab | | 74 | 17.66 | 54 | 11.25 |
| 53. Seychells | | 2 | 0.24 | 2 | 0.31 |
| 54. Singapore | | 292 | 29.03 | 157 | 25.29 |
| 55. Somalia | | 32275 | 3436.39 | - | - |
| 56. South Africa | | 21 | 5.87 | 10 | 2.08 |
| 57. Spain | | - | - | 49 | 6.60 |
| 58. Sri Lanka | | 72705 | 8953.87 | 9633 | 1072.77 |
| 59. Sudan | | 1 | 0.06 | - | - |
| 60. Switzerland | | N.R. | 0.08 | - | - |
| 61. Tanzania Rep. | | N.R. | 0.03 | 2 | 0.21 |
| 62. Trinidad | | - | - | - | - |
| 63. Thiland | | - | - | - | - |
| 64. Turkey | | - | - | - | - |
| 65. U.A.E. | | 19572 | 2791.76 | 568 | 108.38 |
| 66. U.K. | | 7766 | 799.05 | 681 | 135.65 |
| 67. Ukraine | | - | - | - | - |
| 68. U.S.A. | | 582 | 86.01 | 17160 | 2543.19 |
| 69. Vietnam Soc. Rep. | | - | - | - | - |
| 70. Yemen Rep. | | 2689 | 343.30 | 55 | 8.52 |
| 71. Zambia | | 37 | 9.84 | - | - |
| 72. Zimbabwe | | - | - | - | - |
| Total | | 667274 | 86080.03 | 173282 | 24444.65 |

Source : As per DGI&S, Calcutta, Ministry of Commerce.

Statement showing Country-Wise Export of Sugar and Value during Financial Years 1998-99 (Provisional)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Country | Quantity (in tonnes) | Value (in Rs./Lakhs) |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Australia | 4 | 0.45 |
| 2. | Baharin | 346 | 70.18 |
| 3. | Bangla Desh | 60 | 7.35 |
| 4. | Belgium | 20 | 3.93 |
| 5. | Barbados | 6 | 1.12 |
| 6. | Brazil | 200 | 37.15 |
| 7. | Bhutan | 2040 | 229.67 |
| 8. | Canada | 131 | 24.01 |
| 9. | Chile | 10 | 3.43 |
| 10. | Chinese Taipe | 14 | 2.22 |
| 11. | Egypt A.Rp | 131 | 25.21 |
| 12. | France | 11 | 5.57 |
| 13. | Fizi IS | 20 | 3.35 |
| 14. | German F Rep. | 31 | 4.43 |
| 15. | Italy | 98 | 17.99 |
| 16. | Japan | 50 | 3.19 |
| 17. | Kenya | 18 | 3.58 |
| 18. | Korea Rp. | 61 | 16.15 |
| 19. | Kiwait | 96 | 29.15 |
| 20. | Malawi | 3 | 0.52 |
| 21. | Malaysia | 4065 | 429.77 |
| 22. | Nepal | 147 | 22.92 |
| 23. | New Zealand | 25 | 3.53 |
| 24. | Oman | 120 | 24.80 |
| 25. | Pakistan | 351 | 39.24 |
| 26. | Portugal | 137 | 18.41 |
| 7. | Qatar | 21 | 3.83 |
| 28. | Reunion | 2 | 0.44 |
| 29. | Saudi Arab | 139 | 24.04 |
| 30. | Seychells | 11 | 4.40 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|-------------------|-------|---------|
| 31. | Singapore | 102 | 16.50 |
| 32. | South Africa | 46 | 10.23 |
| 33. | Spain | N.R. | 0.12 |
| 34. | Sri Lanka | 73 | 16.87 |
| 35. | Switzerland | 200 | 53.65 |
| 36. | Tanzania Rep. | 84 | 16.02 |
| 37. | Thailand | N.R. | 0.33 |
| 38. | U.A.E. | 1124 | 181.92 |
| 39. | U.K. | 329 | 58.39 |
| 40. | Ukraine | 50 | 8.84 |
| 41. | U.S.A. | 593 | 107.33 |
| 42. | Vietnam Soc. Rep. | 50 | 5.21 |
| 43. | Yemen Rep. | 271 | 44.50 |
| Total | | 11290 | 1579.94 |

(Figures are provisional)

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta, Ministry of Commerce.

NGO's List in CAPART

1606. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of NGO's who are engaged in rural development works;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints of misappropriation of funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected, compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Ordnance Factories

1607. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Ordnance Factories modernised during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 so far along with their present performance;

(b) the time by which the remaining Ordnance Factories are likely to be modernised;

(c) the reasons for decline in the utilisation of their capacities; and

(d) the places where the Government intend to open new ordnance factories in the near future and the progress made in that direction so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) Modernisation of Ordnance Factories is an ongoing process aimed at meeting the emerging requirements of Armed Forces. The steps taken include renewal and replacement of old plant & machinery and induction of new machines and processes. Investments under both these categories have been made in varying degrees in all the thirty nine Ordnance Factories during the year 1998-99 and the current year 1999-2000.

(c) There is no decline in utilization of capacities. The total values of issues during the last three years and planned value of issues in the current year (1999-2000) are given below :

| Year | Value of issues (Rs. Crs.) |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1996-97 | 2564 |
| 1997-98 | 3056 |
| 1998-99 | 4066 |
| 1999-2000 | 5309.71 (Planned) |

(d) It has been decided to set up an Ordnance Factory at Rajgir in Nalanda District of Bihar for which a detailed project report has been prepared and action has been initiated to acquire land.

Films Produced by IREDA

1608. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Government of India undertaking gets prepared documentary on its activities from the private film producers;

(b) if so, the number of films the IREDA has got produced during the last five years alongwith the names of the producers; and

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred on making such documentaries by IREDA, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. IREDA has got produced five films, one each from M/s Tele Eye Communications, M/s Prime Time News Network and M/s Indo Vision Media and two films from M/s Prime Images Pvt. Ltd. during the last five years.

(c) The details of year-wise expenditure incurred on making such documentaries by IREDA are as under :

| Year | Expenditure |
|---------|---------------|
| 1994-95 | Nil |
| 1995-96 | Rs. 4 lakhs |
| 1996-97 | Rs. 12 lakhs |
| 1997-98 | Nil |
| 1998-99 | Rs. 5.6 lakhs |

[English]

Conversion of Junction into Division

1609. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed by the Government for conversion of Junction into Division;

(b) the total number of Junctions converted into Divisions during the last three years;

(c) whether any demand has been received by the Government for conversion of Salem junction under Southern Railway into Division; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No criteria has been fixed by the Government for conversion of Junction into Division.

(b) The Government has decided to set up eight new Divisions with Headquarters at Ahmedabad, Agra, Guntur, Pune, Raipur, Rangiya, Ranchi and Singrauli Junctions.

(c) Yes, Sir. Demands have been received for setting up of a new Division at Salem.

(d) New Divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. The demand for setting up of a new Division at Salem when seen in the

light of these considerations, is not found operationally feasible.

Drinking Water in Trains

1610. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to provide safe and clean drinking water inside railway compartments to passengers free of cost; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Drinking water to passengers is supplied at stations through matkas, taps, mobile water trolleys, coolers, water huts and chiller plants. In trains, water pouches are being supplied free of charge along with meals. Bottled drinking water is also supplied to all the passengers of Rajdhani/Shatabadi Express trains. At present, there is no other scheme to supply drinking water to passengers in railway compartments.

Report of K.P. Singh Deo Committee

1611. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDUARI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken on each of the recommendations made by the K.P. Singh Deo Committee constituted to look into the problems of ex-servicemen/territorial Army; and

(b) the fate of un-implemented recommendations as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The recommendations made by the Committee are at a final stage of consideration and decisions thereon are expected to be arrived at shortly.

[Translation]

Allotment of Wasteland and Forest Land

1612. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to allot waste land and forest land to farmers or landless persons in rural areas for plantation of fruit trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to allocate funds also for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details in this regard and details of amount allocated during the last two years, State-wise; and

(e) details of the works executed during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Question does not arise.

**Air Service between Aurangabad–
Bhopal–Khajuraho Sector**

1613. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce air service on Aurangabad–Bhopal–Khajuraho Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines.

[English]

Micro Hydro Electric Projects

1614. DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Micro Hydro-Electric Projects at present functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of such projects operated by private and co-operative sector;

(c) the total power generated by Micro Hydro Projects; and

(d) the potential of this sector in terms of power generation, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) 263 small/mini/micro hydro electric projects (upto 3 MW station capacity), aggregating 202.37 MW, have so far been installed in the country. The State-wise details of these projects are given in enclosed Statement-I

(b) Out of these, 24 projects, aggregating 42.55 MW capacity, have been installed in the private sector.

(c) The estimated average power generation from small/mini/micro hydro electric projects is around 600 million units per year.

(d) 3349 potential sites with an aggregate capacity of 2852 MW for small/mini/micro hydro electric projects upto 3 MW have been identified in the country. The State-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Small Hydro Power-Projects installed in the country Upto 3 MW station capacity

| Sl. No. | Name of State | No. of Projects | Capacity (In MW) |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Haryana | 1 | 0.20 |
| 2. | Himachal Pradesh | 26 | 11.60 |
| 3. | Jammu & Kashmir | 17 | 8.37 |
| 4. | Punjab | 8 | 9.90 |
| 5. | Rajasthan | 6 | 4.85 |
| 6. | Uttar Pradesh | 65 | 31.39 |
| 7. | Goa | 1 | 0.05 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 1 | 2.00 |
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh | 6 | 5.66 |
| 10. | Maharashtra | 6 | 7.03 |
| 11. | Andhra Pradesh | 19 | 29.76 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 15 | 20.95 |
| 13. | Kerala | 5 | 5.52 |
| 14. | Tamilnadu | 3 | 4.75 |
| 15. | Bihar | 5 | 0.05 |
| 16. | Orissa | 3 | 1.26 |
| 17. | Sikkim | 8 | 9.25 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|-------------------|-----|--------|
| 18. | West Bengal | 9 | 7.98 |
| 19. | Arunachal Pradesh | 30 | 21.05 |
| 20. | Assam | 2 | 2.20 |
| 21. | Manipur | 6 | 4.10 |
| 22. | Meghalaya | 1 | 1.51 |
| 23. | Mizoram | 13 | 8.76 |
| 24. | Nagaland | 5 | 3.17 |
| 25. | Tripura | 2 | 1.01 |
| Total | | 263 | 202.37 |

Statement-II

Identified Small Hydro Power Potential in the Country Upto 3 MW Capacity

| Sl. No. | Name of State | No. of Sites | Potential (In MW) |
|---------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Haryana | 21 | 24.05 |
| 2. | Himachal Pradesh | 166 | 216.03 |
| 3. | Jammu & Kashmir | 106 | 145.52 |
| 4. | Punjab | 78 | 65.26 |
| 5. | Rajasthan | 49 | 27.26 |
| 6. | Uttar Pradesh | 310 | 326.63 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 283 | 113.33 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 99 | 74.63 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 183 | 123.57 |
| 10. | Andhra Pradesh | 271 | 114.88 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 181 | 166.11 |
| 12. | Kerala | 167 | 199.10 |
| 13. | Tamilnadu | 131 | 141.92 |
| 14. | Bihar | 158 | 199.37 |
| 15. | Orissa | 152 | 88.76 |
| 16. | Sikkim | 52 | 56.25 |
| 17. | West Bengal | 141 | 153.87 |
| 18. | Arunachal Pradesh | 433 | 382.31 |
| 19. | Assam | 38 | 50.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|------------|------|---------|
| 20. | Manipur | 91 | 59.75 |
| 21. | Meghalaya | 83 | 41.00 |
| 22. | Mizoram | 73 | 42.32 |
| 23. | Nagaland | 67 | 26.89 |
| 24. | Tripura | 8 | 9.85 |
| 25. | A&N Island | 5 | 1.15 |
| 26. | Goa | 3 | 2.60 |
| Total | | 3349 | 2852.41 |

*[Translation]***Suspension of Railway Officials**

1615. SHRI AJIT SINGH :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether five higher officers of the Railways were suspended for dereliction of duty after the train accident near Gaisal railway station;

(b) if so, the names of these officers alongwith the date on which the suspension orders were issued;

(c) whether all the above officers were reinstated in the first week of October, 1999; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) (i) Sh. S.B. Bhattacharya, Chief Operations Manager/NF Railway

(ii) Sh. S.N. Mukherjee, Divisional Railway Manager/Katihar Division/NF Railway

(iii) Sh. R.K. Thanga, Chief Safety Officer/NF Railway

(iv) Sh. Hariram Rao, Divisional Safety Officer/ Katihar Division/NF Railway

(v) Sh. V.R. Lenin, Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Katihar Division/NF Railway.

All the above mentioned officers were suspended on 4.8.99.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The concerned officers have not been indicted in any manner in the interim Inquiry Report of the statutory inquiry conducted by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

[English]

Railway Track between Farrukhabad and Shikohabad

1616. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rail track between Farrukhabad and Shikohabad is below the Standard norms;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are considering to improve the track;

(c) whether the Railways have received any suggestion earlier in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(e) the present status of gauge conversion of Kanpur-Farrukhabad rail line ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The work of earthwork in formation and construction of bridges is in good progress. The work would be completed in the coming year as per availability of resources.

Magazines on Tourism

1617. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of specialised magazines on tourism which have been given advertisement support by various Public Sector Undertakings during the last two years;

(b) whether a large number of advertisements have also been released to Souvenirs and Brochures;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with money spent on each brochure/Souvenirs; and

(c) the steps the Government are contemplating to promote small magazines on tourism also by giving advertisements supports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) Information about

specialised Tourism Magazines which have been given advertising support in the last 2 years by the India Tourism Development Corporation, the only Public Sector Undertaking under this Ministry is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The number of advertisements released by ITDC and expenditure thereon in respect of souvenirs and brochures is given in enclosed Statement-II

(d) In order to promote tourism awareness and its socio-economic benefits, advertising support is given by this Ministry to big and small magazines and newspapers alike.

Statement-I

List of Advertisements Released by ITDC in Specialised Magazines on Tourism during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99

1997-98

1. Travel Trends
2. Trav Talk
3. World of Travel & Tourism
4. Travel Tidings
5. Express Travel & Tourism
6. Express Hotelier & Caterer
7. Safari India
8. Asian Panorama
9. Travel Scene Asia
10. Indrama
11. Voyage
12. See India
13. Tourism and Wildlife
14. Hotel & Restaurant India
15. Hotel and Food Service Review
16. Perfect Media
17. Top Tourism
18. Stat Trade Times
19. Travel Market India
20. Travel Observer
21. Global Travel Express

22. Beautiful Rajasthan
23. Hospitality India
24. Rajasthan Atithi
25. Today's Traveller
26. Time Out India
27. Plaza Times
28. Travel Mail
29. TAAI Directory
30. Passage
31. Hotels Guide of India
32. Fort 'N' Ganges-Travellers Guide
33. Indian Hotel Guide '98
34. Orissa Reference Annual
35. SAARC Info Bank
36. Travel Planner 1998
37. India Best of Best 1998
38. India Travel Guide 1998
39. Hotel & Restaurant Guide '98
40. Conference Planner
41. Indian Hotel Directory
42. MCIT Planner
43. IATO Manual
44. Sky Flier

1998-99

1. Travel Trends
2. Today's Traveller
3. Trav Talk
4. World of Travel & Tourism
5. Express Travel & Tourism
6. Express Hotelier & Caterer
7. Safari India
8. Asian Panorama
9. Destination India
10. Indrama
11. Voyage
12. See India

13. Tourism & Wild Life
14. Hotel & Restaurant India
15. Hotel & Food Service Review
16. Perfect Media
17. Top Tourism
18. Stat Trade Times
19. Travel Observer
20. Global Travel Express
21. Beautiful Rajasthan
22. Hospitality India
23. Plaza Times
24. Travel Mail
25. Hotel & Restaurant Guide
26. IATO Manual
27. Hospitality India
28. Destination Kerala
29. Holiday Travel India
30. Travel Planner 1999
31. India Best of Best
32. Conference Planner 1999
33. Indian Hotel Directory 1999
34. Hotel & Resort Guide India & Nepal '99
35. Hemkunt Publishers-Hotel Guide of India '99
36. Lalit Art Media-Finest Hotels in India '99
37. Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Association of India – Pocket Guide
38. Path Finder – Hotelist
39. Meeting & Incentives Travel Tabloid

Statement-II

List of Advertisements Released by ITDC in Souvenirs/ Brochures and the Cost thereon during the Year 1997-98 & 1998-99

| | 1997-98 | (Cost in Rs.) |
|---|---------|---------------|
| | 1 | 2 |
| 1. Peace Child India – Brochure | | 3,000/- |
| 2. Public Relations Society of India – Souvenir | | 3,000/- |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|----------|
| 3. Assam Association, Delhi – Souvenir | 10,000/- |
| 4. Indian National Trade Union Congress – Souvenir | 7,500/- |
| 5. Foundation for Aviation & Sustainable Tourism – Newsletter | 12,000/- |
| 6. Journal of Peace & Gandhian Studies – Special Issue | 4,000/- |
| 7. Lions Club International – Directory | 3,000/- |
| 8. Buddhist Monument Development Council – Special Volume | 5,000/- |
| 9. Pro Buddhan Bharati International– Special Issue | 3,000/- |
| 10. Bengal Association – Literary Magazine | 4,500/- |
| 11. Delhi Symphony Society – Souvenir | 10,000/- |
| 12. IIT Madras Alumni Association – Souvenir | 10,000/- |
| 13. Utta-ayan-Souvenir | 2,500/- |
| 14. Doing Business with Mongolia Brochure | 5,000/- |
| 15. Christ Church, Noida – Souvenir | 5,000/- |
| 16. Bijoy Krishna Modak Memorial Trust – Souvenir | 3,000/- |
| 17. ASSOCHAM – Souvenir | 7,000/- |
| 18. All India Juvenile & Youth Festival– Special Issue | 10,000/- |
| 19. Vasundhara Enclave Puja Samiti– Souvenir | 7,000/- |
| 20. Buddhist Monuments Development Council – Brochure | 10,000/- |
| 21. Society for Promotion of Recreational Tourism & Sports | 15,000/- |
| 22. New Delhi Kali Bari | 5,000/- |
| 23. CR Park Kali Mandir Society – Puja Issue | 1,200/- |
| 24. Dharamshila Cancer Hospital & Research Centre-Souvenir | 5,000/- |
| 25. Purboshree Mahila Samiti – Annual Issue | 1,000/- |
| 26. Saptarishi – Souvenir | 1,500/- |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|----------|
| 27. Paschim Vihar Bengal Association– Souvenir | 1,100/- |
| 28. Prantik – Souvenir | 750/- |
| 29. Dakshin Delhi Kali Bari – Souvenir | 2,000/- |
| 30. Anjuman – Special Issue | 10,000/- |
| 31. Gram Sahar | 5,000/- |
| 32. Sreehatta Sammilani | 5,000/- |
| 33. The Spastic Society of Northern India | 14,000/- |
| 34. Dakshin Palli Durga Puja Samiti – Souvenir | 3,000/- |
| 35. Indian Society of Anaesthetists – Souvenir | 10,000/- |
| 36. Press Club of India – Souvenir | 15,000/- |
| 37. All India Sports Council of the Deaf – Special Issue | 2,000/- |
| 38. Indian Cultural Society – Souvenir | 3,500/- |
| 39. Volley Ball Home, Orissa – Souvenir | 5,000/- |
| 40. Amateur Association of IA – Souvenir | 5,000/- |
| 41. Eicher City Map | 27,500/- |
| 42. Association of British Scholars – Souvenir | 5,000/- |
| 43. Mitra Mandali Tarun Samaj | 7,000/- |
| 44. Cartoonist Ranga's Exhibition – Souvenir | 8,000/- |
| 45. Hotel Airport Ashok Employees Co-Op. Credit Society | 1,000/- |
| 1998-99 | |
| 46. National Union of Journalists – Inkworld Souvenir | 10,000/- |
| 47. Janshakti Vahini – Souvenir | 20,000/- |
| 48. Geetanjali Cultural Show | 2,500/- |
| 49. Rotary Club of Gurgaon, Qutab Enclave – Souvenir | 2,500/- |
| 50. Indian Institute of Public Administration – Souvenir | 10,000/- |
| 51. Indo German Chamber of Commerce Discount Value Service Book | 18,000/- |

| 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
|---|----------|---|----------|
| 52. CSIR – Regional Research Lab, Trivandrum – Souvenir | 5,000/- | 74. Chrysanthemum Society of India – Souvenir | 2,500/- |
| 53. Society for Promotion of Recreational Tourism & Sports – Souvenir | 15,000/- | 75. Lioness Club of Delhi – Souvenir | 3,000/- |
| 54. Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra – Souvenir | 1,500/- | 76. Blind Persons Associations – Souvenir | 3,000/- |
| 55. Helpage India – Souvenir | 5,000/- | 77. Indian Scout & Guide Fellowship – Souvenir | 5,000/- |
| 56. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Memorial All India Ranked Table Tennis Tournament | 25,000/- | 78. Steel Club, Bhilai – Travel '99 – Souvenir | 10,000/- |
| 57. Mela Ground Durga Puja Samiti, Chittaranjan Park – Souvenir | 1,500/- | 79. Airlines Cultural Association – Souvenir | 5,000/- |
| 58. Dakshin Palli Durga Puja Samiti, Chittaranjan Park – Souvenir | 1,700/- | 80. Mitra Mandli Tarun Samaj Samiti | 7,000/- |
| 59. Prantik Rajouri Garden – Souvenir | 1,000/- | 81. Janyug Cultural Association – Souvenir | 900/- |
| 60. Vasundhara Enclave Puja Samiti Paryatan Vihar – Souvenir | 7,000/- | 82. Utkalini – Souvenir | 2,000/- |
| 61. Dakshin Delhi Kali Bari Association | 3,000/- | 83. Indian Red Cross Society – Souvenir | 3,500/- |
| 62. Matri Mandir Sarbojanin Durga Puja Samiti – Souvenir | 2,000/- | 84. ITPO – Indian Exhibition 'Hind Expo' 99' – Fair Catalogue | 3,500/- |
| 63. CR Park Kali Mandir Society Chittaranjan Park – Souvenir | 1,500/- | 85. Delhi Circket Association of the Deaf | 5,000/- |
| 64. Chankyapuri Puja Samiti – Souvenir | 5,000/- | 86. Shri Dakshin Dilli Gujarati Mandal – Souvenir | 1,000/- |
| 65. Vasant Kunj Sarbojanin Durga Puja – Souvenir | 3,000/- | 87. Indian Women's Press Corps – Brochure | 15,000/- |
| 66. New Delhi Kali Bari – Souvenir | 2,000/- | 88. Delhi Interline Club – Souvenir | 3,000/- |
| 67. Ramakrishna Mission Ashram – Souvenir | 5,000/- | 89. Indo – German Chamber of Commerce – Brochure | 9,000/- |
| 68. All India Sports Council of the Deaf – Souvenir | 3,000/- | 90. Dhruvad Samroh – Souvenir | 5,000/- |
| 69. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Sewa Niketan – Samarjit Sadhika | 10,000/- | 91. Skal Club – Souvenir | 12,000/- |
| 70. Sarbojanin Durga Puja Committee– Souvenir | 2,000/- | 92. Institute of Management Technology | 5,000/- |
| 71. Sarbojanin Puja Samiti '98 Kali Puja Souvenir | 1,200/- | 93. Purboshree Mahila Samiti – Souvenir | 2,000/- |
| 72. Indian Institue of Foreign Trade Souvenir | 4,000/- | 94. Sreehatta Sammilani, Delhi – Souvenir | 2,000/- |
| 73. Dharamshila Cancer Hospital & Research Centre – Souvenir | 5,000/- | | |

Tourist Offices Abroad

1618.SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether only 17 people from Buenos Aires visited India last year despite huge tourist office complex in Argentina;

(b) if so, whether the money spent on tourist offices abroad commensurate with foreign exchange earnings from tourists;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposed to close such tourist offices which could not promote tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) No, Sir. It is not correct that only 17 tourists from Buenos Aires visited India last year. 3776 tourists came from Argentina during 1998.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Generation of Power through Wind Mills/Solar Power

1619. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to generate more power through wind mills/solar power/ocean energy in Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a power generation plant at Dindigul in Tamilnadu by using the waste; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has received proposals from Tamilnadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) for installing 3 No. Solar Power plants in Tamilnadu, details of which are as under :

- SPV Power Plant of 31 KWp capacity at Small Scale Industrial Development Corporation of Tamilnadu (SIDCO)'s Head Office, Chennai.
- 2 Nos. SPV Power Plants of 1 KWp capacity at Tamilnadu Electricity Board (TNEB)'s Offices in Chennai.

In the Wind sector, proposals aggregating to approx. 50 MW are under consideration of Tamilnadu Electricity Board for necessary approvals.

No proposal has been received for generating more power from ocean energy in Tamilnadu

(c) and (d) TEDA has carried out a Resource Assessment Study to assess potential of Agro-residues

(Agro-wastes) in Dindigul district of Tamilnadu, with financial support from the Ministry. Copies of the Study Report have been given by TEDA to interested private entrepreneurs for preparing/submitting proposals for setting up power generation plants based on the identified agro-wastes in the district. As on date, no proposal has been submitted by any entrepreneur.

Consumer Courts

1620. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Consumer Courts in the country are not in a position to provide speedy and cheap justice to the consumers;

(b) if so, the Government have taken any steps to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to facilitate the reforming of Consumer Courts; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) As reported by the State/UT Governments, about 50% of the cases disposed so far are within the time frame as stipulated in the Consumer Protection Rules. The disposal of cases by the consumer courts in the country are influenced by the inadequate infrastructure, frequent adjournments, non-filling of posts of the President/Members in the consumer courts. To remove these obstacles, some of the important steps taken by the Central Government are as follows :

- (i) To strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer courts, Central Government has provided one-time grant of Rs. 61.8 crores to supplement the efforts of the States/UTs.
- (ii) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Presidents/Members in the consumer courts in time.
- (iii) Central Government has written to the State/UT Governments to hold periodical meetings with the Presidents of the Consumer Courts to monitor and expedite the disposal of the cases.
- (iv) Central Government and the National Commission are regularly monitoring the working of the Consumer Courts.
- (v) Central Government conducts training courses for the non-judicial members of the Consumer Courts to acquaint themselves with the provi-

sions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and Rules and other relevant legislations.

- (vi) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has also been amended once in 1991 and again in 1993. Action is in progress to further amend the said Act, to facilitate the consumer courts to dispose of the cases speedily and also to make the Act more effective and purposeful.

**Presence of Defence Personnel
at BJP Meeting**

1621. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether two high ranking defence personnel attended the meeting of the BJP National executive on Monday, May 31, 1999; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the capacity and circumstances under which they presented themselves there ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Presentations were made by the senior defence personnel before various fora including the meeting referred to in the question, to facilitate understanding and accurate assessment, of the complexity and the efficacy of the armed forces operations launched to evict Pakistani intruders in Kargil.

**International Flights between
Cochin-Saudi Arabia**

1622. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to start direct flights between Cochin International Airport and Saudi Arabia during Haj period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Cochin Airport is being considered as an embarkation point for Kerala Hajis from Haj 2000 onwards.

More Flights from Tezpur

1623. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of flights to and fro from Tezpur;

(b) whether there is any proposal with the Government for increasing the flights from Tezpur;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Only Indian Airlines is operating two flights per week on Calcutta-Tezpur-Dimapur-Calcutta sector.

(b) to (d) Operators are free to operate on any route/ to any place depending upon their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines, which provide for certain minimum operation in the North East and some far flung areas.

**Self Employment Opportunity to
SCs and STs**

1624. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the projects undertaken for providing self-employment opportunity to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Goa along with funds provided during the last three years; and

(b) the number of persons to whom self-employment opportunities has been provided through these projects during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development was implementing the self-employment programme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) for rural families below poverty line including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in all the States/ UTs including Goa. With effect from 1.4.1999 IRDP has been restructured as a comprehensive self employment programme - Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). The funds released by Govt. of India and the number of persons to whom self employment opportunities has been provided in Goa under IRDP during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is indicated below :

| Year | Central release (Rs. lakh) | Physical achievement (No.) | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----|----|
| | | Total | SC | ST |
| 1996-97 | 49.03 | 1982 | 6 | 0 |
| 1997-98 | 53.97 | 897 | 11 | 0 |
| 1998-99 | 24.43 | 895 | 3 | 0 |

**Survey for extension of Sakri-
Hasanpur Railway Line**

1626. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision for survey has been made to extend the Sakri-Hasanpur rail line upto Barauni Junction;

(b) if so, the details there of; and

(c) the time by which the survey for extension of rail line is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The survey for construction of a new line from Hasanpur to Barauni has already been completed. Due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found possible to take up the project for the present.

Danger to Railways Equipment by Acidic Fumes

1627. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the acidic and corrosive fumes emitted by Industrial units are causing corrosion to railway signalling equipment, electrified overhead wires and even the railway track between New Delhi Railway Station and Ghaziabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the preventive steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) The acidic/corrosive fumes are causing corrosion to railway signalling equipment, e.g. relay contacts, terminals, circuit breakers, signal transformers etc.; overhead traction equipment like insulators, steel/galvanised masts and fittings, copper wires etc.; track and track fittings in the section New Delhi – Ghaziabad. Affected components are being monitored intensively and are changed whenever required.

The industrial units emitting acidic fumes and other corrosive fumes have been advised by Northern Railway to take preventive steps. However, no concrete action appears to have been taken so far.

Northern Railway have approached concerned pollution Control Board for taking appropriate action against factories responsible for pollution. As a result, in one case, on orders of District Magistrate/Ghaziabad, a factory had been closed down.

Regarding track, two factories between Sahibabad and Ghaziabad discharging acidic effluent towards railway track have been stopped from doing so with the Court's

order. This has resulted in controlling the corrosion of track components. The track fittings that were corroded have been replaced.

Railway Projects Abroad

1628. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going railway projects abroad;

(b) whether the Government have decided to construct more rail lines abroad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned by the Government during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Indian Railways do not carry out railway projects abroad. However, IRCON International Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking, under the Ministry of Railways executes railway projects abroad on contract with the concerned railway administrations. No budgetary support is given by the Government for these projects. Details of the projects abroad, being executed by IRCON, are as under :

(i) Construction of Railway line to Pelabuhan Tanjung Pelepas Johor, Malaysia costing Rs. 520 crores approx.

(ii) Installation of track for the proposed Kuala Lumpur Central Station, Malaysia, costing Rs. 14 crores.

(iii) Signalling project on Shahrud-Mashad section, Iran, costing Rs. 107 crores approx.

(iv) Bangabandhu (Jamuna) Bridge Railway Link project, Bangladesh, costing Rs. 242 crores approx.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The foreign exchange earned by Railway PSUs is as under :

IRCON

| Year | Foreign Exchange earned |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1997-98 | Rs. 43.46 crores |
| 1998-99 | Rs. 43.93 crores |
| 1999-2000 | Rs. 12.00 crs approx. upto 30.09.99 |

BITES

| Year | Foreign Exchange earned |
|-----------|--|
| 1997-98 | Rs. 47.09 crores |
| 1998-99 | Rs. 41.39 crores |
| 1999-2000 | Rs. 18.97 crores approx. upto 30.11.99 |

Setting up of Sugar Mills in Maharashtra

1629. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether cooperative Sugar Mills in Maharashtra are not adequate to cope with the production of sugarcane in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government have taken to increase the setting up of sugar mills in that State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The sugar cane is utilised by the sugar mills for production of sugar, Gur, Seed and Chewing purposes. The production of sugarcane in Maharashtra during the year 1999-2000, is estimated at 540.00 lakh tonnes, as against 435.41 lakh tonnes during the last year 1998-1999. Maximum quantity of sugarcane crushed by the sugar mills in Maharashtra was 514.57 lakh tonnes during the sugar season 1995-96. Thereafter, additional capacity of the order of 9.258 lakh tonnes has been created in the State. With the present installed capacity of 49.12 lakh tonnes, it expected that the entire sugarcane available for crushing would be consumed by the sugar mills of the Cooperative and Joint Sectors of the State.

Further, the sugar industry has been delicensed and thus the existing sugar mills are free to expand their capacities and entrepreneurs are also free to set up new sugar mills as per the Techno – economic viability of their project and maintaining a distance of 15 Kms. from existing sugar factories.

[Translation]

International Airport in Jaipur

1630. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jaipur is one of the major tourist places in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is no international airport in Jaipur; and

(c) if so, the time by which an international airport is likely to be constructed at Jaipur ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) While Jaipur airport has been developed as a Model Airport with custom facilities, there is no proposal to declare it as an International airport.

Safety Arrangements at Airports

1631. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drafted a bill regarding safety at airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this bill is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted in regard to the safety arrangements at the various airports around the world; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. Safety at airports is regulated under the Aircraft Act, 1934 and Regulations made thereunder.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Import of Locos from America

1632. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways ordered the purchase of 4000 horse power American Diesel Locos;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost of each Loco;

(c) whether all these Locos are not put to use for which they are bought and most of them are lying idle or being used for trivial jobs;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(e) whether any investigation ordered in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. An order for supply of 21 Nos. 4000 H.P. Diesel Electric freight locomotives (13 fully assembled locos and 8 locos in Partially Knocked Down condition) was placed on M/s General Motors Corporation/USA in October 1995. The Free-on-Board (FOB) value of the contract was US\$ 41.17 million (Rs. 175.96 crore). These locos arrived in India during March-August, 1999. The fully assembled locomotives are stationed at Diesel Loco Shed, Hubli, South Central Railway. Out of 8 Partially Knocked Down locos, 2 Nos. have already been commissioned and stationed at Hubli Shed. Remaining 6 locomotives are being assembled at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi. In addition, an order for procurement of 10 Diesel Electric Passenger Locos has been placed on M/s General Motors Corporation, USA. The Free-on-Board (FOB) value of the contract is US\$ 23.99 million (Rs. 103.15 crore). These locos are expected during 2001-2002.

(c) No, Sir. The 13 fully assembled locos and 2 locos received as partially knocked down and assembled at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi are presently in service and carrying out normal operation for which they have been purchased.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Daily Commuters from Rohtak and Panipat

1633. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that commuters from Haryana, particularly from Rohtak and Panipat railway stations have to face lot of difficulties while reaching Delhi on account of acute shortage of space in the existing trains and they are often required to travel on the roof of the compartment which is highly risky;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to start more trains or propose to annex more general compartments in the existing trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Representations regarding provision of additional service on Rohtak/Panipat-Delhi sectors have been received from time to time. These have been examined. Introduction of additional services as also augmentation of loads of trains by attaching additional coaches on Indian Railways including on Rohtak/Panipat-Delhi sectors is a continuous process, subject to infrastructural limitations.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Coaches in Jamalpur Factory

1634. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Railways have agreed only to repair the coaches instead of accepting the recommendation of the Standing Committee for manufacturing of coaches in Jamalpur Railway Factory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government would consider the recommendation pertaining to the manufacturing of coaches once again; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No coaches are repaired in Jamalpur workshop.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no recommendation by the Standing committee for manufacture of coaches at Jamalpur workshop.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Land Records

1635. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking steps to computerise the land records in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which the computerisation of land records in the country is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Computerisation of Land Records is a continuing process as revenue officials continue updating the land records by incorporating changes in ownership through sale, succession, gift, periodical revisional settlements, consolidation of agricultural holdings etc. It is, however, intended to complete the data entry and validation process by the end of 9th Plan and operationalisation of the Scheme in all Taluks/Tehsils by the end of 10th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Change in Name of Ranchi Airport

1636. SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to change the name of the Ranchi Airport to Virsa Munda Airport to commemorate the centenary of the great freedom fighter; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) A proposal to rename Ranchi airport as Birsa Munda airport has been received. No decision has been taken so far.

[English]

Closure of Sugar Mills in Bihar

1637. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a widespread resentment amongst sugarcane growers and mill labourers due to closure of 15 sugar mills including Banmankhi (Purnea) under Bihar Government;

(b) whether the experts of Sugar Technological Mission have submitted their report in favour of modernisation and revival of Motipur and Goraul Sugar mills;

(c) if so, the follow up action taken or proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in regard to revival of the remaining sugar mills including Banmankhi sugar mill ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Government of India is aware of the closure of 15 sugar mills including Banmankhi (Purnea) in Bihar. Since these mills are under Bihar State Sugar Corporation Ltd., a State Public Sector Undertaking, the Government of Bihar is required to take necessary action for their revival/rehabilitation.

(b) to (d) The experts of Sugar Technology Mission had submitted their report in regard to rehabilitation/revival of Motipur and Goraul Sugar mills. The main recommendations of the report were sent to the State Government of Bihar for implementation. As regards revival of the remaining sugar mills including Banmankhi, it is stated that since these units belong to the Bihar State Sugar

Corporation Ltd., appropriate action, is required to be taken by them in consultation with the State Government of Bihar.

Gauge Conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi Rail Line

1638. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi rail line has been approved long back to provide a direct link from Latur to Mumbai;

(b) if so, when and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the steps have since been taken for conversion of this line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Miraj-Latur-Latur Rd. (374 kms.) gauge conversion was approved in 1993-94. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 339 crs.

(c) Conversion of Kurduwadi-Pandharpur (52 kms.) is targeted for completion by March, 2000. The formation work including bridges on Latur-Latur Rd. (42 kms.) is progressing well.

Improvement of Omalur Terminal

1639. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government plan to improve the domestic Air Terminal at Omalur in Salem District; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No airline-operator has indicated its plan for operation from Omalur airport in Salem District. Hence Airports Authority of India do not have any plans to upgrade this airport.

Railway Projects

1640. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Belapur-Parvel, Thane-Turbhe-Nerul-Vashi and Belapur-Nerul rail lines; and

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A double

line exists between Vashi-Nerul-Belapur and a single line between Belapur and Panvel. Progress of projects under

implementation in this sector is indicated in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(fig. Rupees in crores)

| S. No. | Name of the Project | Anticipated cost | Exp. upto 31.3.99 | Outlay for 1999-2000 | Remarks/Target date | |
|--------|---|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. | Belapur-Panvel double line as a part of East-West corridor. | Rly. | 92.50 | 64.45 | 12.60 | The works is in progress. Target date for commissioning of the project is March, 2001 with minimum station facilities. |
| | | CIDCO | 187.81 | 40.77 | 13.74 | |
| | | Total | 280.31 | 105.22 | 26.74 | |
| 2. | Thane-Turbhe-Nerul/Vashi-part of corridor No.2 in New Mumbai. | Rly. | 131.47 | 67.87 | 15.30 | The work of the project is in progress. Target date for commissioning of the project is March, 2001. Progress of the work is being hampered due to financial crunch faced by CIDCO. There is also delay in acquisition of land at Thane by State Government of Maharashtra. |
| | | CIDCO | 271.92 | 38.18 | 65.77 | |
| | | Total | 403.39 | 106.05 | 71.08 | |

Functioning of Air India and Indian Airlines

1641. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- whether the Government propose to improve the functioning of Air India and Indian Airlines;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Air India and Indian Airlines have taken the following steps to improve their functioning :-

Air India :

- Marketing efforts stepped up. (ii) Network rationalization undertaken with emphasis on route profitability. (iii) More in-house repairs of aircraft undertaken to reduce expenditure. (iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad abolished. (v) Freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories; and other cost cutting measures. The Disinvestment Commission in its VIII Report on Air India has interalia recommended infusion of Government equity of Rs. 1000 crores and induction of a strategic

partner on the basis of global bids. The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

Indian Airlines :

- closure of off-line stations and reduction in the number of booking offices. (ii) Ban on recruitment, unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons (iii) Drastic cut in the expenditure on office building. (iv) Freeze on capital expenditure unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons. (v) Reduction in frequencies of loss making routes.

Airports in Karnataka

1642. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- the details of the New Airports in Karnataka likely to be taken up by Private Sector, State Government and the Airports Authority of India;
- whether the existing airports, at Mysore, Bellary, Hubli and Belgaum are functional;
- if so, whether the Government have any proposal to introduce smaller aircrafts on these airports; and
- if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) There is a proposal to set up a new airport at Devanhalli near Bangalore by State Government with participation from Airports Authority of India and private sector.

(b) The airports at Hubli and Belgaum are operational and Mysore airport is non-operational. Bellary airport belongs to the State Government of Karnataka and is also non-operational.

(c) and (d) Airline operators are free to operate smaller aircraft depending upon traffic potential, commercial viability and availability of aircrafts.

[Translation]

Construction of Railway Lines in Himachal Pradesh

1643. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated for construction of broad gauge railway lines from Kalka to Parwanoo and Una to Talwara in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the said work is going on as per schedule;

(c) if so, the progress made so far in this regard;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has decided to allocate funds for it on the basis of low priority;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether some amount is outstanding against her Ministry for the land acquired for constructing Nangal-Talwara railway line;

(g) if so, the reasons for delay in its payment; and

(h) the time by which the said amount is likely to be paid to Himachal Pradesh by the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The amount allocated in 1999-2000 budget for Kalka-Parwanoo new line is Rs 2.00 crores and for Nangal Dam-Talwara is Rs. 8.00 crores.

(b) and (c) For Kalka-Parwanoo new railway line, requisite clearances were received on 27.01.1999. Final location survey has been taken up, which is in progress. The work on Nangal Dam-Talwara line is being progressed as per availability of land and resources. This work is in progress between Una-Churaru Takrala (16 Kms.) wherever land has been made available by the State

Government. On this stretch two major bridges are in progress and will be completed in 2000-2001.

(d) and (e) The Planning Commission does not allocate projectwise funds. This is done by the Railway Ministry in the annual Railway budget with the approval of Parliament.

(f) to (h) No payment is pending for the land already acquired by the Railways. However, Himachal Pradesh Govt. have requested Railways to deposit Rs. 2.5 crores towards acquisition charges of 104 hectares of private land to enable them to complete the land acquisition proceedings. The detailed estimate for this work is under process for sanction and the amount will be paid to the Himachal Pradesh Govt. after sanction of the estimate.

[English]

Construction of Railway Bridge Over River Ganga

1644. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new railway bridge over river Ganga at Balawali in Uttar Pradesh is nearing completion;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to convert the existing rail bridge into road bridge;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The existing bridge has completed its life and is not fit for further use.

Facilities for International Airlines at Cochin Airport

1645. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some International Airlines of other countries have applied for operating through Cochin Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the routes preferred by them; and

(c) the times by which the facilities required for International Airlines are likely to be made available there ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oman, Saudi Arabia and Republic of Yemen have requested for Cochin as a point of call for their designated airlines.

(c) Cochin Airport is equipped with facilities for international operations. Air India and Indian Airlines are already operating international flights out of Cochin.

Trading of Oil Seeds and Oil

1646. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHAL :

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

(a) whether the Government have allowed future trading in eight oilseeds and oils and their cakes.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the price fluctuation between lean and peak season is likely to be reduced; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The eight oilseeds and oils and their cakes are:

- (i) Rapeseeds/Mustard seed.
- (ii) Groundnut
- (iii) Sunflower
- (iv) Rice bran
- (v) Cotton seed
- (vi) Coconut
- (vii) Sesame
- (viii) Safflower

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The future trading in oilseeds has just been allowed. It will take some time for the impact to be felt.

Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill

1647. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Non Government Organisations have intensified their campaign against the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill;

(b) if so, whether the proposed amendment bill is a re-draft of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced in Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations had a meeting with Minister of State for Rural Development on 21.01.99 and gave various suggestions for amendment of Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation. Their suggestions were examined and wherever possible included in the proposed Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill. The proposed Bill will be introduced in Parliament as soon as the amendments are finally accepted by the Government.

National Wasteland Board

1648. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements made by the National Wasteland Board during the last three years;

(b) the details of the projects assisted/sanctioned by the Board in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the current activities of the Board in the development of wastelands in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no National Wasteland Board as such in the Department of Land Resources, but it has a National Wasteland Development Board (NWDB). The mandate of the National Wastelands Development Board is to develop non-forest wastelands for sustainable use for increasing biomass availability, specially fuel wood and fodder. Following schemes are under implementation in the Board :-

- I. Integrated Wastelands Development Projects.
- II. Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies.
- III. Technology Development Extension and Training.
- IV. Investment Promotional Scheme.
- V. Wastelands Development Task Force.

The assistance provided to the projects under these schemes during the last three years (1996-97 to 1998-99) are given scheme-wise in enclosed Statement-I

(b) The details of the projects assisted/sanctioned by the Board in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are given Scheme-wise in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The existing schemes of the Board are continuing.

Statement-I

| Sl. No. | Name of the Scheme | Amount released in Crores (1996-97 to 1998-99) |
|---------|---|--|
| I. | Integrated Wastelands Development Projects | 166.75 |
| II. | Technology Development Extension and Training | 16.64 |
| III. | Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies | 8.13 |
| IV. | Investment Promotional Scheme | 0.05 |
| V. | Wastelands Development Task Force | 3.00 |
| Total | | 194.57 |

Statement-II

| Name of the Scheme | Funds released (Rs.in Crores) (1996-97 to 1998-99) |
|--|--|
| I. Integrated Wastelands Development Projects | 30.33 |
| II. Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies | 0.23 |
| III. Technology Development Extension and Training | -Nil- |
| IV. Investment Promotional Scheme | -Nil- |
| V. Wastelands Development Task Force | -Nil- |
| Total | 30.56 |

[Translation]

Supply of Food Items under PDS

1649.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a several places where food items have not been provided so far;

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

(c) whether the Government have urged the State Government to prepare an action plan for providing food items at these places through PDS;

(d) if so, whether the Government have also agreed to provide funds and other facilities for such plans; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. While the Central Government procures and makes available to the States/Unions Territories PDS commodities including foodgrains i.e., wheat and rice usually at subsidised prices, the responsibility of distribution to the consumers through the network of fair price shops rests with the State Governments. Therefore, specific complaints received from the public in this regard are referred to States/UTs for taking necessary action. No major complaint regarding PDS foodgrains having not been provided at several places has been received. However, in an operation of the magnitude of PDS covering over 4.5 lakh Fair Price Shops throughout the country, instances of failure to reach PDS items is not ruled out. State Governments have been urged to ensure foolproof arrangements for delivery of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops for distribution to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner.

(d) and (e) Under Centrally Sponsored schemes for strengthening Public Distribution System financial assistance is provided to State Governments/Union Territories for purchase of mobile vans/trucks and construction of small godowns upto capacity of 2000 tonne. Till 30th November, 1999 an amount of Rs. 60.98 crore for construction of 555 godowns and Rs. 63.50 crores for purchase of 1536 vans/trucks have been provided as financial assistance to various States/Union Territories. In addition to these schemes financial assistance is provided for training of the personnels engaged in PDS.

[English]

Loss Caused by Travel Agents

1650.SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether authorised travel agents have been using foreign private telecommunication channel for

bookings and thereby causing huge loss including foreign exchange as well;

(b) if so, the action taken against these agents and officials;

(c) the steps taken to check it; and

(d) if not, the justification thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Travel agents use the Global Distribution Systems (GDS) known as Computerised Reservations Systems (CRS). Airlines use this medium to maximise their sales on a world wide basis. There is no illegality in the use CRS. The CRS have evolved to fulfil the need for making reservations globally.

Connecting Bangalore with other Places

1651. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce direct flights to every State capital from Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional places that are proposed to be connected with Bangalore during the current year and in the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) All airline operators are free to airlink places based on their commercial judgement, subject to Compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operation in categories of routes.

[Translation]

Air Service between Mumbai-Surat-Ahmedabad

1652. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce air service between Mumbai-Surat-Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) All airline operators are free to operate on any route to any place depending upon their commercial judgement.

[English]

Firing Incidents on Indo-Pak Borders

1653. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of each of the firing incidents along Indian borders noticed during 1999;

(b) the details of casualties suffered and the property damaged, incident-wise;

(c) the details of compensation paid to the families of the deceased;

(d) whether the Government have lodged any protest with the Government of Pakistan;

(e) if so, their response thereto; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to tighten the security on the borders ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The details of firing incidents that occurred during the current year are as under :-

| | |
|-----------|------|
| J&K | 4042 |
| Rajasthan | 13 |
| Punjab | Nil |
| Gujarat | Nil |

(b) During this period 48 personnel from the security forces (42-Army, 6-BSF) and 24 Civilians were killed and 423 Army personnel, 67 BSF personnel and 48 civilians were wounded due to unprovoked firing from the Pakistani side.

(c) The Army and BSF personnel are paid compensation in terms of pensionary entitlements in accordance with the existing rules. In so far as civilians are concerned, ex-gratia relief and compensation for damaged immovable property is being paid. The Government of J&K has been paid an advance of Rs. 17 crores to implement the relief package.

(d) to (f) Pakistan has long been urged, through diplomatic and military channels, to abandon this unprovoked firing. However, the unprovoked firing continues. Appropriate retaliatory fire is brought down upon the Pakistani army. Necessary steps to maintain constant vigil along the border continue to be taken.

[Translation]

**Survey for Construction of
Railway Lines**

1654. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work for the construction of Vishrampur-Barwadih, Barwadih-Gaya, Garwa-Hazaribagh, Bhavnathpur-Dehari-On-Son, Barwadih-Dehari-On-Son rail lines has been completed;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereafter; and

(c) of not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Survey work for Gaya-Daltonganj and for Bhavnathpur-Dehari-on-Son New Lines has been completed. Other survey works are in progress.

(b) Gaya-Daltonganj Survey Report has revealed the cost of the 130 km long line as Rs. 318 crore with a negative rate of return. Due to acute resource crunch as well as extremely unremunerative nature of this line, the project could not be taken up for consideration for the present. As for Bhavnathpur-Dehari-on-Sone new line, the Survey Report is under finalisation and further consideration of the project will be possible once the results of the survey are finalised.

(c) The other surveys as referred to in (a) above are still in progress. Due to a large number of surveys being carried out simultaneously by the Railways as also the difficult geographical conditions of the areas of the survey work, these surveys are likely to be completed by 31.12.2000. Further consideration of these projects will be possible once the results of these surveys become available.

Funds Mobilised by Task Force

1655. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Task Force to coordinate with the private sector for mobilisation of funds;

(b) if so, the additional funds proposed to be mobilised by the Task Force from the Private Sector during the current financial year; and

(c) the achievement made by the Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

A Task Force has been set up which has so far held three meetings to work out the modalities of the scheme.

[English]

**Encroachment by I.S.I. Agents in
Cantonment Areas**

1656. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Encroachers into Cantt. areas act as ISI agents" appeared in the Hindustan Times dated July 12, 1999; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the steps contemplated to curb such encroachers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Government has seen the news report. However, no case of encroachment in Cantonment areas in Uttar Pradesh or elsewhere, by people who operate as I.S.I. agents, have come to Government's notice.

[Translation]

**Complaints Regarding Corruption and
Irregularities**

1657. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have received complaints of corruptions, irregularities, misuse of office by officers and employees of Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Vadodara and Ahmedabad divisions from January 1, 1999 to November, 30, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to check such tendency in future?

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

(b) Ahmedabad is part of Vadodara division. During January to November, '99 a total of 104 complaints pertaining to Bhavnagar, Rajkot and Vadodara divisions were received.

(c) Out of the 104 complaints received, 67 complaints having a prima facie element of corruption/irregularities/misuse of office were taken up for investigation/verification while 37 complaints being anonymous/

pseudonymous were filed as per extant policy. Of the 67 complaints taken up for verification/investigation, in 28 complaints investigations have been completed and allegations were not substantiated in 23 cases. In the 5 cases in which allegations were substantiated, action was warranted only against 9 non-gazetted staff, which has been initiated. Investigation of the remaining 39 complaints is in progress.

(d) System improvements are undertaken wherever shortcomings in existing rules and procedures are noticed. The cases finalized so far have not warranted any system improvements.

[English]

Russian Warships to India

1658. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Russia has offered 35000 mt. warship to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the place where this warships proposed to be accommodated ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Government of the Russian Federation have offered to gift 'Admiral Gorshkov', an Aircraft Carrier, to India. It will require to be repaired, modified, and modernised before it can be inducted into service. As per the information made available by the Russians, the Aircraft Carrier will have standard displacement of about 34,000 tons and maximum displacement of about 45,400 tons. The ship can be permanently accommodated at Karwar after the required infrastructure to accommodate the ship has been developed.

Expansion of Chennai International Airport

1659. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of Chennai International Airport with a view to handle the increasing number of passengers and cargo during the next five years;

(b) if so, whether any project report has been prepared for its expansion; and

(c) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to modify and extend the existing terminal building and construction of a Integrated cargo terminal. The terminal building is likely to be completed by December, 2002 and the Integrated cargo terminal by March, 2001.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Pathankot-Joginder Nagar Railway Line

1660. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the survey report of gauge conversion of Pathankot-Joginder Nagar rail line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the above conversion work is likely to be started and completed alongwith the estimated expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The survey for the gauge conversion of the Pathankot-Joginder Nagar line has not yet been completed. Survey is taking more time due to difficult hilly terrain and is expected to be completed by March, 2000 and the report is expected to be received June, 2000. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Utilisation of Development Funds

1661. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any mechanism to ensure the proper utilisation of funds allocated for the development of tourism in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the States have made full utilization of the amount allocated during the last three years;

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

(e) The steps being taken by the Government to ensure the proper utilisation of funds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) to (e) Develop-

ment of Tourism in a State is mainly the responsibility of the State Govts./Union Territories. However, Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to them for projects/schemes which are prioritised every year in consultation with them.

Release of funds for prioritised projects by the Ministry of Tourism is done on the basis of fulfillment of all codal formalities and due procedure by the State Governments as per guidelines in this regard. Funds are released in instalments based on the progress of the work and the final instalment is released only when the procedure is completed in all respects.

[English]

Role of Women in Panchayati Raj

1662. SHRI. SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the role of women in Panchayati Raj set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the powers given to women to enable them to perform their responsibilities properly;

(d) whether the Government are conducting training and awareness generation programmes on Panchayati Raj for women; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Panchayati Raj is a State subject. Empowering the Panchayats, its members, especially the women members is the responsibility of the State/UTs. The Central Government has not made a formal review of the role of women in the Panchayati Raj set up. Reports reveal that women have largely overcome incapability, even those arising from illiteracy. A small percentage of the elected women representatives perhaps continue to be dominated by members of their family. However, majority of women have evolved into leaders who are confident of their own abilities and are performing their functions effectively.

(c) Except for reservation of not less than 1/3rd seats in the Panchayats, the Constitution of India does not make any provision for granting special powers to women representatives of the PRIs.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Imparting training to Panchayati Raj representatives is the responsibility of the State/UTs. The Government of India however provides limited financial assistance only on the express request by the

States/UTs for imparting training to the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Bofors Guns

1663. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of success achieved by Bofors Guns by its performance during the Kargil conflict;

(b) the source of acquisition of ammunitions for these guns during Kargil operations and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the efforts being made to ensure that Bofors Guns are not suffered for want of spares and other ammunitions ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The performance of the 155 mm FH 77B Gun System during the Operation in Kargil has been found to be satisfactory. Ammunitions for these guns was both imported and procured from the indigenous sources. It would not be in the interests of national security to disclose the expenditure incurred. The requirement of spares and ammunitions is being met both by indigenous efforts and imports. Recently, two contracts have been concluded with M/s Celsius, Sweden for procurement of spares for these Gun Systems.

Performance of Ichhapur Ordnance Factory

1664. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ichhapur Ordnance Factory has been running short of its capacity in the matter of manufacturing bullets for 7.62 mm guns;

(b) if so, whether any assessment of the Army's requirement and the production capacity of the Ordnance Factory has ever been made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to remove the shortcomings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Rifle Factory at Ichhapore does not manufacture bullets for 7.62 mm guns.

(b) Yes, Sir. Ordnance Factory, Varangaon has adequate production capacity for 7.62 mm bullets of fully meet the requirement of Army.

- (c) Does not arise.

Non-Profitable Routes of Air India

1665. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Air India has stopped flying on certain non-profitable routes;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are considering to tap the prime European stations viz. Frankfurt, Geneva and Rome; and
- (d) if so, the date by which a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Air India has withdrawn its services from Frankfurt, Geneva and Rome.

(c) and (d) Air India has entered into an agreement with Air France to have connect code share flights to Frankfurt, Geneva, Amsterdam and Berlin. They have entered into Code share/Block Space Arrangements with Swissair, Air France, Scandinavian Airlines and Austrian Airlines.

Bedding Facilities in Sleeper Class

1666. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide bedding facilities to passengers travelling in sleeper classes also, at least in long distance trains as part of the improvement in passenger amenities;

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

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

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Provision of bed rolls in Sleeper Class is not practicable due to problems of space, safe custody of bed rolls and their distribution and maintenance.

[Translation]

Discontinuation of Railway Projects

1667. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI AJIT SINGH :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to discontinue the construction work on several projects under construction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon so far ?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

Air Services for Madhya Pradesh

1668. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase air services for Madhya Pradesh to promote tourism in the State; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines.

Rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen

1669. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to create a separate Wing or Department at the Army Headquarters to coordinate welfare measures for rehabilitation of ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far; and

(c) the details of the various welfare measures introduced by the Government for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. The Director General Resettlement under the Ministry of Defence is responsible for resettlement and welfare of ex-Servicemen.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Welfare Measures Introduced by the Government for the Rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen

- (i) Central Government have reserved 10 per cent of Group 'C' posts and 20 per cent of Group 'D' posts for ex-servicemen. 10 per cent posts of Assistant Commandants in Para Military Forces are also reserved for ex-servicemen. Central Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks provide 14.5 per cent reservation in Group 'C' and 24.5 per cent in Group 'D' posts to ex-servicemen.
- (ii) Loans/financial assistance for setting up small scale industries, Service industries, Agro-based industries. Khadi & Village industries are being provided to ex-servicemen under three self-employment schemes known as SEMFEX-I, SEMFEX-II AND SEMFEX-III.
- (iii) Government have reserved 8% of the Oil product agencies i.e., LPG, Kerosene Oil agencies and Petrol Pumps for widows/dependents of posthumous gallantry award winners, war widows, war disabled and for personnel disabled during peace time with disability of 50% and above. In addition to the aforesaid 8% reservation, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has announced a Special Scheme for direct allotment of 500 Retail Outlet/LPG distributorship to widows/NOK of Service personnel killed in the 'OP Vijay' in Kargil.
- (iv) Ministry of Defence have reserved 10% of the low technology items manufactured by ex-servicemen against Defence Purchase Programmes.
- (v) Ex-Servicemen are also eligible for allotment of Mother Dairy/DMS milk booths and fruit and vegetable outlets, allotment of UTI agencies, allotment of surplus Class V-B vehicles, allotment of 5 repairable typewriters and one duplicator.
- (vi) Directorate General of Resettlement registers/sponsors Security Agencies for providing Security Guards to various Public Sector Undertakings and industries in private sector.
- (vii) The ex-servicemen manufacturing units supplying stores to Defence Establishments under Defence Purchase Programme are eligible for

10% price subsidy of the total value of stores supplied or Rs. 50, 000/-, whichever is less, in a financial year for five consecutive years.

- (viii) 50% of the parking lots under the jurisdiction of New Delhi Municipal Committee are allotted to ex-servicemen on the basis of open limited tenders.

Physical Achievement of NOAPS, NFBS and NMBS

1670. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States where the survey has been conducted by the Operation Research Group to evaluate the physical achievement of National Old Age Pension Scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme and National Maternity Benefit Scheme;

(b) whether according to the report of the Group, physical achievements of these schemes in many States had low level;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons for such low level physical achievements State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) The Survey was conducted by Operation Research Group in Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Gujarat and Maharashtra to evaluate the performance of National Social Assistance Programme consisting of National Old Age Pension Scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme and National Maternity Benefit Scheme.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Study revealed low level of physical achievement in the sample States in the first two years of implementation. However, from the third year onwards the physical achievement has surpassed the targets under National Old Age Pension Scheme in most of the sample States. The Statement on State-wise position on physical achievement as indicated in the Report for the year 1997-98 is as below :

Statement on physical achievement (State-wise) for 1997-98 indicated in the Report of the Operation Research Group on Evaluation of NSAP in selected States

| State | Percentage achievement (Physical)- 1997-98 | | |
|----------------|---|--------|--------|
| | NOAPS | NFBS | NMBS |
| Andhra Pradesh | 100.00 | 120.10 | 120.00 |
| Bihar | 90.44 | 36.17 | 36.42 |
| Gujarat | 65.01 | 4.51 | 9.84 |
| Kerala | 42.92 | 69.77 | 14.19 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 130.00 | 79.00 | 55.00 |
| Maharashtra | 20.40 | 20.10 | 11.20 |
| Orissa | 98.80 | 108.00 | 10.70 |
| West Bengal | 87.00 | 38.00 | 46.00 |

Some of the reasons mentioned in the Study Report for this low level of physical achievement are :-

- (i) The limitations in the prescribed formula for determining Numerical Ceilings. The Study found Numerical Ceilings for Maharashtra and Gujarat high when the same was found to be low in case of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.
- (ii) Prior to launching of NSAP, every sample State had some social welfare programmes similar to NSAP- particularly NOAPS and NFBS. After introduction of NSAP, in some States, these schemes were either merged with NSAP or run as separate schemes. Sensitizing the district level officials, awareness campaigns regarding the schemes and familiarizing the State Government regarding the information needs of the Centre and general coordination between the Centre, the State, the Districts as well as within the districts took some time initially and this has been reflected in low achievement rate in the first year in all the sample States.
- (iii) The conditions set for release of fund could not be fulfilled by most of the districts in the initial years.
- (d) The Ministry has taken several steps including review meetings with the Nodal Secretaries of NSAP of the States, training of field level officials, removing impediments to successful implementation of the schemes, clarification to the States/districts relating to Numerical Ceiling and Targets etc. Letters have been addressed to the Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of the States lagging behind in implementing the schemes to improve the physical achievements. Appropriate steps have also been taken to create awareness among all concerned

about the NSAP schemes and the procedures involved in obtaining benefits under its schemes. To ensure efficient implementation of the schemes, the Government have also taken steps for simplification of procedure in releasing Central fund and disbursement of assistance to beneficiaries.

Acquisition of Better Surveillance Equipments

1671.SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Army could not acquire gun-locating-Radars and better surveillance equipment despite their demand for the same for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) While considerable Surveillance equipment have been acquired and included, some more equipment have since been contracted.

Gun-locating-Radar of one US-based Vendor was trial-evaluated, but, inter-alia, due to the Sanctions imposed by US Government, its acquisition did not materialise. However, alternative sources for acquisition of such radar, including its indigenous development, have been identified.

Rural Development Schemes

1672.SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several rural development schemes get debunked due to overlapping patronage by various agencies in the absence of a viable co-ordinating mechanism both at the State and Central level;

(b) if so, whether Union Government propose to ensure speedy co-ordinated implementation to take the Governmental care to the remote areas where the basic needs are still a far cry; and

(c) if not, the details of the overall appraisal and perception of the Government with data available ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The major rural development schemes are centrally sponsored schemes which are implemented through States/UTs, District Rural Development Agency (DRDAs)/Zila Parishads. The funds for implementing these schemes are shared mostly between the Centre and the

States and the schemes are being implemented with the active cooperation of the State Government and there exists sound mechanism of coordination between the two. All the schemes of the Ministry are monitored through periodical progress reports/returns; Intensive field inspections by the State Govt. officials; Area Officers schemes of the Ministry; Review by various Committees, such as State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) for rural development programmes; Conferences of State Secretaries of Rural Development and Project Directors of DRDAs, and Programme Evaluations. In addition, to make the implementation of the programmes/schemes more effective, instructions have been issued to appoint Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/District/Block levels in which Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies are also involved.

The Physical achievements under the major rural development programmes in 1998-99 are given below :

| Programmes | Physical achievements |
|--|---|
| (i) Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) | 3304.53 lakh mandays |
| (ii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) | 3927.38 lakh mandays |
| (iii) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) | 822326 houses |
| (iv) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) | 1566298 beneficiaries |
| (v) Rural Water Supply (RWS) | 80850 habitation covered 240.81 lakhs population covered. |

AAI Failed to Remove Ills of the System

1673. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "AAI move fails to remove ill of system" appearing in the 'Statesman' dated October 3, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All the defects which came to the notice of Airports Authority of India were rectified. The new system was commissioned after prolonged tests and trials and it

has performed without any problem since. The automation system in use provides adequate safety alerts that help in Air Traffic Management.

Violation of Air Space Norms by Pakistan

1674. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether mystery of the flying objects from Pakistan side which have lately been hovering either close to the border or even violating the air space at various places along the border including Jammu district has since been solved;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken;

(c) the number of times the Pakistan violated air space norms along Indo-Pak border during this year, month-wise; and

(d) the follow-up action contemplated by India thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There have been reports about sighting of flying objects at some places in Jammu & Kashmir recently. From the analysis of these reports the possibility of these being Remotely Piloted Vehicles has been ruled out. A close watch is maintained on all such developments which have implications on national security.

(c) The Month-wise details of incidents reported of violation of air space norms by Pakistan during the year 1999 (till November, 1999) are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) Every incident of violations of air space norms is taken up through diplomatic channel for lodging protest with Pakistan.

Statement

Month-wise incidents of Air Space Violation norms by Pakistan during 99 upto Nov 99

| Sl.No. | Month & year | No of Air Violations |
|--------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | January 99 | 5 |
| 2. | February 99 | 2 |
| 3. | March 99 | 2 |
| 4. | April 99 | 2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------------------|--------------|----|
| 5. | May 99 | 6 |
| 6. | June 99 | 23 |
| 7. | July 99 | 11 |
| 8. | August 99 | 11 |
| 9. | September 99 | — |
| 10. | October 99 | 3 |
| 11. | November 99 | 1 |
| Total (up to Nov., 1999) | | 66 |

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues

1675. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the outstanding amount payable to Uttar Pradesh by Railways on account of expenditure incurred on the Government Railway Police as on date;

(b) the reasons for not making payment so far; and

(c) the time by which full payment is likely to be made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The outstanding amount payable by Railways to Uttar Pradesh as on date on account of expenditure incurred on sanctioned posts of Government Railway Police, is Rs. 3.25 cr.

(b) The outstanding is on account of current bills/ non submission of Audit Certificate by the State Government.

(c) Railways have standing instructions to promptly pay all admissible claims.

[English]

Development of Wasteland

1676. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced an "Investment Promotional Scheme" for development of wasteland belonging to individual farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the names of States where said scheme has been launched; and

(c) the number of farmers have so far been covered and benefitted under the Scheme in the country particularly in Karnataka as on date, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Central Sector Investment Promotional Scheme for development of non-forests wastelands was launched during 1994-95 in all the States. The scheme was restructured in August' 1998 to make it more broad based and with focus to benefit the small & marginal farmers including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. The objective of the scheme is to mobilise resources from financial institutions, banks, corporate bodies including user industries and other entrepreneurs for development of wastelands belonging to Central and State Governments, Panchayats, Village Communities, Private farmers etc. Under the scheme, there is a provision for central promotional grant/subsidy to all categories of beneficiaries. For effective participation of the beneficiaries, promoters' contribution is also envisaged. The details of subsidy and the promoters' contribution is also envisaged. The details of subsidy and the promoters' contribution are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) So far, 30 farmers/promoters have been benefitted under this scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu. The revised guidelines restructuring the old scheme were issued only in August 1998. So far, no project proposals have been received from Karnataka State.

Statement

Statement showing the details of Central promotional grant/subsidy and promoters' contribution under investment promotional scheme (IPS)

(A) The details of subsidy

| | |
|---|---|
| (i) General Category (Individual/Group) | 25% of on-farm development activities or Rs. 25 lakhs, whichever is less. |
| (ii) Small farmers (Individual/Group) | 30% of on-farm development activities or Rs. 25 lakhs, whichever is less. |
| (iii) (a) Marginal Farmers (Individual/Group) | 50% of on-farm development activities or Rs. 25 lakhs, whichever is less. |
| (b) SC/ST Farmers without any limit in the area of holdings (Individual/Group). | Same as A (iii) (a) above. |

(B) Details of promoters' contribution

- (i) **General Category (Individual/Group)** At least 25% of the project cost.
- (ii) **Small farmers (Individual/Group)** At least 10% of the project cost.
- (iii) (a) **Marginal Farmers (Individual/Group)** Nil, however, at the time of execution of the project, the family labour should be involved to provide self-employment ensuring participation.
- (b) **SC/ST Farmers without any limit in the area of holdings (Individual/Group).** Same as B (iii) (a) above.

Development of Tezpur Airport

1677. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress that has so far been made in the implementation of the project to develop the civil enclave, comprising a passengers Terminal Building, Civil apron to accommodate 2AB-320 aircraft, link taxi way and ground lighting facilities at Tezpur Airport;

(b) the total cost of the project and the expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which these works are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The construction of civil apron, taxiway, provision of ground lights have been completed and 70% progress has been made towards construction of terminal building at Tezpur airport. This work is likely to be completed by March, 2000. Of the the total cost of Rs. 18.60 crores of the entire project, an expenditure Rs. 14.98 crores has been incurred till date.

IRDP

1678. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds provided to the States under the Integrated Rural Development Programme during the last three years including the current financial year, year-wise; and

(b) percentage of utilisation thereof State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) A statement showing state-wise funds provided (Central and State releases) and percentage of utilisation under erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during the last three years and under newly launched Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) during 1999-2000 is enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| S.No. | Name of States/UTs | Funds Provided (Central and State Releases) | | | | Percentage of Utilisation | | | |
|-------|--------------------|---|----------|----------|-----------|---------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| | | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 12065.74 | 10233.46 | 7740.65 | 3467.75 | 106.17 | 112.38 | 115.06 | 25.07 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 471.59 | 699.78 | 451.75 | 38.80 | 92.43 | 80.84 | 125.43 | 29.97 |
| 3. | Assam | 2400.47 | 3466.21 | 5989.59 | 1485.79 | 95.76 | 102.74 | 65.23 | 38.80 |
| 4. | Bihar | 10999.78 | 9090.27 | 10529.90 | 2893.29 | 120.33 | 136.65 | 135.07 | 158.65 |
| 5. | Goa | 90.33 | 120.89 | 74.23 | 25.00 | 92.75 | 133.34 | 120.05 | 169.92 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 3233.33 | 3850.61 | 2911.34 | 979.00 | 93.60 | 88.21 | 112.66 | 13.72 |
| 7. | Haryana | 767.80 | 938.04 | 1195.95 | 575.96 | 144.78 | 86.56 | 110.30 | NA |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 242.50 | 386.04 | 491.02 | 323.42 | 210.71 | 107.47 | 102.65 | 22.94 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 766.69 | 915.81 | 485.38 | 306.14 | 91.48 | 86.14 | 184.00 | 59.56 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------|----------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| 10. | Karnataka | 4072.57 | 4695.63 | 4839.81 | 1871.47 | 149.37 | 116.51 | 110.62 | 5.10 |
| 11. | Kerala | 2061.12 | 2226.81 | 2510.32 | 1174.98 | 131.00 | 113.70 | 110.31 | 18.08 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 9929.21 | 9328.36 | 12692.50 | 5758.08 | 135.66 | 128.59 | 91.75 | 16.10 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 7281.26 | 8541.07 | 10748.22 | 5044.40 | 129.19 | 110.01 | 95.85 | 51.99 |
| 14. | Manipur | 501.56 | 235.15 | 162.32 | 0.00 | 83.00 | 122.00 | 115.94 | NA |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 497.86 | 310.79 | 192.87 | 89.44 | 85.64 | 120.60 | 138.61 | 83.88 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 206.07 | 240.56 | 223.01 | 25.82 | 115.45 | 88.78 | 101.90 | 3.87 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 451.40 | 208.71 | 433.50 | 76.55 | 86.79 | 106.12 | 109.20 | NA |
| 18. | Orissa | 6129.85 | 6178.52 | 7397.49 | 4740.04 | 113.74 | 97.72 | 99.58 | 15.74 |
| 19. | Punjab | 516.81 | 716.31 | 733.66 | 279.91 | 105.90 | 79.89 | 108.31 | 54.83 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 4020.59 | 3743.08 | 4164.70 | 1276.47 | 102.03 | 104.97 | 108.79 | NA |
| 21. | Sikkim | 81.75 | 126.92 | 152.57 | 28.59 | 159.22 | 88.57 | 86.60 | 32.91 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 4517.82 | 6981.61 | 6734.63 | 3066.26 | 156.86 | 132.98 | 121.49 | 6.77 |
| 23. | Tripura | 959.87 | 800.39 | 1270.06 | 179.84 | 95.23 | 91.97 | 82.32 | 1.67 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 20212.39 | 18884.17 | 27202.68 | 7822.22 | 106.16 | 112.61 | 91.48 | 3.06 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 3577.38 | 4525.15 | 4782.10 | 232.19 | 153.04 | 105.60 | 89.17 | 890.22 |
| 26. | A & N Islands | 51.94 | 41.70 | 63.00 | 12.50 | 56.03 | 88.47 | 60.51 | 75.68 |
| 27. | Daman & Diu | 14.99 | 31.13 | 21.88 | 0.00 | 71.45 | 39.74 | 42.92 | NA |
| 28. | D & N Haveli | 13.98 | 28.91 | 13.72 | 0.00 | 105.79 | 47.35 | 90.45 | NA |
| 29. | Lakshadweep | 6.99 | 17.78 | 3.43 | 0.00 | 51.22 | 21.54 | 96.79 | NA |
| 30. | Pondicherry | 50.13 | 83.52 | 29.93 | 25.00 | 111.51 | 67.92 | 166.86 | 20.00 |
| Total | | 96193.77 | 97647.38 | 114242.21 | 41798.88 | 118.661 | 113.63 | 101.74 | 33.17 |

NA – Not Available

Safety Norms

1679. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have so far failed to maintain safety norms in the country;

(b) whether Indian Railways almost at par with other leading railways of the world in technical standards;

(c) whether the Railways could not complete the track circuit network throughout the country in spite of circuiting of all the points and crossings are almost complete;

(d) if so, the main reasons for not completing all the points and crossings which often give rise to accidents; and

(e) the time by which the Government are taking a decision to complete the track circuit network throughout the country with a view to maintain safety norms ?

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

(b) No, Sir. Indian Railways is not at par with developed countries of the World mainly due to non-availability of adequate funds and non-availability of indigenous state of art technology.

(c) A great thrust has been given to provision of track circuiting on Indian Railways after Firozabad train accident in 1995. About 600 stations per year are being equipped with various types of track circuiting. As a result track circuiting from Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark i.e. on the berthing portion of track at stations has already been

completed on A, B, & C routes on Indian Railways. Track Circuiting of the complete station yards including points and crossing is being provided on a programmed basis on priority within the constraint of resources.

(d) Non availability of adequate funds together with non-availability of insulated points and crossing sleepers is the major constraint. However, within the overall constraints, track circuiting of points and crossing has been prioritised route-wise.

(e) Complete track circuiting at stations on A, B, C, D Spl. and E Spl. – routes of Indian Railways is planned to be provided by year 2005 subject to availability of funds.

[Translation]

Air Services from Delhi to Dehradun and Dharamshala

1680.DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines proposes to introduce air services from Delhi to Dehradun and Dharamshala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these air services are likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has already introduced thrice a week Dornier service on Delhi-Dehradun-Delhi sector and Delhi-Dharamshala-Delhi sector w.e.f. 16.9.1999.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Trans Asiatic Railway Network

1681.SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Trans Asiatic Railway Network to India proposed four possible exists on the Eastern side;

(b) if so, the details of each of those possible exists;

(c) the details of the route which gives a broad gauge outlet right upto Myanmar as the portion in Bangladesh is also on broad gauge; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The alignment of Trans Asiatic Railway as proposed by India has four possible border crossings on the eastern side. They are :

(i) Gede-Darshana with Bangladesh on Broad Gauge

(ii) Mahisasan – Sahbazpur with Bangladesh on Metre Gauge.

(iii) Tamu with Myanmar with a missing link from Jiribam to Tamu. (The route is via Bangladesh).

(iv) Lekhapani – Myikyina, a direct route to Myanmar. (This is a missing link).

(c) The route which crosses the border with Myanmar at Lekhapani is an all Broad Gauge direct route with missing rail link between Lekhapani & Myitkina. However it does not pass through Bangladesh. It has been retained as Subregional route. The main Trans Asian Railway route does not have uniform gauge as the railway network in Bangladesh east of the Jamuna river is Metre Gauge and there is a missing link in Myanmar beyond Tamu.

(d) Since the project is still at a conceptual stage and involves many countries, it is difficult to assess the time by which it is likely to be finalised.

Central Assistance to Rural Development Scheme

1682.SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

The details of funds allocated and released to Karnataka for rural development schemes during 1999-2000, scheme-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) are the rural development schemes being implemented in Karnataka. The funds allocated and released to State of Karnataka during 1999-2000, scheme-wise, is as under :

| S. No. | Scheme | Central allocation (Rs. in lakhs) | Central release |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) | 7037.56 | 3519.00 |
| 2. | Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) | 5598.40 | 2949.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|--|---------|---------|
| 3. | Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) | 8538.00 | 4662.78 |
| 4. | Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) | 3927.97 | 1871.47 |
| 5. | Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) | 8402.25 | 4201.12 |
| 6. | Central Rural Water Supply Programme (CRSP) | 461.14 | 230.57 |
| 7. | National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) | 4011.51 | 2450.00 |

Construction of Gulberga-Bidar Railway Line

1683. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of Gulberga-Bidar railway line in Karnataka has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the above line is likely to be completed ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The requisite clearances for Bidar-Gulberga new line have been obtained. Final Location Survey and land acquisition proceedings are presently in progress. Work would be progressed once land is made available by the State Govt. and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Tata Economic Consultancy Service of F.P.S.

1684. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had engaged Tata Economic Consultancy Services to go into the functioning of Fair Price Shops in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether it has submitted any report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action the Government propose to take thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Tata Economic Consultancy Service (TECS) was engaged in the year 1997 for a study to assess the extent of diversion in wheat, rice, sugar and edible oil from Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country including Delhi.

The TECS submitted a report estimating the diversion of the PDS commodities in 30 States/UTs. At the national level the diversion of commodities is estimated to the extent of 36% in wheat, 31% in rice and 23% in sugar. The estimated diversion in Delhi is 53% each in rice and wheat and 25% in sugar.

Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. The findings of the TECS report were discussed in a meeting of the State Food Secretaries' held on 10.8.98.

The report was forwarded to the States/UTs including Delhi for appropriate action so as to eliminate/minimise diversion. The State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)/activating Vigilance Committees etc. in implementation of PDS.

As per information available with the Government of India, Government of N.C.T. of Delhi have taken steps to check diversion by introducing a scheme of voluntary declaration of excess units by cardholders, formation of Vigilance and Advisory committees and setting up of Control Room and Information and Facilitation Counters.

[Translation]

Indo-Pak Discussion

1685. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the talks between the Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan held last in Delhi; and

(b) the issues discussed therein alongwith the results achieved therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) As part of the composite and

integrated dialogue process between India and Pakistan on the basis of the agreed agenda of the Joint Statement of June 23, 1997, discussions were held on the Siachen issue in Delhi on November 6, 1998.

The discussions were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. The two sides stated their respective positions on the issue. It was agreed to continue discussions on the issue during the next round of the dialogue process.

Construction of Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line

1686. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of work completed in regard to laying of railway line between Jammu and Udhampur, alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the present status of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line alongwith expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which the above works are likely to be completed alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) 80% of the work has been completed. The total expenditure incurred is Rs. 295.2 crores approximately.

(b) Construction activity in Udhampur-Katra is in full swing. Contract for construction of Qazigund-Baramulla section covering a length of 120 kms. has been awarded to M/s IRCON. The alignment between Katra-Qazigund has been chosen. Up till now, the total expenditure incurred on the new BG link is Rs.122 crores approximately.

(c) The work between Jammu - Udhampur railway line is likely to be completed by December, 2001 and total expenditure likely to be incurred is Rs. 407.74 crores. The work between Udhampur - Srinagar - Baramulla railway line is likely to be completed by March, 2008, subject to availability of funds. The total expenditure likely to be incurred is Rs. 3077 crores.

[English]

Supply of Steel Wires to Sleeper Manufacturers

1687. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways had issued any order for the stoppage of supply of high tensile steel wires to the sleeper manufacturers in April, 1992;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware that more expenditure was incurred on account of this order and Government suffered huge losses thereby;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action the Government propose to take against the officer concerned in this regard ?

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

(b) Due to problems of damage during storage, cost involved in re-handling/re-transport, arranging supplies in time, railways permitted sleeper manufacturers to directly procure high tensile steel wire, cost of which was reimbursed to them.

(c) to (e) Policy has again been revised in November, 1994 to arrange supply of high tensile steel wire to the sleeper manufacturers based on tender finalised. In review of old cases, some firms were found to have claimed excess amount. Railways are undertaking Book Examination of such firms' records of that period to recover the excess amount claimed.

[Translation]

Fraud in Railway Reservations

1688. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of frauds and scams in ticket reservation/booking detected during 1999 and the number of railway officials involved therein, zone-wise.

(b) the action taken by the Government against the persons found responsible; and

(c) the corrective steps taken to check irregularities in railway reservation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) During the year 1999 (January to October), total 35 cases of frauds and scams in reservation/booking were detected and 43 staff were held responsible. The total amount involved in these cases is Rs. 19.56 lakhs. Zone-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) All the staff involved in the scams have been taken up under Discipline & Appeal Rules.

(c) Regular checks are conducted to detect cases of irregularities and malpractices in booking and reservations. The staff held responsible are taken up under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

Statement**Zone wise cases of Fraud in Railway Reservation/
Booking during 1999 (Jan. to Oct.)**

| Railway | Number of Fraud/Scam Detected | Amount Involved (in lakhs) | No. of Staff held Responsible against whom DAR action taken |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Central | 16 | 11.33 | 8 |
| Eastern | — | — | — |
| Northern | 4 | 2.62 | 9 |
| North-East | 1 | 0.05 | 1 |
| North East Frontier | 1 | 0.70 | 8 |
| Southern | 1 | — | — |
| South Central | 9 | 0.16 | 5 |
| South Eastern | — | — | — |
| Western | 3 | 4.70 | 12 |
| Total | 35 | 19.56 | 43 |

[English]

Million Wells Scheme

1689. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Million Wells Scheme (MWS) which was introduced in 1988-89 has achieved its goal;

(b) if so, the details of the performance under this scheme during the last two years;

(c) whether the scheme is now independent one, and the Government plans to continue this scheme in the coming years also; and

(d) if so, the future target to be achieved under this MWS programme ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) The Million Wells Scheme (MWS) which was introduced in the year 1998-89 with the objective of construction of one million open dug wells for the purpose of providing irrigation to the lands of the rural poor, small and marginal farmers has achieved its goal. Up to 1998-99, a total of 1.31 million wells have been constructed in the country.

(b) During the year 1997-98 a total of 1,27,715 wells were constructed with an expenditure of Rs. 495.61 crores and during 1998-99 a total of 1,29,791 wells were constructed with an expenditure of Rs. 474.35 crores.

(c) and (d) MWS has since been discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.1999. However, creation of irrigation sources is an important component of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which is under implementation since 1.4.99.

Rural Sanitation Programmes

1690. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of individual Latrine was under taken by the Government of Maharashtra under centrally sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to increase the fund as the cost of individual Latrine has gone high;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to allot additional funds for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Restructured Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (RCRSP), which is being implemented by the States/UTs including Maharashtra, provides for the construction of individual latrines both under the 'allocation based' Programme as well as the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). The cost of construction of such latrines is to be borne by the Centre, State and the beneficiary as per the prescribed norms.

(c) As per the available information, the Government of Maharashtra has not requested the Union Government to increase the fund as the cost of individual latrine has gone high.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Use of Solar Energy

1691. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the methods adopted to popularize solar energy in the country through photovoltaic devices.

(b) the details of mini/micro hydel projects in the country, State-wise;

(c) the details of the prospect of harnessing geothermal energy/tidal energy in the country;

(d) the details of capacity is being contributed by these sources; and

(e) the success has been achieved in Research & Development of other non-conventional/renewable sources of energy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) In order to popularize generation and development of solar energy in the country through photovoltaic devices, a number of fiscal and financial incentives have been provided by the Government. Government is also supporting R&D on various aspects of development/technology improvements in solar cells, modules and PV systems. The R&D support in photovoltaic technology has resulted in setting up of indigenous manufacturing base of single crystalline silicon solar cells/modules in the country. In addition, Government has been implementing a programme for installation of solar photovoltaic water pumping systems for agriculture and related uses. Under this programme, MNES provides various levels of subsidies and soft loans.

(b) 263 SHP Projects (upto 3 MW) with an aggregate capacity of 202 MW have been installed in the country. State-wise details of SHP Projects installed as on 31.10.99 in the country are enclosed in the Statement.

(c) Based on various assessment studies and surveys, nearly 340 Geothermal potential sites have been identified throughout the country where Geothermal Energy can be gainfully utilized for the generation of power and also for direct heat applications. Initial evaluations suggest a Geothermal power potential of 2000 MW. The use of Geothermal Energy has earlier been demonstrated in the country for small-scale power generation and thermal applications. Attempts are being made to assess the suitability of sites of some viable Geothermal Power Generation demonstration projects in the country.

In the field of tidal energy, a potential of nearly 15000 MW of Tidal Power in India has been estimated. However, viable technologies for exploitation of this potential are yet to be developed.

(d) The overall installed capacity through renewable energy is about 1576 MW of which 42 MW is from Solar Photovoltaic and 202 MW is from Small Hydro Power. Geothermal & Tidal energy are in the nascent stages of development and do not contribute much to the power generation in the country.

(e) R&D is an on-going effort which has yielded positive results in application development of various

renewable energy technologies. Out R&D has led to tropicalisation of various technologies developed in the industrialized countries. Some indigenous technologies have also been evolved such as Biomass Gasifiers, various models of improved Chulhas and Biogas Plants, indigenous manufacturing base of single crystalline silicon solar cells/modules, prototype of fuel cell power plants, electric vehicle powered by rechargeable batteries, fuel cells power systems, advanced Nickel-Metal Hydride batteries etc.

Statement

State-wise details of small Hydro Power Projects Installed upto 3 MW Station Capacity

| Sl. No. | Name | No. of Projects upto 3 MW | Capacity up to 3 MW |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Haryana | 1 | 0.20 |
| 2. | Himachal Pradesh | 26 | 11.60 |
| 3. | Jammu & Kashmir | 17 | 8.37 |
| 4. | Punjab | 8 | 9.90 |
| 5. | Rajasthan | 6 | 4.85 |
| 6. | Uttar Pradesh | 65 | 31.39 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 1 | 2.00 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 6 | 5.66 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 6 | 7.03 |
| 10. | Andhra Pradesh | 19 | 29.76 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 15 | 20.95 |
| 12. | Kerala | 5 | 5.52 |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 3 | 4.75 |
| 14. | Bihar | 5 | 0.05 |
| 15. | Orissa | 3 | 1.26 |
| 16. | Sikkim | 8 | 9.25 |
| 17. | West Bengal | 9 | 7.98 |
| 18. | Arunachal Pradesh | 30 | 21.05 |
| 19. | Assam | 2 | 2.20 |
| 20. | Manipur | 6 | 4.10 |
| 21. | Meghalaya | 1 | 1.51 |
| 22. | Mizoram | 13 | 8.76 |
| 23. | Nagaland | 5 | 3.17 |
| 24. | Tripura | 2 | 1.01 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------|---|-----|--------|
| 25. A&N Island | | 0 | 0 |
| 26. Goa | | 1 | 0.05 |
| Total | | 263 | 202.37 |

**Risk Factor in Flying Helicopter
At Mountain Terrains**

1692.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated June 2, 1999 captioned "An IAF Pilot gets Rs. 12 per sortie or even Death";

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the nature and extent of risk involved in flying a Mi-17 helicopter in the inhospitable mountain terrains like the Kargil; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to minimise the risks involved and to remunerate the pilots and others flying this helicopter adequately?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Government have seen the news report.

(b) and (c) A Statement in enclosed.

Statement

Before launching any aircraft, including Mi-17 helicopters, an assessment is made about its survivability in an operational environment. Though there are no zero risk flights, particularly in operations, a number of steps are taken to minimise risks.

Flying Allowance is presently payable to the Officers and Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs) of Air Force at the following rates :

Statement

Statement showing State-wise details of allocation and release of funds under Rural Water Supply Programme from 1996-97 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl.No. | State/UT | 1996-97 | | 1997-98 | | 1998-99 | | 1999-2000 | |
|--------|----------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|----------|
| | | Allocation | Release | Allocation | Release | Allocation | Release | Allocation | Release* |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 6618.00 | 6672.20 | 7964.00 | 8711.18 | 9991.36 | 9991.36 | 9143.26 | 4571.63 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Upto Group Captain and equivalent | Rs. 1200/- p.m. |
| Above Group Captain and equivalent | Rs. 900/- p.m. |
| Airmen/Aircrew | Rs. 900/- p.m. |

The Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended increase in the rates of Flying Allowance to officers and PBORs of Defence Services.

A High Level Committee (HLC) was constituted to consider the anomalies in the pay and allowances arising out of the implementation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission recommendations for the Armed Forces personnel. Decisions of the Government based on the recommendations of the Committee, will be notified shortly.

**Accelerated Rural Water
Supply Programme**

1693.SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for allocation of amounts under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme;

(b) the amounts sanctioned for this programme during the last three years and for the current financial year, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether sanctioned amount for the same has been released during the above period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) At present allocation of funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is made as per the approved *Need Based* criteria.

(b) to (d) A statement showing amount allocated and released under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during the last three years and during the current financial year, State-wise and year-wise, is enclosed.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------|-------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1200.00 | 1200.00 | 1444.00 | 2476.00 | 3623.00 | 2163.82 | 2476.00 | 1980.80 |
| 3. | Assam | 2026.00 | 2353.50 | 2438.00 | 2376.52 | 6120.00 | 6417.00 | 4180.00 | 2090.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 7795.00 | 3113.00 | 9380.00 | 0.00 | 11768.50 | 0.00 | 9380.00 | 0.00 |
| 5. | Goa | 189.00 | 550.40 | 227.00 | 196.50 | 283.75 | 0.00 | 352.92 | 0.00 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 4197.00 | 4197.00 | 4672.00 | 5540.12 | 5860.51 | 6951.35 | 6028.52 | 4822.82 |
| 7. | Haryana | 2441.00 | 2550.00 | 1746.00 | 2269.16 | 2190.91 | 2025.04 | 1883.91 | 1507.12 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 1331.00 | 1934.00 | 1568.00 | 1680.97 | 1967.07 | 2913.27 | 2275.77 | 1820.61 |
| 9. | J & K | 3688.00 | 3735.00 | 4395.00 | 4676.00 | 5514.58 | 4659.41 | 6381.44 | 0.00 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 6087.00 | 6720.70 | 7325.00 | 9285.00 | 9177.40 | 10070.63 | 8402.25 | 4201.12 |
| 11. | Kerala | 3095.00 | 3263.70 | 3724.00 | 3564.65 | 4673.49 | 4673.49 | 4307.88 | 3446.30 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 7327.00 | 7313.60 | 8817.00 | 8345.68 | 11063.07 | 11061.14 | 9444.68 | 4722.34 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 8810.00 | 9181.00 | 10602.00 | 12087.19 | 13301.46 | 16384.68 | 13614.41 | 10891.52 |
| 14. | Manipur | 440.00 | 478.60 | 529.00 | 907.00 | 1330.00 | 666.74 | 907.00 | 0.00 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 472.00 | 572.00 | 568.00 | 743.20 | 1425.00 | 1709.00 | 974.00 | 487.00 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 337.00 | 428.90 | 406.00 | 583.63 | 1018.00 | 1017.66 | 696.00 | 348.00 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 422.00 | 422.00 | 422.00 | 211.00 | 1058.00 | 796.90 | 724.00 | 579.20 |
| 18. | Orissa | 3468.00 | 4153.80 | 4173.00 | 5038.39 | 5236.47 | 4793.75 | 4847.93 | 4847.93 |
| 19. | Punjab | 1105.00 | 1289.00 | 1330.00 | 1713.99 | 1668.62 | 2205.28 | 1720.64 | 860.32 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 10387.00 | 11587.00 | 8732.00 | 10737.53 | 10954.54 | 11941.63 | 12676.22 | 6338.11 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 372.00 | 472.00 | 372.00 | 435.60 | 434.00 | 1401.12 | 460.83 | 230.41 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 5247.00 | 5333.00 | 6314.00 | 5834.38 | 7922.54 | 10527.51 | 6534.66 | 3267.33 |
| 23. | Tripura | 418.00 | 850.00 | 503.00 | 762.00 | 1262.00 | 2128.95 | 862.00 | 862.00 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 12278.00 | 11728.20 | 14775.00 | 15182.66 | 18537.93 | 16297.06 | 14775.00 | 11820.00 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 4740.00 | 4521.30 | 5704.00 | 4411.46 | 7169.63 | 6426.91 | 7008.15 | 5606.45 |
| 26. | A&N Islands | 25.00 | 0.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 |
| 27. | D&N Haveli | 15.00 | 3.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 |
| 28. | Daman & Diu | 10.00 | 0.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 |
| 29. | Delhi | 30.00 | 0.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 | 5.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 30. | Lakshadweep | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5.00 | 0.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 |
| 31. | Pondicherry | 20.00 | 10.00 | 12.50 | 0.00 | 5.00 | 0.00 | 5.00 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 94590.00 | 94632.90 | 108190.00 | 107779.81 | 143611.83 | 137223.70 | 130112.47 | 75301.01 |

*As on 30.11.99

Note : Pr. stands for Pradesh

Purchase of New Aircraft

1694. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to purchase new aircraft has been under consideration for last couple of years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the decision alongwith the details of the fleet and the cost of each aircraft; and

(d) the sectors on which these new aircraft are likely to be put up for use ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has submitted a Project Report for induction of six ATR-42 aircraft. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) It is premature at this juncture to indicate the details regarding number of aircraft to be inducted by the airline, their cost and sectors.

Survey for New Railway Lines

1695. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of routes where survey has been conducted to lay new railway lines during 1997 and 1998 and the current year, zone-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of routes for which survey work completed during the above period, zone/State-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started and completed alongwith the estimated expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Powers to RPF

1696. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railway Police (GRP) are not prepared to accept their responsibility in the Pooja Express blast;

(b) if so, the details of powers and responsibilities assigned to these forces;

(c) whether the safety net has not been followed by both the forces;

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard and to ensure safety net to commuters;

(e) whether Government propose to entrust R.P.F. with more powers and to deploy more R.P.F. personnel to check sabotage; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) According to Entry No.2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including) Railway and village police), is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway Premises as well as on running trains is, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Police. A separate wing of State Police called the Government Railway Police (GRP) deals with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) had been constituted under the RPF Act, 1957 for better protection and security of railway property and for matters connected therewith. The primary duty of the Force is to protect and safeguard the railway property, which includes the property, owned by the railway administration and the goods, luggage, parcels, etc. booked for transportation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Though the maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including Railway stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned but RPF co-ordinates with the GRP for ensuring better security to the Railway passengers and their belongings. The following steps have been taken by RPF for improving the passenger safety;

(1) Co-ordination meetings are being held between Railway managers, RPF officers and State Police officers at the Zonal and Divisional level. Meeting is also being held at the level of Railway Board.

(2) RPF Officers are holding regular co-ordination meetings with their counter-parts on the GRP and Civil Police.

- (3) Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.
- (4) Joint Strategies for dealing with anti-social elements operating on Railways have been chalked out by the GRP and RPF.
- (5) RPF Sniffer dogs, wherever available, are being deployed at Railway platforms, yards etc. to sniff out explosive substances. RPF men are being trained in the identification and detection of explosive devices.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise.

Production Capacity of Sugar Mills in Maharashtra

1697. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether some sugar mills of Maharashtra have sought approval of the Government to increase their production capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of mills; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Sugar industry has been delicensed w.e.f 1.9.98 and thus the existing sugar mills are free to expand their capacities. Further the entrepreneurs are also free to set up new sugar mills as per the techno-economic viability of their project, subject to maintaining a distance of 15 kms. between the existing and proposed sugar factories.

Computer Literacy in Armed Forces

1698. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army has since made computer literacy compulsory for its officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of instructions issued to all officers in that regard;

(d) whether it has also been proposed to make computer literacy requirement compulsory at the time of seeking commission in the Army; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action plan chalked out therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Even though computer literacy has not been made compulsory for officers however, a large portion of the Army is already computer trained at various levels. To cover the balance number of officers and Junior Commissioned Officers 25 computer training centres have been established at a cost of Rs. 2.5 crores. Besides an Information Technology Awareness Campaign (ITAC-99) has been launched to make 10,000 Junior Commissioned Officers & Other Ranks computer-aware by March, 2000. Further, an Army Institute for Information Technology has been planned to be set up. In addition, various opportunities have been provided to officers to pursue advanced computer studies.

(d) and (e) The Army has made computer literacy compulsory for all officers during the pre-commission training at Indian Military Academy, National Defence Academy and Officers Training Academy, with effect from November 1998.

Ezhimala Naval Academy

1699. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the matter of the setting up "EZHIMALA NAVAL ACADEMY" in Kerala and the stage at which the matter stands at present; and

(b) the expenditure incurred so far and the action taken to provide sufficient funds for its timely commissioning ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The infrastructure facilities to be provided by the State Government are in various stages of completion. A consultancy agreement with the Architect was concluded on 9.1.98. Detailed topographical survey of site, soil investigation and material survey, concept designs of external services, cadets' Mess and Cadets' Accommodation have been completed.

(b) A sum of Rs. 612.3 lakhs has been spent so far. Sufficient funds for this project commensurate with its phased implementation have been provided.

[Translation]

Construction of an Airport at Bilaspur

1700. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct an airport in Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh);

(b) if so, whether any survey for this purpose has since been conducted and the report given to the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. A team of officers from Airports Authority of India was deputed to Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh) to examine the proposed sites at Khairiya and Barai for the construction of new airport. The team concluded that the construction of an airport at both these sites in Bilaspur District is not technically feasible.

Linking of NOIDA with Railway Network

1701. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey for linking of Noida with railway network has been completed;

(b) if so, the action taken on the survey report;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) RITES were commissioned to carry out a survey for identification of Rail projects for commuter traffic in National Capital Region and Delhi. Rail link to Noida forms a part of this survey. The final report has since been received. The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has written to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and other beneficiary States to agree to the partial funding of the projects proposed in the survey report. Further action will be possible on receipt of a positive feedback from the concerned State Governments.

[English]

Speed of Trains

1702. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the average speed on the entire run fixed for declaring the trains as Mail, Express and Passenger separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : Average speeds of Mail, Express and Passenger trains are dependent upon various factors such as gauge, gradient, number of stoppages provided, type of track structure, type of traction, signaling and trailing loads of trains. Therefore, there is no

fixed average speed for designating a train as Mail/ Express/Passenger.

[Translation]

Construction of Godown

1703. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct godowns during the Ninth Five year Plan in the rural areas of various State particularly in the poor and backward States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for construction of godowns for strengthening of Public Distribution System (PDS) has been continued during the Ninth Five Year Plan. A provision of 62.50 crores has been made in the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) under the Scheme. Financial assistance is provided to the State/UTs under this Scheme for construction of godowns up to the maximum capacity of 2000 Metric Tonnes (MT) on the basis of the proposals received from them. The godowns can be constructed in those areas where the need for such facility exists, especially in remote, hilly and backward areas.

State-wise details of assistance provided under the scheme during the Ninth Plan till date is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Assistance Provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Construction of Godowns during the Ninth Plan

| S. No. | State | Amount (Rs in lakhs) | Capacity (in MTs) | No. of Godowns |
|--------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Assam | 427.54 | 29,300 | 11 |
| 2. | Gujarat | 183.30 | 6,500 | 12 |
| 3. | Haryana | 165.29 | 12,170 | 7 |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 77.76 | 1,800 | 3 |
| 5. | J&K | 26.77 | 250 | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|---------------|--------|--------|----|
| 6. | Kerala | 30.00 | 1,000 | 2 |
| 7. | Mizoram | 112.44 | 6,000 | 10 |
| 8. | Rajasthan | 602.91 | 43,050 | 25 |
| 9. | Tripura | 83.02 | 2,000 | 6 |
| 10. | Uttar Pradesh | 946.03 | 37,350 | 54 |

Outdoor Booking Agency

1704. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria and the guidelines laid to appoint outdoor railway agency for booking of parcel/luggage under the liberalised schemes; and

(b) the commission/service-charges being provided to the Agents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) As per the extant policy, open tenders are invited for awarding the contract of a City Booking Agency/Out Agency. The agency is allotted to the bidder found most suitable in all respects.

(b) The Agent is paid cartage charges for transporting the packages from the agency premises to the serving Railway station based on the rate quoted by him in the tender application.

[English]

Encroachment on Defence land in Secunderabad Cantonment

1705. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA :
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Defence land is under illegal occupation/disputes in the Secunderabad Cantonment area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve these issues ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There are 710 cases of illegal occupation of Defence land in Secunderabad covering an area of 6.16 acres. So far as Government is concerned, no Defence land in Secunderabad is in dispute.

(c) Action is being taken by the authorities concerned under the Cantonments Act, 1924, and the Public

Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised occupants) Act, 1971 for removal of illegal occupation.

[Translation]

One-Rank-One Pension Scheme

1706. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the long pending 'One-Rank-One Pension' scheme for the Ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The demand for 'One-rank-one pension' was examined and considered by the 4th and 5th Central Pay Commissions. The two Commissions did not find the demand justified. The acceptance of the demand has serious administrative and financial implications. However, a proposal for granting one-time-increase in pension to pre 1.1.96 Service pensioners to reduce the difference in pension of pre 1.1.96 and post 1.1.96 pensioners is being processed.

[English]

Fund for Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programme

1707. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government plan to allocate more funds in the current financial year for the rural employment and poverty alleviation programmes;

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

(c) the performance of each scheme with its respective fund allocation during the current year in the State of Tamil Nadu, District-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal by the Government to allocate more funds in the current financial year for the rural employment and poverty alleviation programmes.

(c) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) are the major rural employment schemes being implemented in Tamil Nadu. The allocation and physical achievement during the current year in Tamil Nadu, district-wise, is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Allocation and Achievement to Tamil Nadu during 1999-2000 Under Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programme

| Sl. No. | Name of the District | JGSY | | EAS | | SGSY | | IAY | |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | | Allocation Central | Achievement* | Allocation Central | Achievement* | Allocation Central | Achievement** | Allocation Central | Achievement*** |
| 1. | Coimbatore | 351.28 | 3.63 | 216.59 | 2.93 | 227.53 | 500 | 211.32 | 593 |
| 2. | Cuddalore | 363.28 | 2.15 | 447.37 | 1.61 | 155.71 | 1095 | 343.92 | 1058 |
| 3. | Dharmapuri | 393.12 | 1.54 | 561.98 | 3.70 | 215.60 | 0 | 250.35 | 322 |
| 4. | Dindigul | 333.02 | 2.25 | 391.41 | 1.22 | 167.64 | 1294 | 185.41 | 581 |
| 5. | Erode | 322.91 | 3.56 | 334.70 | 1.17 | 239.58 | 206 | 191.26 | 698 |
| 6. | Kanchipuram | 368.23 | 2.70 | 512.09 | 1.75 | 155.71 | 44 | 302.14 | 1264 |
| 7. | Kanyakumari | 257.76 | 1.76 | 77.84 | 0.97 | 107.74 | 479 | 17.54 | 0 |
| 8. | Karur | 152.05 | 1.11 | 159.44 | 1.66 | 95.81 | 2 | 95.51 | 202 |
| 9. | Madurai | 194.17 | 0.79 | 315.92 | 0.98 | 155.71 | 0 | 163.18 | 449 |
| 10. | Nagapattinam | 269.41 | 2.49 | 350.60 | 1.32 | 131.72 | 450 | 261.71 | 185 |
| 11. | Nammakal | 200.20 | 1.60 | 262.73 | 2.38 | 179.69 | 77 | 171.42 | 538 |
| 12. | The Nilgiris | 488.58 | 5.18 | 35.35 | 0.46 | 47.91 | 76 | 35.19 | 9 |
| 13. | Perambalur | 210.83 | 1.45 | 273.29 | 1.13 | 119.79 | 80 | 178.91 | 442 |
| 14. | Pududukottai | 284.38 | 2.10 | 296.04 | 2.07 | 155.71 | 139 | 146.10 | 691 |
| 15. | Ramanathapuram | 173.17 | 1.11 | 278.12 | 2.23 | 131.72 | 629 | 147.90 | 366 |
| 16. | Salem | 236.71 | 4.31 | 377.10 | 2.00 | 227.53 | 612 | 223.22 | 85 |
| 17. | Sivagangai | 234.02 | 1.52 | 224.56 | 2.15 | 143.77 | 0 | 107.40 | 45 |
| 18. | Thanjavur | 238.70 | 0.01 | 355.73 | 1.23 | 167.76 | 0 | 218.14 | 419 |
| 19. | Theni | 134.08 | 0.91 | 158.19 | 0.34 | 95.81 | 0 | 77.91 | 234 |
| 20. | Tiruchirapalli | 215.94 | 1.60 | 333.95 | 1.24 | 167.75 | 0 | 186.17 | 141 |
| 21. | Tirunelveli | 300.59 | 3.22 | 372.78 | 1.56 | 227.53 | 0 | 201.85 | 829 |
| 22. | Tiruvallur | 321.28 | 2.39 | 441.29 | 1.44 | 167.76 | 0 | 368.75 | 509 |
| 23. | Tiruvannamalai | 447.10 | 3.47 | 603.80 | 1.29 | 215.60 | 0 | 326.94 | 803 |
| 24. | Tiruvarur | 243.09 | 1.82 | 299.36 | 1.32 | 119.79 | 0 | 224.37 | 851 |
| 25. | Tuticorin | 262.39 | 1.91 | 220.33 | 0.44 | 143.77 | 272 | 147.65 | 279 |
| 26. | Vellore | 476.23 | 3.12 | 581.06 | 2.35 | 239.58 | 843 | 368.28 | 926 |
| 27. | Villupuram | 493.90 | 3.13 | 764.44 | 3.61 | 263.45 | 0 | 529.25 | 5686 |
| 28. | Virudhunagar | 274.07 | 1.74 | 323.93 | 1.65 | 131.72 | 1289 | 164.21 | 366 |
| Total | | 8240.49 | 62.49 | 9570.01 | 46.20 | 4599.39 | 8087 | 5846.00 | 18571 |

* No. of Lakh Mandays Generated

** No. of Family Benefited

***No. of House Constructed

Sleeper Orders to Factories

1708. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of small scale sleeper manufacturing industries, with huge work force, operating in backward tribal areas like Santhal Parganas of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh are running on the work from Railways;

(b) if so, whether a large number of such factories have been starved of orders for the last two years landing a huge work force on brink of starvation; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure regular orders to save these factories from starvation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) 68 (sixty-eight) sleeper manufacturing factories are set up in different parts of the country including Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Railways place orders on these firms based on competitive offers received, Railways, requirement of sleepers and availability of funds.

Import of Edible Oil

1709. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of edible oil imported during the first nine months of the current oil year (November, 1998–October, 1999) and its Comparative figures during the corresponding years;

(b) whether a three fold increase in its import was noticed only in June, 1999 as compared to the last year;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) the total demand and domestic supply of edible oil for 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the domestic supply of oil in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The quantity of edible oil imported during the first nine months of the current oil year (November, 1998–October, 1999) and its Comparative figures during the corresponding year are 23.12 lakh tonnes and 9.46 lakh tonnes respectively. This is based on the returns received from the importers till 3.12.1999.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The total demand and domestic supply of edible oil for the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under :

Figures in lakh MT

| Year | Demand | Supply |
|-----------|--------|---------|
| 1998-99 | 91.99 | 72.61* |
| 1999-2000 | 96.43 | 81.87** |

* Computed on the basis of Agriculture Ministry's Oilseeds production estimate of 256.8 lakh tonnes.

** Computed on the basis of Agriculture Ministry's Oilseeds production target of 284.52 lakh tonnes.

(e) Some of the steps being taken to improve the domestic supply of oil in the country are :

- (i) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was established in May, 1986 for harnessing the best of production, processing and management technology. Since then, all concerted efforts are being made to increase the production of oilseeds and edible oil in the country through the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP). At present, OPP is under implementation in 25 States covering 395 selected districts. Under the Programme, financial assistance is being provided by way of subsidies on various critical inputs like production and distribution of seed, mini kits, rhizobium culture, gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implements, plant protection equipments, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's field to transfer the production technology. The Programme is being funded on 75:25 share basis between the Central Government and the State Government. During the year 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 109.10 crores has been provided as Central share for implementation of the programme.

During the Ninth Plan, the new initiatives taken under the programme includes propagation of high yielding varieties of oilseeds, promotion of sprinkler irrigation, use of integrated nutrients and pest management and promoting the use of gypsum/pyrites as source of sulphur for increasing the production of oilseeds and edible oil in the country with higher outlay.

- (ii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing production of oilseeds.
- (iii) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower,

exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

- (iv) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities of keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.
- (v) Assistance for oil palm development.
- (vi) Better incentive to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.
- (vii) Identification of equipments of modernisation of processing units, custom duty concessions on imports of certain equipment.

**Utilisation of Funds earmarked
for Safety**

1710. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds earmarked during 1997-98 and 1998-99 for safety has remained unutilized;

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

(c) whether non-utilisation of funds for safety has been increased, the number of accidents since 1994; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure the rail safety ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE M'NISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Allocation for safety is made under various Planheads which include upgradation of signalling and telecommunication infrastructure track renewal, bridge works and Workshop modernisation. The expenditure under these planheads in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as under :

(Rs. in cr.)

| Year | Track Renewal | | | Bridge Works | | |
|---------|--|------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------|--------|
| | Budget Estimate | Revised Estimate | Actual | Budget Estimate | Revised Estimate | Actual |
| 1997-98 | 1680.00 | 1680.00 | 1805.22 | 88.70 | 88.85 | 74.97 |
| 1998-99 | 1960.00 | 1793.00 | 1802.90 | 103.70 | 82.73 | 67.59 |
| | Signalling and Telecommunication Works | | | Workshops & Sheds | | |
| 1997-98 | 201.40 | 221.75 | 251.74 | 87.53 | 102.98 | 113.85 |
| 1998-99 | 361.40 | 336.40 | 313.60 | 129.49 | 141.14 | 128.95 |

The table above reveals that funds were fully utilised under Planheads Track Renewal, Signalling & Telecommunication and Workshops & Sheds in 1997-98. In 1998-99, however, a fall in internal generation of resources necessitated a cut in plan expenditure and the actual expenditure was, therefore, less than budget grant. Under the Planhead Bridge Works. The funds were not utilised fully in both the years for reasons which inter-alia include State Governments not able to take up work on approaches of road over/under bridge, non-availability of land, non availability of speed restrictions, poor response to tenders and contractual failures.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Safety is a continuous and ongoing process, which is being reviewed at different level of Railway management and action being taken depending upon availability of funds. However, the important steps being taken by the Railways to enhance safety include the following :-

1. The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

2. Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human errors in causing accidents.

3. Auxiliary warning system (AWS) for giving advance warning about 'signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.

4. A pilot project of AWS for Tughlaqabad-Mathura section of Central Railway is being taken up on a trial basis.

5. Walkie - Talkie sets have been supplied to Drivers and Guards of all passenger trains. The same is presently being supplied to Drivers and Guards of goods trains also and is likely to be completed by 31st March 2000.

6. There has been a progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

7. For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.
8. For detecting rail fractures and weld failures, 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.
9. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
10. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.
11. Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
12. Audio - visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
13. Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried on passenger trains.
14. Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by inter - disciplinary teams from zonal headquarters has been introduced.
15. Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with trains operations have been modernised including use of simulators for training of drivers.
16. Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.
17. Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for necessary training course.
18. Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness amongst the staff.

[Translation]

**Development of Funds to Bihar
for Gaya**

1711. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give financial assistance to Bihar for the development of Gaya as a major tourist centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) and (b) The primary role for development of tourism in places of tourist importance is that of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism strengthens their efforts by providing financial assistance for projects/schemes in consultation with them. Accordingly, for the current year, 23 projects/schemes for an amount of Rs. 710.00 lakhs have been decided to be sanctioned for the State of Bihar. The following projects have been sanctioned for Gaya based on proposals received from the State Government :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Name of project | Amount sanctioned |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Public convenience at gaya | 3.59 |
| 2. Yatrika at Gaya | 15.92 |

State Highways in and around Gaya have been widened and strengthened with loan assistance from the Overseas Co-operation Fund (OECF) of Japan.

[English]

**Closure of Rajiv Gandhi Airport at
Begumpet**

1712. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajiv Gandhi Airport at Begumpet (Hyderabad) is likely to be closed down; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Supply of French Agosta
Submarine to Pakistan**

1713. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has recently acquired French built Agosta submarine posing a serious threat to Indian ships;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the steps taken to counter the threat?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) As per the available information, Pakistan has contracted with France for the supply of three Agosta 90-B submarines. The first of these submarines was handed over to Pakistan in France in September 1999 and has recently set out for Pakistan.

(c) Government monitors carefully defence acquisitions in the region. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

Development of Kannur Airport

1714. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
 SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the work relating to land acquisition, ground levelling etc. for the setting up of an Airport at Kannur (Kerala) is in progress as per the schedule; and

(b) if so, the present status of Kannur Airport ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. A high level team visited the site for technical feasibility of the airport. The team has recommended that a runway of length more than 6600 ft. cannot be constructed at Kannur. Moreover, Kannur is only 120 Kms. for Calicut and 135 Kms. from Mangalore. Under the existing policy, no greenfield airport is to be developed within an aerial distance of 150 Kms. of the existing airport.

[Translation]

Construction of Road Over Bridge at Pandarpur in Maharashtra

1715. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the road over bridges under construction in Pandarpur, Maharashtra;

(b) whether any proposal for constructing more over-bridges in Pandarpur is under consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No Road over bridge is under construction in Pandharpur. However, three Road Under Bridges in lieu of Level crossings Nos 24, 25 & 26 are at advance stage of construction in connection with Gauge conversion in Pandharpur Yard.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Hogenakkal Drinking Water Scheme

1716. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japanese assistance will be provided for the implementation of Hogenakkal Drinking Water Scheme since the Japanese Government has now lifted the ban on financial sanctions to India;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to obtain necessary financial assistance for the implementation of the much needed "Hogenakkal Drinking Water Scheme", in Dharampuri District, Tamil Nadu from any other international source; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A project proposal entitled as "Hogenakkal Water Supply and Sanitation Project" received from the Government of Tamil Nadu has been posed to the World Bank for their possible support.

Sugar Production

1717. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) Whether India's sugar production is likely to touch 160 lakh tonnes in the current season i.e. October, 1998 to September, 1999;

(b) if so, the extent to which it has increased in response to the previous year; and

(c) the main factors for yielding a better sugar production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The production of sugar during the current sugar season 1999-2000 is estimated to be around 160 lakh tonnes as

compared to 155.20 lakh tonnes (Provisional) during the previous sugar season 1998-99, thus showing 3% increase over the previous year.

(c) The main factor for higher sugar production during the current sugar season 1999-2000 is likely increase in sugar cane production in the State of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab & Karnataka.

Import of Wheat

1718.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of wheat imported during the last three years and the current years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the wheat stock with the Government has been above capacity of its utilisation during the above period;

(d) if so, the stock position with the Government during each of the last three years; and

(e) the reasons for importing wheat when there was no need to do so ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The following quantities of wheat were imported on Government account during the last three years :

| Year | Quantity in lakh tonnes |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1996-97 | 17.51 |
| 1997-98 | 10.18 |
| 1998-99 | 14.15 |

There has been no import of wheat on Government account during the current year (1999-2000) so far.

(c) and (d) The stock position of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1st April during the last three years and the current year, vis-a-vis the buffer stock norms was as under :

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

| Date | Actual Stock of wheat | Buffer Stock norm |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 01.04.96 | 77.62 | 37.00 |
| 01.04.97 | 28.82 | 37.00 |
| 01.04.98 | 50.75 | 37.00 |
| 01.04.99 | 99.21 | 40.00 |

(e) Government constantly reviews the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis-a-vis the prescribed minimum buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for the Public Distribution System, open market prices etc. and decision to import foodgrains on Government account is taken depending on the overall situation.

Tapping of Market by Airlines

1719.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had permitted domestic airlines to tap market to explore and augment their resources and come out of the red;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps since taken by the respective airlines in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Government does not regulate the market tapping efforts of private airlines, while Indian Airlines has not yet been permitted.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Compensation to the Victims of Bomb Explosion in Puja Express

1720.SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed/injured in a bomb explosion in Delhi bound Puja Express on November 11, 1999;

(b) whether the Government have announced to pay compensation to the victims of said accident; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount of compensation has so far been paid to the victims ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) 14 persons died and 47 persons were injured due to a bomb explosion in Pooja Express on 11th November, 1999.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The compensation claims are paid to claimants or their authorised agents based on the

decrees passed by Railway Claims Tribunal on the claims filed before the concerned Bench of the Tribunal under the provisions of the Section 125 of the Railway Act, 1989. The maximum amount of compensation admissible in case of death and permanent disability is Rs. 4,00,000-. In case of injuries the minimum amount admissible is Rs. 32,000/- and the maximum amount admissible is Rs. 3,60,000/-. The compensation will be paid to claimants as and when the same is filed by them and decreed by the Claims Tribunal. However, ex-gratia payment of Rs. 15,000/- to the families of killed, Rs. 5,000/- to the seriously injured and Rs. 500/- for minor injured was disbursed. Total ex-gratia amount paid in this incident was Rs. 1,70,000/-

Discontinuation of Flights

1721. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some flights have been discontinued in the country during 1998 and 1999; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) A Statement showing the details of flights discontinued in 1998 and 1999 and reasons therefor is enclosed.

Statement

Details of flights discontinued in 1998 and 1999 and reasons therefor

| Flight discontinued | Date of Discontinuation | Remarks/Reasons |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| A. M/s. Indian Airlines | | |
| Bangalore – Calicut | January, 1998) | Mainly commercial and operational reasons. |
| Guwahati – Lilabari | September, 1998) | |
| Guwahati – Dimapur | -do- | |
| Calcutta – Ranchi | December, 1998) | |
| Aizwal – Guwahati | January, 1999) | |
| Chennai – Puttaparthi | July, 1999) | |
| Pune – Ahmedabad | September, 1999) | |
| Pune – Calcutta | -do- | |
| Pune – Chennai | November, 1999) | |
| Aurangabad – Udaipur | -do- | |
| Aurangabad – Jaipur | -do- | |
| Chennai – Goa | -do- | |
| Jabalpur – Bhopal | -do- | |
| Agatti – Goa | -do- | |
| B. M/s. Jet Airways | | |
| Mumbai – Nagpur – Mumbai | July, 1998) | Poor seat factor. |
| Chennai – Hyderabad – Chennai | November, 1998) | |
| Mumbai – Lucknow – Mumbai | July, 1999) | |
| C. M/s. Sahara Airlines | | |
| Delhi – Bhopal – Indore – Delhi | August, 1998) | Operational reasons. |
| Delhi – Bangalore – Delhi | March, 1999) | |
| Delhi – Varanasi – Delhi | -do- | |
| Mumbai – Varanasi – Mumbai | -do- | |
| Delhi – Chennai – Delhi | August, 1999) | |

**Task Force on Airports Infrastructure
and Air Links**

1722. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Task Force on Airports Infrastructure and Airlinks for the N.E States has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Task Force; and

(c) the extent to which the recommendations of the Task Force have been implemented so far ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major recommendations relate to:-

(i) Development of airport infrastructure viz. construction of runways, terminal buildings, installation of modern navigational systems etc. ;

(ii) Improvement in air services i.e. airlinking capitals of all the North Eastern States, induction of 50 seater aircraft; and

(iii) Tax concessions, and creation of Civil Aviation Development Fund, to make air services economically viable.

(c) The Report has been forwarded to all concerned, including State Governments, and follow-up action is being reviewed periodically.

**Allocation under Rural Water
Supply Programmes**

1723. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated and released by the Government under the accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme for the year 1999-2000, State-wise;

(b) whether the funds provided by the Union Government under this programme have been misappropriated and spent elsewhere; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for proper utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) A statement

showing State-wise allocation of funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during the year 1999-2000 is enclosed.

(b) No reports regarding misappropriation of funds and spent elsewhere under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during the year 1999-2000 has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

*State-wise details of allocation and release of
funds under ARWSP during 1999-2000*

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl.No. | State/UT | Allocation | Release* |
|--------|-------------------|------------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 9143.26 | 4571.63 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2476.00 | 1980.80 |
| 3. | Assam | 4180.00 | 2090.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 9380.00 | 0.00 |
| 5. | Goa | 352.92 | 0.00 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 6028.52 | 4822.82 |
| 7. | Haryana | 1883.91 | 1507.12 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 2275.77 | 1820.61 |
| 9. | J & K | 6381.44 | 0.00 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 8402.25 | 4201.12 |
| 11. | Kerala | 4307.88 | 3446.30 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 9444.68 | 4722.34 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 13614.41 | 10891.52 |
| 14. | Manipur | 907.00 | 0.00 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 974.00 | 487.00 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 696.00 | 348.00 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 724.00 | 579.20 |
| 18. | Orissa | 4847.93 | 4847.93 |
| 19. | Punjab | 1720.64 | 860.32 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 12676.22 | 6338.11 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 460.83 | 230.41 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 6534.66 | 3267.33 |
| 23. | Tripura | 862.00 | 862.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------|---|-----------|----------|
| 24. Uttar Pradesh | | 14775.00 | 11820.00 |
| 25. West Bengal | | 7008.15 | 5606.45 |
| 26. A&N Islands | | 12.50 | 0.00 |
| 27. D&N Haveli | | 12.50 | 0.00 |
| 28. Daman & Diu | | 12.50 | 0.00 |
| 29. Delhi | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 30. Lakshadweep | | 12.50 | 0.00 |
| 31. Pondicheery | | 5.00 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 130112.47 | 75301.01 |

*As on 30.11.99

Spares for M-17s

1724. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fleet of M-17s with the Indian Air Force has been suffering for want of spares;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto;

(c) the number of M-17s grounded during recent operations in Kargil for want of spares;

(d) whether the M-17s shot down in Kargil in May this year, was lost largely for want of certain spares; and

(e) if so, the details of crew members who lost their lives therein and the compensation paid to the wards of the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The lives of two officers and two SNCOs were lost. Their names are as follows:

(i) Sqn Ldr R Pundir

(ii) Flt Lt S Muhilan

(iii) Sgt PVNR Prasad

(iv) Sgt RK Sahu

Details of compensation paid to the families of the deceased is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Details of the Compensation Paid to the Families of the deceased

(Amount in Rs.)

| Sl.No. | Fin Compensation | (A) Mrs Pundir | (B) Mrs Muhilan** | (C) Mrs Prasad | (D) Mrs Sahu |
|---|--|----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Death Claim | 14,76,632 | 12,46,000 * | 6,27,953 | 6,41,636 |
| 2. | Family Assistance Scheme – per month for 15 Years | 2,000 | 2,000 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| 3. | Ex-gratia** | 10,00,000 | 10,00,000 | 10,00,000 | 10,00,000 |
| 4. | Death Gratuity | 2,28,000 | 1,58,400 | 78,012 | 75,324 |
| 5. | Special Family Pension (per month) | 14,425 | 10,000 | 4,925 | 3,566 |
| 6. | Defence Services Officers' Provident/ Air Force Provident Fund | 77,658 | 92,526 | 28,328 | 50,885 |
| 7. | Deposit Link Insurance | 30,000 | 30,000 | 20,538 | 30,000 |
| Additional Benefits from National Defence Fund | | | | | |
| 8. | Grant for acquiring dwelling unit | 5,00,000 | 5,00,000 | 5,00,000 | 5,00,000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| 9. | Corpus for children's education Rs. 1 lakh per child limited to Rs. 2 lakh | 2,000 (per month) | 1,000 (per month) | 1,000 (per month) | - |
| 10. | Ex-gratia relief for Dependent parents (per month) | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | - |

** - Rs. 2.5 lakhs has not yet been released.

⊙ - Mother of Flt Lt Muhilan was paid Rs. 12.46 lakhs as death claim

⊙⊙ - Mrs. Muhilan was paid an additional amount Rs. 10.00 lakhs from Air Force Wives Welfare Association (Central)

A - Wife of Late Sqn Ldr Pundir

B - Wife of Late Flt Lt S Muhilan

C - Wife of Sgt Prasad PVNR

D - Father of Sgt Sahu PK

Misutilisation of Fund by DRDA

1725. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) have been blamed by the CAG for misusing of funds diversion of funds and violation of guidelines prescribed by the Union Government for rural development;

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

(c) the steps proposed to ensure the proper utilisation of funds and to book the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 1998 cites certain instances of irregularities in respect of some District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs). The instances cited are :

- (i) the DRDAs of Dausa and Sriganga Nagar in Rajasthan for payment of subsidies to ineligible beneficiaries under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP);
- (ii) the DRDAs of East Godavari, Kumool, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy in Andhra Pradesh for mis-utilisation of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) funds;
- (iii) the DRDA of Kakinanda in Andhra Pradesh for diversion of IRDP funds for Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) works;

(iv) the DRDAs of Koraput and Ganjam in Orissa for submission of utilization certificate before incurring expenditure under IRDP; and

(v) the DRDA of Nowrangpur in Assam for mis-utilization of funds under EAS.

(c) The comments of the concerned State Governments are being collected. Appropriate action will be taken on receipt of the comments.

Consolidation of Land Holding

1726. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI RAM CHANDRA BAINDA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to draw up a plan of action for consolidation of land holdings to deal with the problem of excessive fragmentation of land holdings and improve the economic viability of the farm sector across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of experts included in this committee and representation of State Governments on land holdings issues;

(d) whether the first meeting of this committee was held in New Delhi recently;

(e) if so, the deliberations of the meeting and decision taken thereon; and

(f) the time by which the final report is likely to be submitted by this committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (f) A National Level Committee has been constituted to look into all areas relating to Consolidation of Land Holdings and Updation of Survey Data/Records of Rights and maps through technological upgradation. The composition and terms of reference of the Committee is given in enclosed Statement. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 9.11.1999 in New Delhi. It was decided to set up a Sub-Committee which will examine all matters indicated in the terms of reference and submit its report within a period of three months. The report of the Committee will be finalised after receipt of the report of the Sub-Committee.

Statement

Composition

| | |
|--|-----------|
| (i) Secretary (RD) | Chairman* |
| (ii) Additional Secretary (LR) | Member |
| (iii) Chief Commissioner of Land Administration Government of Andhra Pradesh | Member |
| (iv) Consolidation Commissioner/ Director Survey and Settlement Government of Punjab | Member |
| (v) Consolidation Commissioner/ Director Survey and Settlement Government of M.P. | Member |
| (vi) Director of Land Records and Settlement Commissioner Government of Tamil Nadu | Member |
| (vii) JS (LR) | Convener |

* Chairman shall have powers to co-opt any other official to assist the Committee in its functioning.

Terms of Reference :

- (i) To review the progress of consolidation in all the States so far.
- (ii) To identify major impediments in the implementation of the programme and recommend measures for recovering from them.
- (iii) To examine the status of preparation of survey data/ records of rights and maps and recommend their updation through revisional surveys where required (including replacement or revival or maps where they have been drawn up or are not available or have been destroyed) together with a time frame for their

completion and details of cost - estimates and the technological upgradation required to suggest measures for commencement completion of survey in areas where no survey has been undertaken so far as, for example, in the North Eastern States.

- (iv) To draw up a plan of action for consolidation of holdings and to identify the main features of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Consolidation of land holdings.

Missing Soldiers from Kargil

1727. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether six soldiers, including a Captain belonging to the 3rd Rajput Battalion were noticed missing during Kargil conflict;

(b) if so, whether the Pakistani army has denied of having any knowledge about the whereabouts of four missing Indian soldiers while two soldiers were returned back to the Indian Government; and

(c) if so, the efforts made and proposed to be made by the Indian Government to trace them out?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A patrol of 3rd Rajput comprising an officer of the rank of Captain and 5 soldiers were reported missing in the Turtuk sector in the night of 30/31 august, 1999.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter has been taken up by the Army Headquarters with the Pakistan Army.

Disinvestment in ITDC

1728. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Government on the recommendation of Disinvestment Commission in regard to disinvestment in ITDC;

(b) the names of hotels identified for disinvestment;

(c) whether these hotels are proposed to be handed over to established hotel chains through competitive bidding or turned into corporate identities;

(d) if so; the manner in which the disinvestment would be effected in each case; and

(e) the time by which disinvestment is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) to (c) The Government has accepted the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission in regard to ITDC. The main recommendations of the Commission are as under :-

- “(i) Hotels situated in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore may be handed over to established hotel chains through a competitive bidding process to be run on a long term structured contract on lease-cum-management basis.
- (ii) Other hotels may be de-merged into separate corporate identities and the disinvestment in the new companies will be through sale of 100% Government shareholdings in them.
- (iii) ITDC may continue to operate the business of duty free shops and travel and tours business subject to the viability of the operations.”

(d) and (e) The Government has set up an Inter Ministerial Group to work out the modalities for appointment of Financial Advisor to advise on the implementation of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission.

[Translation]

Late Running of Marudhar Express

1729. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jodhpur-Varanasi Marudhar Express 4864/4863 always run behind its scheduled time; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the persons found responsible for it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The train has been running late due to operational constraints including traversing of four interchange points, reversal at Agra Cantt., clashing of timings of main line trains and line capacity constraints on Mathura-Agra section. As removal of operational constraints is not possible in near future, rescheduling of this train in the next time table is being considered.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Weighment of Consignments (in Wagon-load or Train load) Amendment Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 632(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 1999 under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 577/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Sports Control Board, New Delhi for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Railway Sports Control Board, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 578/99]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Railway Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 579/99]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Garden Reach Ship-builders and Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 580/99]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.
(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 581/99]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.
(ii) Annual Report of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 582/99]
- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.
(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 583/99]
- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Shipyard Limited Goa, for the year 1998-99.
(ii) Annual Report of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 584/99]
- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production and Supplies, for the year 1999-2000.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 585/99]
- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production and supplies for the year 1999-2000.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 586/99]
- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and the Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production and Supplies for the year 1999-2000.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 587/99]
- (5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Electronics Limited and the Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production and Supplies for the year 1999-2000.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 588/99]
- (6) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Goa Shipyard Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 1999-2000.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 589/99]
- (7) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 1999-2000.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 590/99]
- [Translation]
- THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :-
- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act 1976 :-

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

- (i) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 246(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6 April, 1999.
- (ii) The Standards of Weights and Measures (General) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 323(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10 May 1999.
- (iii) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Inter-State Verification and Stamping) (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 332 in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 1999.
- (iv) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 594(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 591/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Consumers, Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 592/99]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commission of Railway Safety for the year 1998-99 under Section 10 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 593/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, for the year 1997-99, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (4) of section 28 of the Airport Authority of India Act, 1994.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Airports Authority of India, for the 1997-98.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 594/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Tourism of the year 1999-2000.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 595/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Srinagar, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 596/99]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 597/99]

- (iii) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 598/99]

- (iv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition, Shimla, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 599/99]

- (4) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

the Institutes of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition at Bhubneswar, Thiruvananthapuram, Shimla and Srinagar for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 600/99]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Central Warehousing Corporation and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 601/99]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up Zero Hour.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Sir, I have given my privilege motion.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given a privilege motion. It is under my consideration. You cannot raise it now. It is under my consideration.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : I would like to draw the attention of the House and through you of the hon. Prime Minister who is accountable to Parliament for the functioning of Central Bureau of Investigation, the prime investigation agency of our country.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last one and a half years, the crime rate in the capital, Delhi, has gone up beyond all proportions. . . (Interruptions) I am on a very important matter related to a murder case. This is the murder case of Priyadarshini Mattoo.

When the matter was brought before the Additional Sessions Judge and after the conclusive judgement was passed, it was found that the key witness of the case was not produced in the Court in time or it was not reported at all. The CBI's lapses have been strongly criticized by the Additional Sessions Judge J.P. Taneja and I quote :

"The witness (Prasad) is the most important witness of the crime. The agency ought to have produced him . . . to arrive at a correct conclusion of the case."

The CBI told the Court that Prasad was not examined because "the witness was not in his native village. Later on, it was revealed that the witness himself said, I was very much in the village. 'I was not hiding anywhere and I was never interrogated.' Later on, the CBI Chief, Shri Raghavan said and I quote :

"I have to take appropriate action like initiating disciplinary action where warranted, if I find that there are loose ends which had not been tied up or there have been some mistakes and if there is a provision to reopen the investigation."

This exposes and reveals how the crime investigation agency is functioning. In the absence of key witness, the Judiciary felt very strongly and questioned the functioning of the CBI in this matter. Therefore, it is most appropriate that when the CBI Chief has personally admitted this lapse, he should not be allowed to hold this office any more. The Prime Minister who is in charge of the CBI is accountable to the House, after this matter has been exposed by the Judiciary, to justify these lapses which had been pointed out by the Judiciary.

I think, the House entirely agrees that the CBI should be strengthened in a different aspect because the CBI Chief has admitted that lapses were there and loose ends were there. If the CBI functions in this manner, I do not know what will be the fate of other crime investigations. Therefore, I strongly make a demand to all the Ministers in the Council of Ministers and through them to the hon. Prime Minister himself - who is dealing with the CBI - to reply in the House at an appropriate time, whenever he feels it convenient and come to a decision.

The CBI Chief should immediately step down from his Office because he has admitted his lapses. After the indictment by the Judiciary of the CBI and when the key witness has come out with an open statement, which has been published in no less a leading newspaper than *The Indian Express* with all the details, it is appropriate that the Prime Minister responds to it whenever it is convenient to him and the CBI Chief should step down immediately. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, are you associating yourself ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I am associating with what Shri Dasmunsi has said and demand that the

[Shri Rupchand Lal]

Prime Minister should come out with a statement in relation to the case of Priyadarshini Mattoo where the CBI has miserably failed. They have not only failed but they are also hand in glove with the offenders. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Kurup, are you associating yourself with him ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, I am on an entirely different matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat now.

If the House agrees the hon. Minister wants to move a motion regarding the constitution of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit. It is already listed in the List of Business at item No.8. If the House agrees, we can take it up.

12.07 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE: CONSTITUTION OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, I beg to move a motion for the constitution of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit, as indicated in the Agenda. This is a non-controversial motion.

I beg to move :

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote :

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be :-

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing "committees" [other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred] and all "committees" that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;
- (ii) to recommend in relation to the "committees" examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;

- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise.

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the rules of procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such verifications and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of the members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is :

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote :

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be-

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing "committees" [other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred] and all "committees" that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;
- (ii) to recommend in relation to the "committees" examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;
- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise.

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the rules of procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of the members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very disturbing report. The Delhi Police is conducting a survey about the Christian community in the capital. They are asked to fill up a proforma which normally the criminals are asked to do. I would like to know what prompted the Delhi Police to have such a survey made about the Christians.

[HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

12.10 hours

It was during the last Christmas season that – in the Dang district of Gujarat – systematic attacks were carried out against the Christians and the Churches and during this Christmas season, in the capital city, the Christians are again targeted and a survey is being conducted by the Delhi Police. Again and again in this House this issue is being discussed. The attacks against the Christian minorities are prompted by the Government and by the organizations connected with the BJP and the RSS. The Home Minister should come before this House and make a statement as to whether the Government has given any such instructions regarding this survey. What is the reason for this survey? Are the Christians criminals? May I know whether the Delhi Police considers the Christian community in the capital as criminals? The Christians are asked to fill up a proforma which the Delhi Police usually do with

the criminals. What is the reason behind it? . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, are you associating with it? Then, you only have to say that you associate with the subject mentioned now.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, Sir, to the point which was mentioned by Shri Suresh Kurup. It is a very serious matter. I also associate with that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, the Government should make a statement on this. . . *(Interruptions)* The Home Minister should make a statement on this. . .
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow me to conduct the House peacefully. Everybody will get a chance. Now, Shri Thomas.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, Let me complete.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, complete now. You have to only associate with that.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, hon. Home Minister should make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, you have already requested. You have mentioned it.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, it is a very serious and a very important matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Suresh, it is important and that is why, it is listed today. Now, Shri Thomas.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I would associate with it and would supplement one thing.

There was a Christian delegation which met the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Prime Minister has assured all sorts of protection for the minorities in this country. But just after that – I am sorry to say – this disturbing news has appeared in the papers. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Suresh, you have already made your point.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, such atrocities are going on. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, earlier there was a similar survey conducted in one of the States. The matter was raised in this House and the hon. Home Minister was

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

pleased to say that no survey of such a nature will be allowed to be conducted in India with regard to any community because that was not a matter with which the Indian Government was not concerned. So, I think, it is not a concern of the Government. So, it is proper, in the interest of the country, that the Home Minister divulges the real facts in this case, before this House.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, I fully associate with the matter. It is a very dangerous trend. We saw the same thing happening in Gujarat during the Christmas season and we saw the aftermath of that. There is a great sense of insecurity and so, the hon. Minister should make a statement on this. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Suresh, every now and then you cannot get up like this and say anything you like.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Sir, during this Christmas season also, there will be severe problems in Gujarat.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have to only say that you associate with this.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, there is one more information. During Christmas only, one organisation has decided to rebuild a Ram *Mandir* there and it will create a great problem. So, the Central Government should take a serious note of this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The matters are listed. I am taking up one after the other. Please be patient. Everybody will get a chance.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I associate myself with the objectionable survey with respect to Christians.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. Now, Prof. A.K. Premajam. Madam, Please be brief.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, we would like to have a statement from the hon'ble Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all these people have associated themselves with it but I do not know as to why the Government are not associating itself with it? . . . (Interruptions) Why the Christians are being asked to fill

up such forms. . . .(Interruptions) They are being treated as criminals. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Chair cannot compel the Government. If they want to react, it is okay.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, the Minister wants to react. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you are not allowing even me to speak.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, apart from the general survey, there should not be and could not be any survey on a particular community or a religion in any part of the country. However, since the hon. Members have made this complaint, I would bring it to the notice of the hon. Home Minister. The Government is very categorical that apart from the census, there should not be any kind of survey of any community or religion and it should not be done. . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government and also to this august House, the hardships being faced by the *Haj* pilgrims in the State of Kerala. The State of Kerala has got sizeable number of pilgrims going to *Haj* every year.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Madam, this is 'Zero Hour'. So, you should not read.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : This year the State Haj Committee has registered nearly 7,275 applicants and the Central Haj Committee has accepted all of them. The State of Kerala has been persistently asking the Central Government to sanction direct flights from Kerala for the benefit of the pilgrims going from the Kerala and Lakshadweep. But this request has not been accepted so far. At present, the pilgrims from Kerala have to perform their Journey through Chennai. This causes a lot of hardship and also financial loss to the pilgrims of Kerala. Since the Cochin International Airport is operational now, I request the Government to sanction direct flights from Cochin for the benefit of the Haj pilgrims of Kerala.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government especially the Labour

Minister towards Beedi Industry. Beedi industry provides more than seventy lakh rural employment, of which majority are women. There are more than 10 crores of unemployed people in this country.

Beedi workers are unorganised villagers. They are compelled to enter into the beedi industry because of lack of employment opportunities. It is also a declining industry. Now-a-days, propaganda against smoking through official and non-official means are high. Courts also order banning of smoking and imposing punishment on smokers. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards the recent Kerala High Court Judgement banning smoking and imposing punishment on smokers. This has caused panic and anxiety among beedi workers in Kerala. They took a protest march on 27th September last in front of the Kerala High Court.

Now, it is understood that the Government is going for more and more tax and excise concessions to the big industry like cigarette industry. It is needless to say that this kind of attitude of the Government will adversely affect the employment opportunities in this field. So, I invite the attention of the Government towards this socio-economic problems related to tobacco industry.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (Thiruvananthapuram) : Sir, I would like to raise an issue regarding cancellation of international flights from Trivandrum. The Government of India declared the Trivandrum Airport as an international airport in 1990. Seventy international flights were being operated from Trivandrum airport upto November, 1998. But recently the Air India has cancelled seventeen flights to different destinations including some gulf countries from Trivandrum.

The tourist resort, Kovalam, which is situated in my constituency is one of the thirteen exotic locations listed in the National Geographic Traveller and one among the fifty places in the world recommended to be visited in a life time. It is a prime place for the tourist industry. One of the major constraints for the arrival of the tourists is the lack of direct flight to Trivandrum International Airport.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sivakumar, please do not read.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : It is disappointing for us that the policy of the Central Government denies the State from taking advantage of these facilities. Therefore, I request you to liberalise and restructure Airline Policy any allow direct flights from major international tourist market to come to Trivandrum international Airport.

I request you to restore the cancelled Air India flights. I also request that the Trivandrum Airport be made operational round the clock.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways towards the world famous historical place Kurukshetra. Everybody knows its historical and religious importance. Tourists from all over the country and abroad visit Kurukshetra round the year and despite Kurukshetra being so important a place there is no stoppage of the Shatabdi Express at Kurukshetra. Instead the stoppage has been provided at Ambala.

I strongly request that one or half a minute stoppage to Shatabdi Express should be provided at Kurukshetra. People including V.I.Ps. have to face difficulties due to non availability of booking facility of Kurukshetra. I request that booking facility should be provided there. I would like to submit one thing more that Shahabad block falls under my constituency. I want that a subway below the railway bridge should be constructed there from the Member of Parliament quota. I may please be permitted to construct a subway there from the Member of Parliament quota as this is the problem which concerns about hundred villages.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER . In 'Zero Hour' nobody should read from the printed or the written text. Members should briefly mention the urgent and important matter which they wish to bring to the notice of the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, action must be taken on the issues raised during the Zero hour. These issues should not be treated lightly and they should not be ignored.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I would like to raise a very important matter. More than three crore population of our country belong to the Santhal community. Irrespective of the State in which they reside, be it West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar or Madhya Pradesh, this three crore tribal population speak Santhali. This language has its own script called *Ulchiki* which was discovered long back by Pandit Reghunath Murmu. In the year 1980, this particular script was recognised by the Government of West Bengal. There is a persistent demand from this section of the population that Santhali language should be recognised and should be included in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution, just like other languages. I demand that the Constitution should be accordingly amended to enable the inclusion of Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Murmu, you can associate yourself with what has been said by Shri Acharia.

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU (Jhargram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the population of the Santhali speaking people in the country is more than four crores. This language is spoken not only by Santhal Community but people of other communities also speak and understand this language. This language is an international language also. Besides India Santhal people also live in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal and Santhali language is spoken and understood there also. At all India level this language occupies 18th position. In addition this language has scientifically developed script also which is known as Ulchiki. Therefore, I request that this language should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am going according to the list.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : I would also like to associate myself with Shri Acharia and say that it should be included in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, the recent happenings in Prasar Bharati cannot but be a matter of great concern to this House, particularly the way in which two very eminent people, Prof. Romila Thakur, a Historian of international repute and the other a very reputed Hindi writer Shri Rajendra Yadav have been removed from the Prasar Bharati Board in a most unceremonious and humiliating manner. This has been done because they did not agree to toe the line of RSS dictated outfits of BJP and some of their allies.

The intelligentsia, academia and for that matter the whole countrymen are seriously concerned about the way in which our eminent people are being humiliated and removed from important positions, be it in the case of the Indian Council of Historical Research, the Indian Institute of Social Sciences or be it in the case of Prasar Bharati Board. It had been done with partisan vendetta and vengeance, for these people have been working independently. The Minister owes an explanation to this House as to why they have been removed in this unceremonious manner amounting to humiliation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Minister, is here. He should react to it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your name is there. I am calling names according to the list.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, do you want to raise a matter; otherwise I am going to call the next Member ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : I am speaking, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot compel the Minister to react.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The competent persons in all the Boards, Councils and other Government organisations are being replaced by R.S.S people. . . .*(Interruptions)* will the Government pay attention towards this or will our request go unheeded? The Government should respond to it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please resume your seat. This is unbecoming of you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Radhakrishnan says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, over a lakh of Malyalees are employed in the Gulf countries. Recently, the visa conditions have become very difficult and due to this, they find it very difficult to proceed to the Gulf countries. I may be permitted to submit that all the Malyalees are to go to Mumbai to get visa clearance. This has become very difficult. At the same time, the UAE Government has approached the Government of India for opening a consulate in Kerala. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Radhakrishnan says.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will not get a chance if you insist like this.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now, the UAE Government has requested the Central Government to

*Not recorded

open a Consulate in Kerala. The Central Government may consider the proposal of opening a Consulate in Kerala to improve the conditions of lakh of Malayalees working in gulf countries.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katihar) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the situation arising out of soil erosion at large scale due to rivers in Bihar.

Today, I would like to speak regarding difficult situation arising out of soil erosion due to Ganga, Koshi and Mahananda rivers particularly in my Parliamentary constituency i.e. Katihar as a result of it lakhs of people have come on the roads and their lives have become difficult and they are on the verge of starvation.

The State Government is completely incapable to check the soil erosion there. Whatever work has been done to check soil erosion by the State Government has been proved futile. In this difficult situation, I urge upon the Union Government that the action should be taken in this regard well in advance by constituting a commission. To stop the water, embankment should be constructed along the stretch of land where soil erosion is taking place. Soil erosion is taking place there around a stretch of 27-28 kilometer land and the existence of the entire district itself is in danger due to erosion causing by Ganga and Mahananda rivers. People are leading their lives like gypsies. No assistance is being provided to them by the State Government. I request that the Union Government should discharge its responsibility and it should resolve the provide assistance to the people. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will be called at your turn. Please do not interrupt like this.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the workers of two units No. 1 and No. 2 spinning mills of B.I.C. In Kanpur are not getting their wages from the month of October and November due to closure of these mills as a result all the workers are on the verge of starvation and they are staging a dharna. The workers of NTC mills also have not been paid their wages since then. As a result of it Deepawali was not celebrated at their homes. I urge upon the Union Government particularly the Minister of Textile to resolve the problems of the workers of textile. Mills and NTC mills by disbursing their wages.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is in the grip of a fierce drought this year. The farmers are facing difficulties in getting water and fodder for their cattle, this time the

farmers of the State are not getting electricity also. Electricity is supplied to them sometimes 'or fifteen to twenty minutes due to which farmers of the State are agitated and they are staging dharnas at Tehsil headquarters. After formation of the new Government in the State. The farmers are passing through a very bad time. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the entire House towards the problem of the agitating farmers and urge upon the Union Government to take some measures to solve their problems.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Sir, yesterday, the hon. Speaker said that those who have not got the chance to speak, first they will be given the chance to speak tomorrow. But you are not giving chance to us. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you worried ? You are going to get a chance. By doing like this, you are spoiling, at least, one man's chance. I am assuring you that you will get a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, December 6, was the anniversary of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. His ten lakhs dalit followers gathered on this occasion at his samadhi at Shivaji Park Dadar in Mumbai. I would like to draw the attention towards the poor condition of Samadhi of Baba Saheb. It needs renovation but neithe; the State Government nor the Union Government is able to get it repaired or renovated due to C.R.Z. or other reasons such as environment etc. I urge upon the Government to constitute a special fund and allocate the amount and by relaxing the relevant rules the Government should declare the Samadhi of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar a national memorial.

[English]

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the recent changes in the import policy for dairy products especially skimmed milk powder has adversely affected the milk producers in the country and more particularly on the economy of the milk producers in Karnataka.

As you are aware, Sir, India is today the largest milk producer in the world and our Karnataka Milk Federation is today the third largest cooperative both in terms of procurement as well as sales. The White Revolution that was launched due to the efforts of National Dairy Development Board through Operation Flood had been nurtured by our farmers. Their combine efforts have

[Shri S.D.N.R. Wadiyar]

resulted in a surplus production of milk. So far my State is concerned, there has been excess production of milk owing to the arrival of early monsoon. The farmers have been forced to convert surplus milk into skimmed milk powder. But the market price has fallen down to Rs. 50 per kilogram whereas the cost of production works out to Rs. 75 to Rs. 80 per kilogram. The main reason for the fall in price of skimmed milk powder is the import of skimmed milk powder on Open General Licence (OGL). The countries like European Union and America pay dollar 1000 for every kilogram of skimmed milk. Unfortunately, the cost of skimmed milk is twice high which is causing great loss to the farmers.

Therefore, I request the Government to kindly ban the import of skimmed milk products on OGL and also levy import duty on milk products and dairy products.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards the need of providing cold-storage with pre-cooling facilities. In my district, about 1,500 poultry farms are there and about 1.5 lakh labourers are getting job opportunities directly and about 2.5 employees are employed indirectly. During the recent lorry strike about ten crore eggs were wasted which jeopardized the Indian economy. The egg production is around one crore per day.

So, I request the Government to give top priority to provide cold storage for the eggs.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a particular point. The Government is not paying attention towards the monuments located all over the country particularly in Delhi. Money is being collected through selling tickets to the visitors coming to enjoy these monuments but these monuments are not being maintained properly. There are several monuments particularly in Delhi where mosques are built. There is a mosque within the premises of Safdarjang Tomb similarly Moti Mosque is situated within the premises of Red Fort. I request that there should be a permission to perform Namaz, in these Mosques. The month of Ramian is beginning tomorrow which is a holy month for Muslims. I would like to submit that these Mosques should be unlocked and the Muslims be allowed to perform Namaz five times a day in these Mosques. Besides, if there is any temple situated within these monuments and no pooja is performed there, permission should be granted to perform pooja there; as temples and mosques are not built to show the people from all over the world and to say that this

marvellous building was constructed three hundred years ago and this is worth seeing. This objective should be fulfilled otherwise the building of this Parliament where we are sitting, will shown to the people after a hundred years will be told to them that this is the Parliament House and the people like us were used to sit here. I would like to say that there are twelve Ministers in this Government who have been raising this point for the last fifty years which I am raising today. I urge upon them that they should put pressure on the Government in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can say that you associate yourself with what the hon. Member mentioned.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : The request of the hon. Member was that because there are places of worship in these monuments, they may be kept open only for one month. They cannot be closed down just because they are historical monuments. You can urge the Government, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot direct the Government from here.

SHRI E. AHAMED : They may be kept open in the month of Ramzan. This is a secular country where everyone has freedom to worship. You may also direct the Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot direct the Government from the Chair. You know that.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Hon'ble Sir, Nasik city falls in Maharashtra. The railway administration has put the 'Rewati' and the farmers of Nandgaon city in great trouble. A mandi and a chemist shops are located there. Traffic passes through here but the railway administration has constructed a wall there stopping the whole traffic. Sir, through you, I urge upon the Minister of Railways to open this route for traffic again by removing the said 12 feet high wall.

[English]

SHRI S. MURUGESAN (Tenkasi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of public importance. I would urge upon the Central Government through you to convert the State Highway into National Highway from Tirunaveli to Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu. Tuticorin and Cochin are two major ports of our country. A large quantum of goods are transported through the State Highway between Cochin and Tuticorin. This is the main route and the shortest one from Tuticorin to Tirunaveli, from Tirunaveli to Tenkasi and from Tenkasi to

Cochin. Both Tuticorin-Tirunaveli and Tenkasi-Cochin Highways have already been converted into National Highways. But the State Highway from Tirunaveli to Tenkasi of only 53 kms. alone has not been converted into a National Highway.

In view of the circumstances mentioned above, I request the Central Government to convert this State Highway into a National Highway.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I rise to make a mention of an important and urgent matter regarding the need to introduce a crop insurance scheme to the farmers of Tamil Nadu.

The farmers of Tamil Nadu, particularly of Karur, Tiruchirappalli, Tanjavur, Thiruvaroor and Nagapattinam Districts have been badly affected by the recent rains and floods in the State. Various crops in the Cauvery Delta have been badly damaged. Nearly 85,000 acres of paddy crop has been damaged.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not give all these details. You may just urge the Government as to what you want from it.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur) : In addition, 12,000 acres of banana plantation and over 500 acres of betel leaf plantation have been totally damaged. More than 4,000 kms. of highways and interior roads have also been damaged.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. You just request the Government about what you want it to do.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Immediately after the floods our leader Dr. (Madam) J. Jayalalitha formed a five member committee including myself to visit the flood affected areas to get an assessment. We found during our visit that the relief work undertaken by the Government of Tamil Nadu was inadequate for want of funds. The total official machinery of the Tamil Nadu Government is sleeping. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your subject is 'Need to provide crop insurance in Tamil Nadu'. You are deviating from the subject.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : I urge upon the Central Government to intervene and direct the Tamil Nadu Government to take up the relief work on war-footing.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the prevailing law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh Law and Order situation in Uttar Pradesh

has become worse. Criminals in Uttar Pradesh are left scotfree and licences have been issued to the criminals. They are being given political protection. In many cases no heed is being paid at high level. The credibility of investigating agencies is at stake. I urge open the Government to get the situation reviewed at higher level and take immediate action in this regard.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with anger and anguish I would like to draw your attention and that of the House to the following incident.

In the first week of December, 1999 the BSF people fired and killed five innocent villagers of Dhaprahat, Shukarur Kuthi, Dinahata, in Coochbehar district of West Bengal. Also, twelve people were injured in the firing. The BSF personnel are engaged to save the life and property of the people. If you go through the entire border of West Bengal and Bangladesh, you will find that in this border area of 2221 kms. there is a clash between the people and the BSF. They have got the fire arms and they open fire here and there. In this way yesterday also some people got killed.

I would like to draw the attention of the Home Minister to this incident and request that he should take immediate steps and stop this illegal firing and punish those who are involved in this firing.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : I associate myself with Shri Amar Roy Pradhan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, electricity is not being supplied to the farmers in Madhya Pradesh and as a result of it the farmers are not able to sow the Rabi crops. They are agitating all over the State. There was an assurance that electricity will be provided to the farmers for twenty hours daily but contrary to that electricity is being supplied to them and for four to five hours daily. The sowing season of Rabi crops has almost gone. More than half area of the land is lying as waste land as this land has not been sown. I urge upon the Union Government to intervene in the matter and take necessary steps for supplying adequate electricity to the farmers in M.P. and should not leave the farmers at the mercy of the State Government.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 1997 when Shri Devegowdaji was the Prime Minister of the country at that time he visit Jaipur to inaugurate the zonal office at Jaipur which is functioning at present at Mumbai. At that time too I had said that the land had not so far been acquired for this purpose and inauguration would be only of the foundation stone. I am

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

sorry to State that the land has not so far been acquired for setting up the zonal office there only the foundation stone is visible there. Some employees have been posted there and an amount of Rs. 3.50 crores is being spent on them. I request that the land should be allotted for setting up the zonal office at Jaipur and it should be made operative.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, America and Western countries want to frame rules against the commercial interests of the developing countries of the world and also want to adversely affect the export of these countries by raising the issue of forests and environment in the Seattle Conference of the World Trade Organisation in order to have their upper hand in the world trade. Has the Government of India in consultation with the other developing countries evolved any plan to counter the strategy of America and other Western countries? If so, the number of countries supporting the policies of India. Will India make efforts to futile the attempts of America and other Western countries in the World Trade Conference to be held at Geneva in future by forming an organisation of the developing countries? . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should not read your notes during Zero Hour. You should mention your point orally.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If your name is there, I will call you. If you interrupt like this, I will not call you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That applies to you also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am going to raise a very important question. Sir, about 32 to 33 crores of people out of our total population are most backward. The State Government has made a provision of 15 percent reservation for the most backward classes in Government services in Bihar as per Karpooor Thakur formula. In Uttar Pradesh a Committee was constituted when Shri Bahugunaji was the Chief Minister of the State and that committee in its report had mentioned that the population of backward classes is 34 percent. In Karnataka also, a provision of reservation has been made for the most backward amongst the backwards. Similarly a provision of reservation for the most

backward amongst the backwards has also been made in Tamilnadu. On the basis of recommendation of Mandal Commission a provision of reservation of 27 percent in the central services has been made but the provision of reservation for the most backward amongst the backwards has not been made therein. I remember when this issue was discussed in this House in 1991-92, the leaders of all the political parties made speeches here and said that there should be reservation for the socially, economically and politically most backward classes but when it was implemented it was argued that the Mandal Commission had not dealt with it so there will be reservation only for the backward classes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the reservation is being given to the socially, economically and politically powerful castes. The Prime Minister has said that reservation will be given to the Jats who are politically, economically and socially powerful caste. It clearly shows that reservation has become a tool to remain in power.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please tell what do you want from the Union Government?

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : I would like to say that the dalit leaders also are demanding reservation for the Jats. This could be the topic of discussion whether reservation should be given or not to the Jats, but I want to know as to why the Government are not making provision of reservation separately for the most backwards whereas four State Government have made provision of reservation for the most backward classes in Government jobs in their respective states.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want to say please tell me quickly?

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Please give me two minutes more because women reservation bill is about to be introduced. After provision of reservation for women the condition of the most backward classes from the political point of view would become more deplorable and 32 to 33 crores of people will be deprived of their right under a conspiracy. In such circumstances when every political party is ignoring the most backward classes and if women reservation Bill is introduced, it will be total injustice towards the most backward castes. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that there is a provision of 27 percent reservation for backwards in Central Government services but there should be a provision of 17 percent reservation for the most backward classes. I also want to say the provision of reservation for scheduled castes. . . . (Interruptions) should be viewed and the people who have made progress economically and politically should be excluded from the list of scheduled castes and

the most backward classes should be included in the list of scheduled castes.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of HRD to the very serious deteriorating situation of the Aligarh Muslim University. It is one of the fine institutions of this country. But because of the mishandling of the Vice-Chancellor, one after another, problems are being created in the Aligarh Muslim University. A few months back, one Shri S. Nirmal Singh, the General Secretary of the Employees Association of the Aligarh Muslim University was dismissed. After being dismissed, he applied to the Council. There is a Council as per the University Act for reconsideration of the case. But if somebody, after being dismissed, applies to the Council, the Vice-Chancellor is bound to place the case before the Council and the Council will decide about it. But he is intentionally not bringing the case before the Council. When the dismissed employee goes to the court, the court says that after exhaustive effort inside the University, it will take up the case. In that way, the case is being delayed. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is an individual case. What do you want the Central Government to do in this matter ?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : I would request that the HRD Minister should take up the matter and bring normalcy in the University. Already, there is a lot of disturbance and it is going to be closed. The winter vacation is going to be advanced.

I would request that the HRD Minister should intervene and take necessary action.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, my notice on the same subject is there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can associate with us.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I will conclude within two sentences. The situation in Aligarh Muslim University has become grave. Situation kept on deteriorating but no attention was paid. An attempt was made on the life of Deputy Proctor. Now para-military forces have

*Not recorded

been deployed there and students are in jail. They are on hunger strike. The University has been closed in advance for winter vacation. Earlier, also during last week, I had started in the House that attention should be paid towards this matter but till now no attention has been given to it. The Government should pay attention to it and should make a statement in this regard. The similar situation is prevailing in Hamdard University which has also been closed in advance for winter vacation. Attention should be paid to such matters immediately. Government should intervene and try to improve the situation. It should also make a statement in this regard.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Some Members cutting across party lines are raising this issue time and again in this House. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu, your name is not there. I have allowed him to associate with the debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already allowed him.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission regarding the re-opening of the office of Administrative officer (Railway Construction) of Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh.

The C.O. Office of Administrative officer (Railway Construction) which was functioning since long has been shifted from Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh and only terminal office is located there. Bilaspur-Raipur terminals have already been constructed and Raga terminal is going to be constructed. The third railway line between Raipur and Bilaspur is under construction. Railway zone has been set up at Bilaspur. A railway line is being laid between Ambikapur and Vishrampur but the construction work is lying pending there. I request that the office of Administrative officer (Railway Construction) should be re-opened there so that the construction work could be undertaken smoothly and completed early.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Through you, I would like to tell the Government that I have come to know that some new States are being constituted. Uttranchal is one of them. Sir, I represent Haridwar Parliamentary Constituency and through newspaper, I have come to know that particularly the 'mela area' of Haridwar has been given to Uttranchal and the remaining area has been left with Uttar Pradesh.

[Shri Harpal Singh Sathi]

Through you. I would like to State that people of my district including farmers, vegetable sellers and milkmen etc. earn their livelihood by supplying their produce to Haridwar. My submission is that the whole district should be merged with Uttranchal so that the farmer of this district could earn their livelihood properly. . . .(Interruptions) I would like to say that if the 'Mela area' of Haridwar is segregated from rest of the area, the farmers, vegetable sellers and milkmen who will have to go to other State will be subjected to various taxes. Through you, I would like to State that the whole Haridwar district should be merged with Uttranchal.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the entire Vananchal area is in the grip of malaria due to which hundreds of people have died there within a month. No medical arrangements are being made by the Bihar Government to treat the patients.

13.00 hrs.

My submission to the Central Government is that the poor, Adivasis and backward people are dying every day in the entire forest area. Through you, I would like to request the Central Government to take immediate action to control this disease.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jammu-Kashmir is a border State. During Kargil war Pakistan resorted to indiscriminate firing to force the entry of infiltraters into Jammu and Kashmir due to which approx. 30 thousand people have been displaced from the national border area and their lands have fallen in border security belt. It also affected the sowing of the crop. Cultivators neither got the crop nor any compensation. Thousands of their cattle were killed there, however, they have not got any compensation for that also. Even ex-gratia grant to the families of the persons who fell victims to Pakistani firing has not been given till now. I think the Government should intervene in the matter and encourage those people by giving compensation for their crops and lands.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to a matter which concerns all of us here. . . . (Expunged as ordered by the Chair).

It is well known to all that the entire Bengal is a porous border and it is free for all. Everything is being smuggled out of Bangladesh. Even thousands of cows find their easy access to Bangladesh in the full glare of BSF Jawans and with full connivance of the local police.

Sir, the most gruesome and heartening incident had occurred on 3rd December in Coochbehar district. . . . Therefore, I request the concerned Ministry to take some action so that those perpetrators should face exemplary punishment.

Thank you Sir.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, unilaterally and one sided firing caused death of five persons, viz., Bokul Sen, Shamsul Haq, Habib-ur-Rehman, Refiq-ul-Islam, and Aleq Haq, on the 3rd of December in Coochbehar district, Police Station Dinhatta in West Bengal.

Sir, they were all innocent persons and the incident took place in front of the Panchayat Office. We demand financial assistance from the Central Government so far as the five innocent victimised families are concerned. It is also most unfortunate that the BSF people in connivance with a section of the State Government Police have made an unholy nexus where they completely failed to check the smuggling in the border areas, thus unnecessarily creating problems throughout the State in different times and different aspects.

I would appeal of the hon. Home Minister to look into the matter and to provide financial assistance to these victimised families.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, I draw the attention of this House to a very serious matter which has adversely affected the people of the border area.

The Border Security Forces were posted in the entire Indo-Bangladesh area of West Bengal to check the illegal activities, illegal acts of the people in the border area and for the security of our country. The BSF are not doing their job. . . . The common people were carrying rice, wheat, vegetables, and kerosene oil for their own family consumption. The BSF people had allegedly snatched away their goods and harassed, humiliated and assaulted those people. It is also alleged that even the businessmen, who are carrying their business with valid documents legally, are also subject to harassment and humiliation in the hands of the BSF.

Last December, five persons including children had succumbed to injuries due to the . . .

(Interruptions)**

*Expunged as Ordered by the Chair

**Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This will not go record. Now, you conclude.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, the BSF is doing a very good job in the border area. Some incident must have taken place. I am not contradicting that but the BSF is doing a very good job. This also must go on record. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, you conclude now.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, within one minute, I shall conclude. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Sir, within the last one year, 700 people were killed. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pradhan, this is not the way. You are a very senior Member. You cannot interrupt like this. Please maintain some dignity.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, I will conclude within two minutes.

At the time of the regime of the UF Government, the then Home Minister, Shri Indrajit Gupta took steps and measures to check the BSF personnel but at this time, the BSF is given free hand. They are playing havoc in the border area. They are saying. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you want the Central Government to do? You make a request.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, I would urge upon the Government of India, particularly the Union Home Minister to look into the matter.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SHEKAR : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, certain norms should be observed in this House. If organisations like the BSF are attacked like this in this House, I do not know how they will discharge their sensitive duty. If any matter is there, it should be brought before the Home Minister and the matter should have been inquired. But just to blame the BSF for all type of crimes on the border, it is going to create a very serious problem for the whole nation. We must have some restraint in making observations in this House. . . *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is why, I have restrained him. I will not allow any word of such derogatory remarks against any Force including the BSF. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It will be expunged. Not only that, the hon. Member, Shri Chandra Shekhar raised this matter and said that the hon. Members should have restraint.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, we have raised a particular incident. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We are proud of our BSF and other Forces. The Members cannot irresponsibly utter anything and everything on the Forces. Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, I will not allow you to say anything more. Please resume your seat. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Brar.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you and as per your order, I will not read out my speech, but will finish my submission within 2 minutes. Through you, I would like to draw your attention towards a very sensitive matter which is not political but about which every Indian is anguished.

Yesterday, some comments were made in Rajya Sabha. 15 years have passed since the riots took place in 1984. Many Government have changed since then. They kept on blaming each other. Many big leaders have been saying that the accused of 1984 riots will be punished but they have not been punished till now. Yesterday, Hon'ble Home Minister had announced in the Rajya Sabha that a Commission would be constituted in this regard. I would like to make clear my stand and the stand of other colleagues from Punjab in this regard. The people found guilty in any kind of probe ordered by hon'ble Prime Minister should be punished. Some people are levelling charges against us. The people of Punjab have given mandate to the Congress Party on the issue and we have always drawn the attention of the Government and the Chair in the House to 1984 riots. . . *(Interruptions)* False Statements are being made even after a lapse of 15 years. Therefore, I would like to conclude by saying one thing

*Not recorded.

[Shri J.S. Brar]

that this community has made sacrifices right from the war of independence to Kargil war. All people are very serious about it, because they are deeply hurt and their wounds have not yet healed. I would like to request the people who compare themselves with Sardar Patel, that they should punish the people who are responsible for the 1984 riots, whosoever they may be, or howsoever influential they may be. All efforts should be made to punish them. The stand of Congress Party is very clear on this issue that culprits should be punished and probe should be ordered. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BALBIR SINGH (Jalandhar) : I would like to know the stand of Akali colleagues of Punjab in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (Ropar) : We also want that a Commission should be set up to go into the causes of the start of militancy in Punjab. Who were responsible for it and who encouraged militancy in Punjab? The names of those leaders who had given shelter to the militants and were involved in the killings should be made public and a Commission should be set up to look into it (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You only want to say that –
[English]

I associate with what Shri Brar has said.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : We demand that a Commission should be set up in Punjab to find out when militancy began in Punjab, who were responsible for it, who were involved in the killings of political people, who gave the militants shelter, who funded them. . . . (Interruptions) The 25,000 people were killed in Punjab. A Commission should be set up to find out who is responsible for this massacre. . . .(Interruptions) The people of the country should know who were responsible for it, and who had encouraged terrorism.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 30 November, the Shiv Sainiks were travelling in Chhatisgarh Express heading towards Delhi. They indulged in hooliganism at Mathura railway junction and Agra railway Cantt stations. They entered the compartments and forced out the passengers who were having reservation in first and second class coaches. They assaulted women and children. The senior officers of Railway shut their rooms and fled. The security officials did not intervene at all. This is a very serious matter and it appears that since the Bharatiya Janta Party has come to

power, its allies are considering themselves above the law. The public property has been damaged, the people have been assaulted. The people, who were having reservation, were forced out.

I humbly request the Minister of State in Ministry of Railways who is present here that this incident should be seriously probed and it should be ensured that action is taken against the culprits. . . .(Interruptions) The Minister of Railways is present here. I request that she should say something in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, please.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : I think I shall respond to him.

[Translation]

I am very much concerned about what the hon'ble Member has said. There are many places in the country, where even after getting reservation. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

I am sorry to say. Please do not misunderstand me.

[Translation]

Many leaders capture the seat, from the passengers, who have got reservation. Security does not come under our Ministry, it is with the State Government.

[English]

We pay 50 per cent to the G.R.P. But they are answerable to the State Government. My request is that Parliament must discuss this matter. The Railways should set up their own security force so that passengers get the security. Sometimes, I feel very sad.

Yesterday, in Bihar, one of our Assistant Engineer was kidnapped because he went through the track wheeler to see the track condition. He was kidnapped at 4.30 p.m. Even, I talked to the Chief Secretary at 11 o'clock in the night. I worked for the whole night to rescue the man. But sometimes our Engineers have been kidnapped; sometimes our officers have been kidnapped. Sometimes they do not allow people even go to the reserved seats.

I will appeal to all the hon. Members one thing. I know that five per cent of Members along with 10 or 15 people travel by the Rajdhani Expresses and other Expresses. When people purchase tickets, they should be allowed to get their amenities and we should not disturb them. So, a decision should come from this House. I appeal to all

the hon. Members of this House to please take up the passengers' security and passengers' safety aspects seriously so that this matter can be discussed. This is a very serious matter. I think, everybody should cooperate. Passengers' interest is the first and our interest is the last. That is why, we want to see that the security of the passengers is increased.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Can you not strengthen your R.P.F. ? Can R.P.F Act be amended ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : The R.P.F. Act can be amended.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It can be amended. . . .
(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What Shri Rajesh Pilot has said, R.P.F. only looks after the railway property, not the security. That is why, if the House agrees, I can bring the Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)* Let the House pass the Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : This is a policy matter. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think, we are deviating from the subject. She has already said that she will examine it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : The House would welcome any such Bill for strengthening of the R.P.F. The Government should bring forward such a Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not a matter for discussion. She has reacted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Regarding R.P.F. and its activities, we would welcome if the Government bring forward a Bill to empower the R.P.F. I think, the Government should take action. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : I think a comprehensive legislation should be brought before the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : She has already reacted. Let us come to the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : This amounts to an assurance from the Government. The Bill should be brought forward, discussed and passed in the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I call Shri Chaturvedi.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House that this Government have been making tall claims to curb corruption from the country, but corruption is prevailing in day-to-day work of departments of Central Government at all levels.

In Chattarpur district of Madhya Pradesh for last four years, a postal Superintendent of Postal Department is making appointments on the basis of fake marksheets issued by a fake institution named Bharatiya Shiksha Mahavidyalya, Kharagpur.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please come to the point. What do you want from the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Different employees' organisations, newspapers and local leaders have lodged complaints in writing in this regard. Information was also given to the Chief General Manager. Posts but I do not know as to why no inquiry has been conducted in this matter so far though complaints were lodged four years ago. All that was done by the Chief General Manager was that he banned these appointments. He issued an order banning these appointments which indicates that he found some irregularity in these appointments. But there could not be any other blatant example that, despite issuing order to ban the appointments by the Chief General Manager the Postal Superintendent of the same postal circle again invited applications for the some posts on 25.10.99 on the same terms and conditions and appointments of E.D. employees are being made by inviting applications upto 25.10.99 I request this Government that if it really wants to eliminate corruptions and if it is serious about it then a high level inquiry should be conducted in this regard and the concerned officer should be placed under suspension be initiating inquiry.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unemployment in the country is increasing by leaps and bounds. People are migrating from villages to cities. I regret to say that though the Government are setting up big industries and enterprises but it is not paying attention towards cottage industries. The State Governments are also not paying attention towards the cottage industries. The Government should encourage cottage industries in villages in order to reduce unemployment and to make people self reliant.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, yesterday a private T.V. Channel telecast a news item in its news bulletin that depression was developing in the bay of Bengal due to which there was a possibility of recurrence of cyclone in Orissa. The people of Orissa are still experiencing the aftermaths of the tragedy of the natural calamity i.e. cyclone that hit the State on 29th October. The work of providing relief to the people is still going on there. The problem of rehabilitation of the people there is a big challenge. The State Government has failed in carrying on the relief and rehabilitation work due to which the Congress Chief Minister of the State was replaced. However, relief works could not be intensified. The amount released by the Union Government is also not being utilised there properly. People are crying for help there. Through you I would like to tell the Government that there is an apprehension of recurrence of cyclone there. Therefore, necessary precautionary measures should be taken to save lives and property.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the dream of Baba Saheb Ambedkar could not be fulfilled even after fifty two years of our independence. The people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes should get reservation in higher judicial services. I demand from the Union Government that there should be a provision of reservation in the Rajya Sabha and the legislative councils as has been provided in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies.

[English]

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

A strange disease has affected the coconut trees in my constituency in Dindigul as also in Attur, Nilakottai, Cholavandan, Usilampatti, Thirumangalam and in nearby districts in Tamil Nadu. I request the hon. Minister for Agriculture to undertake an aerial spraying exercise in Tamil Nadu for saving the coconut trees. I also request the Government to provide special compensation to farmers in Tamil Nadu as well as in my constituency Dindigul whose coconut trees have been affected by this disease. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI (Bansgaon) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Saraiya Sugar Mill in the private sector in my Parliamentary Constituency is closed for the last one year. Rupees 23 crores of the farmers are outstanding against this mill. Recovery of the Government loan is being made from the farmers whose dues are

outstanding against this mill. As grant-in-aid is provided during the course of natural calamity similarly the amount of rupees 80 crores due from the farmers in Basti and Gorakhpur division should be waived by treating it as grant-in-aid provided during the course of natural calamity as these people are facing difficulties in getting their boys and girls married.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (Sriganganagar) : Sir, I represent the Sriganganagar Parliamentary Constituency where 95 percent farmers are dependent on agriculture and their main crop is cotton. But the cotton Corporation of India is not procuring their produce. In 1990 the farmers were paid at the rate of Rs. 2000 per quintal for their produce but in 1999 the price has come down to Rs. 1400 per quintal. The prices of diesel and pesticides have increased. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister to kindly direct the Cotton Corporation of India to procure cotton from the farmers.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhprapra) : Sir, I would like to raise a question related to human rights in the House. The Parliamentary group of our Party visited the Chief whip three days ago where we were told that there is gross violation of human rights in Kerala. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an incident which occurred in a school and which was witnessed by the school children. A teacher was murdered in the school premises and blood stains splattered all over the class room. In view of the above mentioned incident in Kerala I request the House to constitute a Parliamentary team to conduct an inquiry in regard to violation of human rights in Kerala and to review the said incident.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to the serious breakdown of constitutional machinery in some parts of rural West Bengal. In the last few days there have been series of disquieting media items saying that there have been serious bomb blasts in the offices of a particular political party which happens to be the ruling party in West Bengal. The search police has found a lot of fire arms in other offices while conducting their searches of the offices of the some party. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, this is a very serious situation. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Why do you not ask your people to raise it in the State legislature ? . . .(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Why in the State Legislature ? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Law and order is a State matter.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : This is not a State matter any longer because the constitutional rights of the people have been violated. Human rights have been violated. I would also request that a Committee of this House should go and inquire into the abuse of human rights in quite a lot of rural pockets of West Bengal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we will take up the Legislative Business. There are two Bills to be introduced.

13.27 hrs.

ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the Indian Penal Code.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the Indian Penal Code."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

13.28 hrs.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH AUTISM, CEREBRAL PALSY, MENTAL RETARDATION AND MULTIPLE DISABILITIES BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : Sir, I beg to move for have to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a body at the national level for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a body at the national level for

the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I introduce the Bill**.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House is adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-eight minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up matters under Rule 377.

14.39 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to Bring legislation for early creation of separate Chhatisgarh State from the State of Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a resolution to create a separate Chhatisgarh State by including old districts of Raipur, Bilaspur, Raigarh, Rajnandgaon, Bastar, Sarguja and Durg from Madhya Pradesh has been unanimously passed by the Madhya Pradesh Government and has been sent for the approval of the Union Government. In that proposal, recommendation has not been made to set up a new Vidyut Board and judicial bench.

Bill in regard to creation of separate Chhatisgarh State alongwith inclusion of Vidyut Board and judicial bench be considered and passed in the current session of Lok Sabha.

- (II) **Need to Ensure Functioning of Cement Units at Nayagaon In Neemuch District of Madhya Pradesh**

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr Speaker, Sir, on one hand, the closure of cement units of

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 9.12.99

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

Cement Corporation of India at Nayagaon in Neemuch district of Madhya Pradesh due to lack of electricity has been posing problems before the hundreds of employees and officers of the unit, on the other hand the Corporation is also suffering heavy loss on account of the closure of these profit earning units. These units can again be made operational if even a part of the outstanding dues of Madhya Pradesh Vidyut Mandal is paid. Hundreds of families are also suffering for want of electricity. Lakhs of rupees are being spent on the temporary partial electricity supply. Therefore, it is my submission to the hon'ble Minister that necessary directions should be given to make the said units operational.

- (iii) **Need to take adequate measures to mitigate the hardship being faced by people living below poverty line particularly in Punjab**

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Sir, the people of India who are living below the poverty line are suffering all over the country to make their both ends meet. On the one hand, the Public Distribution System is not working efficiently, and education and health services are disastrous in villages. People, especially below the poverty line are not getting even pure water to drink. It has become very difficult to pay the electricity bills which are extremely high for the people who live below the poverty line. The power connections of poor people at some places are being disconnected.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to make concrete plans and take necessary measures to mitigate the hardship being faced by people living below poverty line particularly, in Punjab.

- (iv) **Need to merge Fertilizer Corporation of India, Ramagundam with National Fertilizers Limited**

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli) : Respected, Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to bring the burning problem of nearly 8,000 employees of Fertilizers Corporation of India, Ramagundam to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

From 1991, the company is having a lot of problems and now, it is under preservation. I have represented many times to the hon. Prime Minister and to the hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and to various officials and non-officials about this problem. I request the Government to consider merging this with National Fertilizers Limited Rastriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited so that this problem is permanently solved.

- (v) **Need to set up Wage Board for Sugar Mills workers**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Sir, the employees of all the sugar mills are being paid as per the recommendations of the third wage Board while the employees of the Central Government are being paid according to the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. Due to this the living standard of these sugar mill workers has deteriorated immensely. By now the Fifth Wage Board should have been constituted for sugar mill workers but there is no information in regard to the even setting up of Fourth Wage Board.

Therefore the Government is urged to immediately take action in this regard.

- (vi) **Need to reform and update Christian Personal Law**

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA (Nominated) : Sir, there is an urgent need to reform and update the Christian personal law. The Christian people of India after reaching a consensus have made proposals to the Government to reform and update the Christian Personal Law, pertaining to few specific Bills, that is, the Christian Marriage Bill, 1997, the Christian Divorce Bill, 1997, the Christian Succession (Amendment) Bill, 1994 and the Christian Adoption and Maintenance Bill, 1997.

Some of the provisions of the country old Christian Marriage Act, 1872 and the Indian Divorce Act, 1869 have been struck down by the Supreme Court and various High Courts as being discriminatory, particularly, against women. The said Acts do not meet the requirements of the social realities that exist today. The provisions of the Indian Succession Act, 1952 seem to be largely discriminatory against the Christian community, particularly, against women. Since the climate for the enactment of a Uniform Civil Code may never be favourable, the Government should welcome the initiative of a minority community to update their personal law I have raised this issue in the 12th Lok Sabha also. I request the Government to introduce these Bills to grant justice to the minority Christian community.

- (vii) **Need to expedite the work of conversion of Kurduwadi Latur metre gauge rail line into broad gauge in Maharashtra.**

SHR SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE (Osmanabad) : I would like to raise an important matter of great public interest in my Lok Sabha Constituency, Osmanabad in

Maharashtra regarding tardy implementation of conversion of Kurduwadi Latur metre gauge line into broad gauge line. I may like to bring it to the notice of Railway Minister that although the work on this project in backward region of Marathwada has commenced five years back, the progress of work has been rather too slow mainly for lack of financial support alongwith other reasons such as acquiring land, particularly forest land, for diversion of track.

Delay in implementation of the project has hampered the pace of development in the region. As a result, the people of the area feel increasingly agitated over sudden stoppage of the work on the project in recent months putting question mark on the future of the project.

I, therefore, urge upon hon. Railway Minister to look into the matter and take immediate steps to expedite execution of the project.

(viii) Need to create an autonomous State comprising Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills of Assam.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (Autonomous District—Assam) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the need to create an Autonomous State comprising the Sixth Scheduled Hill districts of Assam. Article 244 (A) of the Constitution is not only a solemn commitment of the Parliament to the Hill people of Assam but also reflects a popular aspiration of people.

All the erstwhile Sixth Scheduled areas of the North East have already been granted Statehood and the process must be logically concluded by granting Statehood, if not Autonomous Statehood, to the remaining two Hill districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. At a time when Government has decided to create three new States in certain parts of the country, the Hill people are very much justified to demand fulfilment of their longstanding demand of Autonomous State as per Article 244 (A) of the Constitution. Any more delay in responding to the overwhelming urge of the people of that area will not help matters in a very sensitive area of our country. Therefore, in the national interest, Government must take urgent steps to create an Autonomous State comprising Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills of Assam.

(ix) Need to give financial assistance to State Government of Bihar for development and management of watershed in Saran district of Bihar

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : The issue of water logging in the district of Saran in Bihar is a major social and economic concern for the district. There are several water sheds and water logged areas. One of these

is "Herdia Chour" where more than a lakh hectare of cultivable land is badly affected. The matter needs immediate attention of the Ministry of Rural Development in order to study the possibility of assisting the State Government and the non-Governmental organisations through CAPART to undertake the study and give financial assistance for development and management of watershed giving it the topmost priority.

(x) Need for early construction of A Bye Pass at Ranchi, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) : Ranchi is second capital of Bihar and it is also the proposed capital of Jharkhand State. Ranchi has a population of 12 lakhs but for want of a bye-pass, traffic jams occur in the middle of the city causing a lot of inconvenience to the people and accidents have also become a regular feature due to it. In the construction of a bye pass, State Government has also some role to play as it has to fulfill certain formalities which has not been done in this regard. Due to this bye-pass in Ranchi has not been constructed in Ranchi. Therefore, it is my submission to the Union Government to take initiative in this regard.

(xi) Need to provide special grant to State Government of Assam for providing adequate irrigation facilities in the State

[English]

SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS (Karimganj) : At present the irrigation system provided in Assam is in a very bad shape. In Assam, not even 15 per cent of land has been brought under irrigation and the position in Barak Valley is the worst where less than six per cent of land has been brought under irrigation. There are vast natural resources of water in Barak Valley which can cover most of the cultivable land by providing small irrigation schemes from natural water channels and lift irrigation from Barak Katakhal, Langai rivers, etc. But nothing is being done for irrigation by tapping the natural resources. Though Assam is having sufficient cultivable land and rivers and Khals the people of Assam are dependent upon other States for rice. I request the Central Government to provide a special grant for providing irrigation facilities to most of the suitable land in the State.

(xii) Need to provide financial assistance of State Government of Tamil Nadu to check sea erosion between Container Terminals at Chennai Port and Ennore Port

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Sir, the stretch between Container Terminal at Chennai Port near

[Shri C. Kuppusami]

Royapuram to Ennore Port is affected by sea erosion. The only road which connects these two ports is also affected. Thousands of fishermen are living in this stretch in their hutments, who are badly affected by sea erosion and are virtually in the fear of their belongings being washed away.

Though the State Government is extending some assistance, with its limited resources, since it is a massive one, I request the Union Government to send a team to study the sea erosion problem there and to formulate a plan for erecting a wall, as a permanent measure, with adequate funds being made available, at the earliest.

14.52 hrs.

SPECIAL PROTECTION GROUP (AMENDMENT)
BILL – CONTD.

Motion to Consider – Contd.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday, when I was required to terminate my remarks, I had drawn attention to the provisions relating to advance security liaison which constitute the heart of the very different kind of security which the SPG provides. I had just ended describing the nature of this advance security liaison when I was required to terminate my remarks. Therefore, I would like to resume my speech at that point.

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs would recall that yesterday I had drawn particular attention to the speech made by the Minister moving the Bill on the 10th of May, 1988 and his reply on the 11th of May, 1988. I would take the liberty of specifically drawing the attention of the hon. Minister to two important statements made by the Minister on those two days. Each of those is not more than a sentence. So, I seek the indulgence of the House to quote what Shri. P. Chidambaram said on the 10th of May. You will find it in column 450 of the record of the proceedings of the House. He said :

"In discharge of its duties and responsibilities the Group (that is, the SPG) carries out advance security liaison at places to be visited by the Prime Minister and for this purpose it is equipped with a Technical Wing having a wide-range of technical equipment and gadgets."

This is what distinguishes the SPG from other forms of security that are provided. He went on to say the following day that it was important to pay attention to

clause 14 of what was then the SPG Bill and is now the SPG Act, which provides :

"Every Indian Mission, every local or other authority, every civil or military authority, to go in aid of the Director of the Group"

In other words, every single authority, where the Prime Minister is scheduled to visit, whether it is in India or abroad, is required to give priority attention to these security requirements.

This is not available for any other form of security in the country. It is unique to the SPG form of security. Then again, after he ceased to be the Minister in charge, when he was not in the Government, Shri P. Chidambaram, intervening in a debate on a motion under Rule 193 which I had, in fact, moved, said something which I think bears repetition in this House once again. This was on the 13th May, 1993, reported in columns 418 to 419 where Shri Chidambaram said :

"Sir, there was no officer, no police officer in the whole of India who was feared more for the authority he wielded than an officer whom we designated as AD (Functions). He had the authority to overrule anyone in India, including the Chief Minister of a State."

That is the kind of authority that is vested in the SPG to undertake the security work of a Prime Minister. That kind of security cannot be assured by anybody except the SPG. That is really the point which I am repeatedly underlining particularly because of my apprehension that the remarks which the Home Minister made with respect to other forms of security while talking about the SPG might – by mistake, and I certainly know that it is not his intention – be taken to apply to this particular form of security.

The same point was reiterated by Shri P. Chidambaram in his deposition before the Jain Commission which took place on the 6th November 1996 where at page 5 of his deposition, Shri Chidambaram repeated that they, that is, the SPG, had overriding powers to overrule other security agencies. This too is not available to any other body. So, in all these terms – in terms of the kind of selection that is made so rigorously, in terms of the special training that is provided to them in terms of the technical equipment and gadgets made available to them, in terms of the power vested in them to make arrangements for advance security liaison, and in terms of the power given to them to override not only any local official or police official, however senior that police official might be for other purposes, but going so far as to be able to override a Chief Minister in determining what is the security requirement at a particular

place to be visited – the SPG was endowed with the power to overrule any other security agencies that might have a different view about how security is to be handled.

It was this new concept that was brought into security for the Prime Minister and his immediate family when the SPG was first formed in 1985 and subsequently given the Statutory status in 1988. Unfortunately one of the most important requisites in this regard was ignored in 1988, which is what happens when a Prime Minister who has SPG cover ceases to be the Prime Minister. It is a matter of regret that it was neglected at that time because if not in this House, but certainly in the other House, that is, the Rajya Sabha, the then TDP Member, Shri P. Upendra, who is now with us in the Congress Party, had specifically asked a question in this regard and it was not answered. So, when he went before the Jain Commission in 1996, in his deposition before the Jain Commission on the 21st November 1996, at page 1 of the record, Shri P. Chidambaram stated :

"I did not undertake any exercise to anticipate a situation when Rajiv Gandhi may lose elections and demit the Office."

In consequence of this negligence on our part in not anticipating a situation where the Prime Minister would cease to be the Prime Minister and making adequate provision for that, while the Prime Minister was still in office, we entered a situation, effective early December 1989, when Rajiv Gandhi ceased to be the Prime Minister of India, but the threat that he faced did not cease and which, in fact, according to the Verma Commission, increased.

15.00 hrs.

In that situation the new Prime Minister took a decision to temporarily continue SPG cover for the former Prime Minister even though this was not mandated under the law and could be construed as contravention of the law. In doing this, certain adjustments had to be made. And in particular, I would draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to the note prepared by the Cabinet Secretary at that time, Shri T.N. Seshan, on the 14th December, 1989 for the use of the Prime Minister's Office which is part of the records of the Jain Commission. If I marry these two sentences together, one of which is in para 7 (v) of the note and the other in 9 (v) of the note, it reads like this :-

"For domestic tours of the Prime Minister, officers of the SPG and IB conduct joint advance security liaison along with officers of the State Police to go into and finalise security arrangements. Therefore, for the time being, officers of the IB and SPG will carry out advance security liaison."

Tragically, as it turned out to be, the alternative security arrangement that was put in place for this ex-prime Minister at the beginning of February, 1990 on the withdrawal of SPG made no provision whatsoever for advance security liaison. Yet, without advance security liaison, the kind of security for the ex-Prime Minister on tour which was necessary for him to meet not just the previous threat perception but the enhanced threat perception was so poor that the inevitable happened. And because the inevitable happened, Mr. Chairman, I would seek your indulgence to quote myself. I said here in this House on the 13th of May, 1993 :-

"The Sriperumbudur incident would never, never have happened had the SPG been detailed for Rajivji's security on the 21st May, 1991. Advance liaison by the SPG would never, never, never have permitted inadequate barricading, inadequate lighting, crowding at or near the rostrum, the collapse of access control which have been listed in the Verma Commission of Inquiry Report as among the contributory causes to the assassination."

I have to repeat this again here today. I am deeply grateful to the hon. Home Minister for recognizing the special quality of SPG security as against any other form of security. He has brought this amendment which will have the effect of continuing SPG cover for ex-Prime Ministers and their families for as long as it is required. The great difference between the amended SPG Act of 1991 and this is that the provision of SPG security was made ex-officio at that time. Merely by virtue of having been the Prime Minister or a member of the Prime Minister's family, SPG cover was automatically, blindly and mechanically extended. Now, there are two provisos to sub-section (1) of the Act it would be introduced in section (4) of the Principal Act, which say that in deciding whether or not to extend such SPG cover on at least on a yearly basis, for no more than twelve months can lapse between two threat perception assessments, the agencies concerned will weigh the nature of the threat and determine whether SPG protection should or should not continue.

In other words, the Government through this legislation is casting upon itself a statutory duty to examine with all seriousness whether there is or is not a threat perception that warrants the provision of such security cover. Had such a provision existed in the original 1988 At, perhaps we would not have got that disastrous decision of January-February, 1990 which led to the tragedy at Sriperambudur. It is certainly not a tragedy which we would wish to see repeated ever again, for nothing destabilises a democracy as badly as does the politics of murder. We have to preserve ourselves even if we do not wish to preserve differences. Democracy rests on the assurance.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

who are elected to positions of high office will be able to take those. . . .(Interruptions) I am sorry, Sir. I plead with you to give me a few more minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only one hour was allotted to this item. There are a number of speakers.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I will just take a few minutes more, Sir. You will appreciate that I do need a few minutes more. We are talking about the lives of important people.

These two provisos, however, apply only to Section 1. I am not sure why they do not apply to Section 1 (A) as well. In my view, it is not necessary to oppose the Bill on this ground at this stage. In my view the provisos of Section 1 should be brought in *pari passu* in Section 1(A) as well. Indeed, because the Home Minister has raised in his presentation other forms of security, I would plead with him that these provisions be taken into the general statutory provisions relating to the provision of security. For, at the moment, the decision to perform any kind of security duty is a purely executive decision which has to be taken by a political authority who is necessarily subject to political pressures of the kind to which the hon. Home Minister drew our attention yesterday. As a result of these unwarranted political pressures, the number of people enjoying security in different categories has gone completely out of hand and it is being looked upon not only as a status symbol but also as a way of garnering personal comforts such as a place of residence. If, however, there were a statutory requirement applying to all forms of security which are going to be used for this special type of security then the decision as to whether or not security is at all to be provided, and if so, what category, would be taken out of the strictly executive, and, therefore, political realm and brought into a larger technical realm because one can assume that the intelligence agencies and security agencies responsible for making such a threat perception would then in their assessment give the reasons for which they have arrived at their conclusions. Therefore, it would greatly ease the problems of the Home Minister if he were to put all forms of security into the kinds of provisions that have been provided for in the provisos to Section 1 of the Bill before us just now.

I would just go one step further and with that I conclude my remarks. We have in the National Security Advisory Board, experts on the question of national security who are advising the Government without being either civil servants or politicians. They are there because their expertise outlives their retirement. So, we have a number of former Foreign Secretaries, former RAW Chiefs, former Defence personnel who are serving the Govern-

ment in advisory and, honorary capacities in the National Security Board. If in a similar way, people like Shri M.K. Narayanan, the former IB Chief, were to be inducted into the processes that make these threat perceptions, perhaps the degree of expertise would go higher and such persons being ex-civil servants would not be subject in quite the same way as civil servants, however, good they are, to political pressures.

This would perhaps make the whole process even more transparent. Since it is the Home Minister's own Government that has taken the initiative in bringing former Government experts in as independent experts subsequent to their retirement in the national security field, perhaps he could consider doing this too for assessing threat perceptions.

I have taken Shri M.K. Narayanan's name deliberately because while everything else that the Home Minister said yesterday was a cause of some comfort and even rejoicing, his reference to the NSG was, I submit, most unfortunate at the present juncture. It is absolutely true that the NSG was formed for meeting terrorist threats in terrorist affected areas and that their use for personal security does diminish the totality of the force to fight terrorism that is required in terrorist-infested areas. But when he singles out the NSG, we have - as we heard in the reaction from the AIADMK - a specific example of a former Chief Minister who is under intense threat and will be under increasing threat if the LTTE continues its military victories in Sri Lanka. Now if you want to withdraw NSG cover from her on the noble principle that NSG is supposed to be for terrorist infested areas and not for personal security, then you will have to devise an equivalent personal security force before you take that decision.

I say this with deep sadness in my heart because the Verma Commission reports says that on the 20th of May, 24 hours before Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated, Shri M.K. Narayanan who had been reinstated as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau, was making "frantic" efforts to somehow contact the Government of the time to tell them that the threat to Rajiv Gandhi had reached such enormous proportions that we must supply NSG cover for Rajiv Gandhi, adding "even if he refuses to have such cover" There are political situations that can be created, and they were created by those who largely constitute the NDA today, who so trivialised and so politicized the security of the Prime Minister that it became politically expedient for that ex-Prime Minister in his attempt to once again come to political office to shed security at a rate which was inadvisable. Therefore, as your Bill provides that former Prime Ministers can ask that security be withdrawn from them at will, please recognise that there might be circumstances in which it is not out of their own volition

but out of political circumstances that they may ask for such withdrawal leading to terrible tragedies with terrible consequences. Therefore, your provisos in Section 1 should also perhaps apply to situations where a demand for withdrawing security is made. If the security perception continues to be high, perhaps such request should be turned down in the national interest.

Having said so, Sir, may I just repeat that I support this Bill and trust that the House will pass it unanimously?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Sir, today, we are considering the special protection Group Amendment Bill. I congratulate the Home Minister not only for introducing this amendment but also for taking serious view of the national security. He is considering VIP security which irks the people as crores of rupees are spent on it. I congratulate the Home Minister who has mentioned in the figures furnished by him that the security which was provided to 118 officials in 1998 has been reduced to 33. Not only I, but the entire House will appreciate him for this: While understanding the feelings of the people he is seriously considering the VIP security. He has placed a suggestion before the House that with the consent of the whole House, another step can also be taken in this regard. Is it necessary to spend such an enormous amount on VIP security?

Security is being provided to the former Prime Ministers since 1991. Earlier, this arrangement was made for five years. In 1995 it was extended for the next 10 years. Now in 1999, a provision is being made that if the need is felt the Government can consider to continue the security cover for more than 10 years. The need of continuance of security cover only shows the deteriorating law and order situation of the country. The increasing number of police force reflects the increase in criminal activities in the society. I am not against the security cover to be provided to former Prime Minister but Government should consider that it must not become status symbol. Today it has become a status symbol. At present we have five former Prime Ministers in the country and it should be ascertained as to who requires the security cover. I do not agree with Shri Mani Shanker that it will be a compulsion to provide security to a person even after his refusal. I do not think Shri Chandra Shekhar who is a leader of masses and has travelled the length and breadth of country has threat to this life. Likewise, Shri Gujral who has his relations even across the border does not have any threat. Also, Shri Devegowda who is a humble farmer does not have any threat. I have stated all this as per my knowledge. Therefore, if any former Prime Minister feels that he does not require the security cover, then the Government and the Home Minister should consider this point.

There are two three people in Delhi who have got the NSG cover. When I was a member of Parliamentary Committee of Home Ministry, I came to know that an expenditure of 80 lakhs to 1 crore is incurred on the security cover of a person annually. As Home Minister has stated that 385 people in the country have been provided individual security cover, the huge expenditure involved could be imagined. I am not aware of the actual expenditure on SPG cover but it should be considered.

I do not know about the definition of immediate family and the family members covered under it. Government has to clarify whether the family of Shastriji and Maneka ji is entitled for the SPG cover after as immediate family. I remember that two former Prime Ministers, Shri Devegowda and Shri V.P. Singh declined to have the security cover and Government should consider it. Other Former Prime Ministers should follow them and should also ascertain whether they need any security cover. This should be done before any step is taken by the Government.

NSG security cover has been provided to many persons in Delhi and outside. I have seen a leader in Delhi attending the marriage functions with his commandos. He used to leave them outside the venue so that the people may not feel discomfort and get annoyed due to their presence. What happens to the security threat during that time. Whether these leaders have been asked to put some restrictions on attending the functions and marriages? What happens to the security of a leader when security personnels are left outside the venue? All these points should be considered. SPG and other security covers provided to VIPs are fast becoming the status symbol. Home Minister has mentioned in his statement that he has received the representations either for the upgradation of security cover of to cover them with 'Z' category so that they may be allotted the Government accommodation. I fail to understand how the Government houses can only protect them. Can protection of NSG or other security cover be not effective in their self-owned houses? At least, the allotment of 'Z' category houses be stopped.

When we watch on T.V. reports regarding USA, France and Japan, we do not notice any visible security. Hon'ble Home Minister should state about the structure of the invisible security in these countries. Whether they are also incurring the same expenditure on VIP security as we are doing in our country?

What are the figures of this whole expenditure? Security cover is visible in our country but not in the other countries. In Delhi 13% of police is engaged in VIP Security. Police Commissioner has recently stated in a meeting that they are not having the enough personnels to control the crime but 10-13% of them are on VIP security.

[Shri Vijay Goel]

Therefore I would request the hon'ble Minister to ponder over this issue. Besides, considering the amount of expenditure involved, whether we would be able to afford the security in future.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards page No. 2 of the Bill. It is written in the clause 2 :-

[English]

"(i) the Prime Minister and the members of his immediate family; and

(ii) any former Prime Minister or to the member of his immediate family. . ."

[Translation]

It seems that 'and' has been placed instead of 'or'. If it has been done inadvertently we may be informed about this. In the Statement given by the hon'ble Minister in Rajya Sabha word 'or' has been included on the page No. 1108. It seems to me that the security facility would be given to the former Prime Ministers or their family members for a period of 10 years. Therefore, hon'ble Minister should see that if 'and' can 'or' then it should be done.

With these words, I would also like to State that we should also ponder over the issue that to what extent it is legitimate to spend such an enormous amount on the V.V.I.Ps security.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1988, SPG Act was enacted for providing the security to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their families. Yesterday, the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had presented a bill in the House to amend this Act. I support this bill.

Yesterday, while presenting the bill, the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had given suggestion about other kind of security, particularly about NSG. I would like to react over those suggestions. Yesterday, hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had said that NSG which is being provided to VIPs, was set up for a special purpose. He said, that NSG was set up to curb terrorist activities in the country, but instead of using it to curb those activities, NSG is being used for VIP security. Therefore, it will be better, if NSG is used for the security of country, instead of providing security to the VIPs. This is my suggestion and yesterday, you too had suggested it. I would like to say one more thing in this regard.

If some VIPs are using NSG as a status symbol or to get a bungalow, allotted, the hon'ble Minister of Home

Affairs can investigate such cases, and can withdraw NSG from their security. But if NSG is removed from the security of such politicians, who are actually facing threat from terrorists, the other forces will not be as competent as NSG in ensuring their safety. Therefore, this matter will also have to be examined as to which politician is facing real threat from terrorists and is in need of NSG. For instance, I was not in need of NSG before June 2, 1995. But on that day, I was lodging in a guest house in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. Anti Social elements, backed by the then ruling party attacked me, in conformance of the local police. The leaders of your party in Uttar Pradesh are witness to it. At that time, Shri Moti Lal Vohra was the convenor of Uttar Pradesh. He sent his officers to probe the entire matter. The Centre had to intervene at that time. If the responsibility of my security been left to local police, I would definitely had been murdered.

At that time, hon'ble Kashi Ram was ill and was in intensive care unit. On that very night, the matter was discussed with the Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, and C.R.P.F. was deployed for my security and I was saved. I have been receiving threats even after that incident. After the incident of 2nd June, I was given NSG protection. The NSG is with me, since 1995. After that, in 1996, assembly elections were held, and Bahujan Samaj Party and Bharatiya Janata Party formed coalition Government in Uttar Pradesh and it lasted for 6 months. After transfer of the power, we felt that the interests of Bahujan Samaj were not safe in their rule. On 19 October, 1997 support was withdrawn and on 21 October 1997 motion of confidence was presented in Legislative Assembly. I would like to tell you about the incident that took place at that time. At that time, violent incident took place in Uttar Pradesh Assembly. Somehow I could manage to save my life. At the time of violent incident, I ran towards lobby. There are two doors in lobby, one opens outside and other opens inside, when I ran towards exit door, it was shut from outside. The mikes were hurled at me. The door of lobby were broken and I was in great difficulty. The local police was present in Vidhan Sabha. The local police had taken permission of the Speaker of Vidhan Sabha for it. Local Police was present in plain clothes over there. They did not protect me. My P.S. too had informed NSG. The outer door was closed from inside. NSG broke open the lobby door and escaped me. NSG had informed this to headquarters. NSG should not be withdrawn from anybody's security just to take political revenge.

After becoming Prime Minister for first time, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was invited in Lucknow for his felicitation. I had bullet proof car at that time but the Government over there, took it from me saying that the Prime Ministers requires car for two days. After that it will be returned to

me. That car was taken back from me. But till today it has not been restored to me. In Uttar Pradesh, my personal security staff included people of scheduled castes, backward classes and minority community. But they were removed and people of upper caste were posted instead of them. This matter was raised in this House by Arif Mohammed Khan, who was as Member of Parliament. I had also written a letter the Minister of Home Affairs. I would like to thank the Minister of Home Affairs for intervening in this matter and stopping the transfers which were being made on caste basis. I mean to say that if NSG is provided to the VIPs only as a status symbol, it should be withdrawn, but if somebody's life is in danger, it will not be appropriate if NSG is withdrawn from his security. At the time of issuance of notification in regard to the elections for 13th Lok Sabha, the ISI personnel were caught and killed in Saharanpur. You can see the report regarding documents recovered from them. The names of 2-3 politicians of Uttar Pradesh were in their hit list. They came with the intention of killing them. Among the BSP people my name was also in hit list. Prior to that the Uttar Pradesh Government did not take any action for my security. When ISI people were killed, and documents seized from them proved that my name was in hit list, the Uttar Pradesh Government tightened my security. Therefore, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that I had not desired NSG for prestige sake or to get VIP treatment. The NSG should be provided to the VIPs, who are in need of it. The reason behind it is that on one side anti-social elements are after my life and on other side, I am having political enemies also. On June 2, 1995, fatal attack was made on me. At the time of election for 13th Lok Sabha, the documents seized from ISI personnel in Western Uttar Pradesh proved that conspiracy was hatched to kill me. Not only this, through you I would also like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that whenever I have raised my voice in Lok Sabha about change in system and have spoken about Manuvadi system or had spoken about this in any rally, immediately after that I had received anonymous telephone calls threatening me. They can even kill me, because I speak about change in system in Lok Sabha and outside also. I receive such calls not only from Uttar Pradesh, but also from Delhi I request hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that NSG security should be provided after looking into threat perception to political people. It should not be removed, where political enmity exists. In addition to this I would like to say one thing more that due to the political vendetta. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have tried to withdraw the N.G.C. security provided to me but I am thankful to the hon'ble Home Minister that he did not withdraw the N.S.G cover provided to me despite the report submitted by some agency of the Uttar Pradesh Government in this regard and my security was not withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to revengeful attitude towards me the developmental work in my Parliamentary Constituency is held up. The Akbarpur Parliamentary constituency is adjacent to Faizabad Parliamentary Constituency. Akbarpur has been made a separate district and is renamed as Dr. Ambedker Nagar in 1995. Akbarpur is the reserve seat and this time I have been elected from Akbarpur Parliamentary Constituency. I would like to tell as to why I am referring to the revengeful attitude because I was elected from this seat of the last Lok Sabha also and second instalment of fund under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme was not released because the District Magistrate did not send a clear cut letter to the Union Government due to which the first instalment was released but the second instalment was held up and this was done under the influence of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, there is Tanda Thermal Power Plant at Akbarpur which is being run by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board. There is a move to sell it to the N.T.P.C and all this is being done in my Parliamentary Constituency due to revengeful attitude towards me. Though my security is not being disturbed but developmental work in my constituency is being hindered. What will be the fate of the people working in the said power plant and where they will go and where the farmers of that area will go. Earlier Akbarpur was the upper grade railway junction which has been downgraded now. The Uttar Pradesh Government is creating all these disturbances due to revengeful attitude. The State Government is interfering in developmental work being undertaken by me. Therefore, through the hon'ble Home Minister, I would like to request that while taking any decision, you should ensure that any letter is not recommended by the State Government on the basis of political malice.

I have full faith in the hon'ble Minister because you are not still under the influence of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. You have taken the right decision and I hope that you will not disturb the security of the politicians. There are a number of politicians whose lives are in danger. There is a threat to their lives from unsocial elements and terrorists as the hon'ble Member who spoke prior to me expressed his views about the security of Kumari Jaya Lalita. With these words I conclude my speech and support the amendment Bill moved by you.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : The Collector does not recommend our projects under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), does it mean that security should be provided to us ?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. We are not discussing MPLADS.

[Translation]

SRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The Collector did not approve the Schemes so you also need security. What are you talking ?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, please take your seat. We are not discussing MPLADS.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is very, very ridiculous.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

This is not the topic of discussion.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the amendment in the S.P.G. Act moved by the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is brief but sensitive. In his statement in the House he has said that if the House approves, the number of officers, V.I.P's S.P.G and N.S.G. can be curtailed and he has also said that a huge quantum of money is spent on this account and the number of officer engaged in security should also be reduced. Now how we can support this ? For how long we can support you in this matter and in case of any disorder an inquiry commission is set up and it is said that the lack of security cover is the cause for murder. We have ourselves witnessed the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. He was deadly against any sort of violence. He gave us the message of the truth, non-violence and love. Such fellow was assassinated. Therefore, we cannot say that much is being spent on security of high dignitaries and a large number of security personnel are being deployed for their security so the security should be withdrawn. Who will face the enquiry commission, we will also be summoned before the enquiry commission, such commission works for years together. Therefore, we are not of the view that the strength of the security personnel should be reduced on the plea that a huge amount is being spent on this account. When there is a problem of law and order or terrorism, the terrorists do not attack particularly on dignitaries but they prefer politicians as they are soft targets. Though the terrorist have nothing to do with any dignitary yet he causes danger to his life in order to create terrorism. The terrorist does not have any reason to kill any one. Therefore, I cannot support you in curtailing S.P.G. and N.S.G covers. I have an objection over the manner in which the security cover is provided. Sometime, the persons responsible for providing security provide security to the people of their liking. Sometimes security is also provided to the people having criminal record and I strongly oppose

it. The criminals against whom cases have been filed under section 95, 96 or 302 they also become V.I.Ps. and commit crime after getting security and some criminals also get themselves mixed up in the security cover in the uniform of security personnel and capture booths during elections. In this way security cover is misutilised. Security is the prime issue of our country. It is the responsibility of the Government to protect the life and property of every citizen. Therefore, it seems to me two different systems for providing security are going on. One is for crores of people and other is for V.I.Ps who are two, four or hundred in number.

Why it is so that crores of rupees are being spent on the security of a handful of people and a meagre amount is spend on security of crores of people. Prime facie it does not sound good. But the persons who are holding higher posts and for whose there is threat to their lives, their security should not be curtailed. We are not ready to face a commission, we will also be summoned before that commission and such commissions work for years together. Therefore, the Government should have liberty to use its discretion to see in the matter of providing security and ensure whose life is really in danger and whose life is not. The Government should also ensure that the security should not be given to the persons of liking or the criminals or the persons having criminal record or booth capturers. On the one hand they move in cavalcade of a number of security vehicles and plead here that there is a threat to their lives and on the other hand they indulge in crimes, booth capturing, abduction, extortion or ransome etc. I therefore request that security cover of S.P.G., N.S.G. Ordinary Police or Delhi Police should be provided to the dignitaries for whose lives there is threat perception until law and order situation improves. But security should not be provided to the people of own liking, or the people who enjoy security as a status symbol and who pose themselves as V.I.Ps. but virtually who are criminals and who demand security on the pretext that there is a threat to their lives. I can cite an example of this and I have also written a letter in this regard. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi were assassinated in our country. Shrimati Indira Gandhi's assassination was very unfortunate. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I congratulate him on his birthday.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Thank you, today it is the birthday of Madam Sonia Gandhi also. I convey my best wishes to her.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : My daughter's birthday also falls today.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I congratulate her also. Shri Pramod Mahajan is not present here, his daughter's birthday also falls today. . . .(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi is a stigma on our country. She was killed in her own house. "Chingari Koi bharkey to Savan usey bujhaye, Savan jo agg lagay to usey kaun bujhaye." It is very unfortunate that she was killed by one of her own security guards. Who can doubt the integrity of one's own man? Shri Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated.

15.48 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Earlier also the debate took place on this matter when Shri Arjun Singh had raised this issue. We had supported him. There were some shortcomings but I do not want to go into the details. However, a report has been submitted by Verma Commission.

[English]

The Verma Commission examined the aspects relating to security lapse which led to Shri Rajiv Gandhi's assassination.

[Translation]

The lapses in the security led to Shri Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. We respect Shrimati Sonia Gandhi as she is the wife of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. During elections Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, hon'ble Home Minister Shri Advani and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi were facing the threat of human bomb. There was a conspiracy to kill them in the same manner as Shri Rajiv Gandhi was killed. Director General of Haryana Police had given a statement that the police had arrested three Khalistani supporters in this connection. Sir, at that time when Shri Arjun Singh and Shri Pranav Mukherjee had met hon'ble Prime Minister, he had clearly stated that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi requires a security cover and the matter should not be politicised. My brother Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Sister Mayawati and Shri Mani Shanker Aiyer, for whom I have a great regard, have put forth their views in the House. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad has mentioned that there should not be any downgradation in the security cover. Mayawati ji stated that security should be provided to those who require it. I want to tell you that besides Prime Minister, there are other people also who are popular in the country. One of them is Shiv Sena Supremo Bala Saheb Thackeray who is not a Prime Minister. His name appears at 6th place in the hit list after Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri George

Fernandes, Shri L.K. Advani, Shri Farooq Abdullah and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a threat to the life of Shiv Sena Supremo hon'ble Bala Saheb Thackeray. He is a patriot and has raised voice against the Pakistani supporters, Dawood Ibrahim was instrumental in the bomb explosions that took place in Mumbai on 12th March, 1993. He said that Dawood should be brought to India. Newspapers have published reports about the conspiracy hatched by Dawood Ibrahim to kill Bala Saheb Thackeray. Time and again I.B. has reported that there is a threat to the life of Baba Saheb Thackeray. He is very popular among the people of Maharashtra as also throughout the country. Today his life is under threat.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, security cover was provided to him during the congress regime. Now Congress is again in power in Maharashtra. However, the Home Minister of Maharashtra Government has a feeling of enmity against Shiv Sainiks. His repeated statements indicate his increasing enmity against Shiv Sainiks. He has announced that the security cover to Shri Thackeray would be downgraded. Through you, I appeal to the Union Minister of Home Affairs not to downgrade the security cover of Shri Thackeray.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell you about an instance that happened on 7-8th February, 1969 when Shri Bala Saheb Thackeray was arrested. People of Maharashtra expressed their resentment against it and came on the roads. As a result, there was violence in Mumbai for four days. Shri Vasant Rao Naik was the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He sent a message to Shri Thackeray in jail to make an appeal to the people of Maharashtra to maintain peace. It is only in his appeal that peace was restored in Mumbai. The same incident had occurred when Mahatma Gandhi was arrested. People liked him very much.

SHR PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request that Mahatma Gandhi should not be compared with Bala Saheb Thackeray.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Shri Dasmunsi, I respect you but please give ears to me first. People of Maharashtra and that of the whole country consider Baba Saheb Thackeray as a God. We have high regards for him. Comparison could be made to an extent. Today people of Maharashtra adore Bala Saheb Thackeray in the same way they used to adore Mahatma Gandhi. Therefore, I would like to request the Home Minister to direct the Maharashtra Government to direct the Maharashtra Government to implement the directions issued earlier regarding the security cover of black cat commando to Bala Saheb. I would also like to tell you that the Home Minister

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

of Maharashtra Government is presenting the distorted version of Shri Krishna Commission's Report to foment riots. He should be stopped from doing so. I request the Government that keeping in view the popularity of Bala Saheb, his security cover should not be downgraded. Rather it should be upgraded as there is threat to his life. Hon'ble Home Minister should issue orders in this regard. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we support the Bill. This Bill is further to amend the Special Protection Act, 1988. First of all we all express our regret over the way in which SPG protection was withdrawn from our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It was not only shocking but it was a disastrous decision on the part of the then Government and the nation and the country had to suffer a lot for that.

Sir, what is my query? It is a very small query. I agree with you when you said at the beginning of your speech that SPG has now become a status symbol. SPG protection is provided to former Prime Ministers also, including their family members. But it is unfortunate that even a few former Prime Ministers who were provided with SPG protection could not win in the Parliamentary election and their deposits had to be forfeited. They cannot win even an election. But they have to move with SPG guard and SPG protection. I do not know whether there is really any threat perception to the lives of all those who are now being guarded with SPG.

Sir, yesterday in your speech you stated about the performance of the Delhi Police and the total number of Delhi Police personnel and how many of them are guarding the VVIPs and VIPs.

So far as the provision of SPG protection is concerned, it is to be reviewed from time to time, either in every six months or more. Maybe that the threat perception to the life of a person that is there today may not be there tomorrow. Once SPG protection has been provided, that will continue for long. It is not a proper decision and the Government can think of it very seriously. This provision for SPG protection is to be reviewed from time to time and gradually, it is to be cut down.

I do not know whether our leader, Kumari Mamata Banerjee will be angry with me when I mention regarding her security matters in our State. Not less than five attempts have been made at her life. Even today she has not been provided with proper security arrangement or security guards, which she does not like at all. But I want to know from you whether the Central Government is still concerned about it or not.

I do not know whether many persons who are getting proper protection from SPG and other security agencies really are eligible for it or not. Excepting for two or three or four persons who really require it, the SPG protection should not be there, otherwise this system is to be totally withdrawn so far as other members are concerned.

16.00 hours

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there can be no two opinions that we cannot take chances with security. There cannot be any dilution or reduction of necessary security. I, therefore, rise in support of the Bill. I also thank the Government for having responded positively and timely to the threat perception with respect to our Madam Sonia Gandhi. The Government came out with the Ordinance, and we have the Bill to replace the Ordinance with, perhaps, the necessary modifications. Sir, we support the provisions of the Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is most unfortunate that dangers of political assassinations are growing within our country. It is the most unfortunate aspect, but then providing security cover is, therefore an inevitable necessity. This is not a political issue. The Government cannot shirk the fact that the responsibility rests with the Government, and the security agencies have necessarily to provide foolproof security.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must emphasize the fact that we cannot depend wholly and solely on security agencies, even the SPG, and certain other factors, which are issues connected with questions of wider internal security, have also to be taken into consideration. The security agencies have to be supported, for example, by (1) the creation of a reliable and efficient intelligent network; (2) the correct identification of potential threats, and (3) there has to be support from the civil police. The State police force are continuously deteriorating. There is need for their modernisation; there is need for impartiality over there. We cannot ignore these questions and talk adequately about the security cover. So, these wider issues of the internal security have to be taken into consideration. It is only when our security agencies are supported by these various other factors that an effective pattern of responsibility can come up. When we talk of the effective pattern of responsibility, I come to the question posed by the hon. Home Minister to this House, the question of NSG. Certainly, the NSG cannot be simply withdrawn from VIP security. Otherwise, an equal force of an equal rank will have to be created. These are the questions of practical necessity, unfortunately, in view of the situations that we have.

Some of our Members have referred to various personalities – the question of security cover to Madam Jayalalitha, the question of security cover to our hon. Mayawati. All these matters, I do not want to repeat, but

then I must assert that effective pattern of responsibility needs that there is no reduction or dilution of security in these necessary cases.

The hon. Home Minister also referred to the question of accommodation being provided on consideration of security. Now, there cannot be a blanket ban on provision of the accommodation on questions of internal security. Sometimes, threat perception may need a proper accommodation, and then strictly going in accordance with the threat perception/such a thing may have to be provided.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may also emphasize that there are serious and shocking instances of abuse of police authority and the authority of the security forces and harassment to citizens. This must be checked.

Sir, here I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to another important fact. The security, if it has to be effective must be discreet. If the security is very conspicuous, then it is self-defeating in nature. A VIP being taken in a motorcade with a truck load of security or police people with a siren is not only a nuisance to the citizens but also is a clear and easy target to those who want to do harm to the VIP. Therefore, this particular fact that security has to be discreet has also to be considered.

16.06 hours

[DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I come to a very important matter. It is a very anguishing matter; it is a serious matter. It is something that is an assault on the very basis of secular democracy of our polity. I understand that oral instructions have been given that sensitive desks in the Home Ministry, in security agencies, in police and such other forces shall not be occupied by Muslims, Sikhs and such other minorities. The matter is agitating the minds of the minorities. Let the hon. Home Minister react to this matter in most clear terms. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : How did he know that oral instructions have been issued? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I am giving an opportunity to the hon. Home Minister to come clean on this. . . . (Interruptions) because circulation of such reports agitate and create tension in the minds of the people outside. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : It does not have any connection with this issue. Do not link everything with Communalism. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : How did he know that oral instructions have been issued? . . . (Interruptions) Sir, he is trying to create confusion in the minds of the Muslims and Sikhs who are loyal to this land . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : It is not right to take up any issue . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : The hon. Home Minister will reply to debate. Why are you getting excited? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : How can they speak without knowing the facts? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, the moment they try and disrupt an honest question addressed to the hon. Home Minister, you are asking me to conclude.

Sir, let the Chair not come under such cloud. It is with good faith that I have raised this question. Let not such reports circulate and agitate and create tension outside. I am giving a direct opportunity to the hon. Home Minister to come clean on this particular issue. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : You have to find out the facts first. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I understand that instructions have been issued, let him contradict, that sensitive desks cannot be chaired by Muslims, by Sikhs and by other people belonging to the minority community and the question of appointment and recruitment to forces like the IB, the RAW, the CBI, the CRPF etc. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up and conclude now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, please be patient with me. We are dealing with a very important aspect of the Home Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The allotted time for discussion of this subject was one hour. You have taken more time.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, is it being directed towards me?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But I am seeking your cooperation.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I am a responsible Member of this House and I shall not be taking time of the House even a minute more than what is necessary.

I will therefore, request the hon. Home Minister to take note of this particular aspect not only to assure the House of the situation in this regard but also to give directions that no discrimination whatsoever is practised and justice is done. Now, Sir, I come to another important point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, there are four Members more to speak.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Is that my responsibility, Sir ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not your responsibility. I am seeking your cooperation. I have to accommodate others also.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Please do accommodate them also. Sir.

Who is going to assess the level of security that is necessary? That is also an important aspect. Hon. Member, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar had drawn attention to this particular aspect. I would say that in order that there may be no apprehensions and there is no political abuse in this particular question, we have to come clear in deciding as to the authority that decides on the level of security that is necessary. There should be a Committee including the Home Minister, the Leader of Opposition and such other personalities, which should have a final say in the matter so that the doubts and suspicions that the entire matter is looked at from the political point of view, come to rest.

With these few words, I thank you.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill and I associate with the views expressed by my senior colleagues Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and Shri Banatwalla. I do not want to say much on the Bill because many senior speakers and well-versed Members have spoken on it.

As we say, this august House is the House of the People. This is not the House of leaders only. I, therefore, request the hon. Home Minister to take care that inconvenience caused to the common people is removed while implementing the Bill. When VIPs like the Prime Minister, for whom I have the highest respect, move from place to place, a lot of inconvenience is caused to the

common people. In Delhi, it is managed well and not much inconvenience is caused to the public nowadays. However when they go outside, to cities like Ahmedabad, Mumbai, etc., roads are blocked for traffic for hours together. Rehearsals are also conducted on the previous day of the visit of the VIP when hundreds of policemen are made to stand on the road for the whole day. That creates problems for the students who have to sit for examinations, unemployed people who have to appear to competitive examinations and sick people who have to go to hospitals. At such times, not only vehicles are not allowed to ply on the roads but even pedestrians are not allowed to move during the period starting one hour before the visit of the VIP. This may kindly be stopped.

As far as political assassinations are concerned, whether it is of Mahatma Gandhi, of Madam Indira Gandhi, or of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, – incidentally we have lost three leaders in our country – the main reason behind them was religious fanaticism. I would request this august House to do some introspection and find out why the young boys or certain groups are involving themselves in such acts. I am of the considered opinion that there are a few problems in the country. If they are solved, a part of the threat perception for, at least, certain people will be removed and the security requirement will also be reduced to that extent. There are issues in the country which require solution at an early date. As far as terrorists are concerned, the Government should take proper steps to restrict their activities.

My main request is that the inconvenience caused to the common people may be looked into while implementing the Act.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the bill introduced by the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs in the House.

The Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has given some suggestions about SPG security. While supporting these suggestions. I would like to state that many times some former Prime Ministers had publically requested that their SPG cover should be withdrawn. I do not understand what objection the Government have in this regard. I understand, when they themselves want to withdraw the security, the Government should accept it.

Secondly, I support the views expressed by the hon'ble Member, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji. There are many such people, whose past records are not good, but they have been provided extensive security, and they have been misusing their security cover at national level. I hail from the State of Bihar. If the State of Bihar also, security has been provided to the people who are having criminal

records. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to get it reviewed. The security cover should be withdrawn from the people whose past records are not good, and security should be provided to the common people who are in need of it, instead of giving it to the representatives of the people. There are four IB reports about our hon'ble Member, Shri Prabhunath Singh. He himself has given in writing to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that there is a threat to his life and a number of attempts had been made on his life, but security has not yet been arranged for him. I request that a security arrangement may be made for him. Alongwith it, I would also like to say that security facility should be provided for a particular time, and after that it should be reviewed whether a person is still in need of security or not.

I would also like to say one more thing. The security or SPG cover is provided to the former Prime Ministers and all the members of their families. If SPG cover is being provided to Shrimati Indira Gandhi's family, then why Shrimati Maneka Gandhi is not covered. I would like to know this from the hon'ble Minister. Such type of discrimination should not be done. It should be seen, if former Prime Minister's life is in danger, the SPG cover should be provided to him by the Government but the system of providing security, motor vehicle etc. to the entire family should be scrapped.

With these words, I would like to conclude.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the House and all parties for giving unconditional support to the bill introduced by me, yesterday. Everybody said that the amendment suggested in SPG Act is appropriate, essential and timely. Normally, due to such reasons ordinances are not desirable, but had the amendment not been made the security cover would have been withdrawn from Shrimati Sonia Gandhi after a particular date. It was not possible to call the Parliament Session before that date, and the security cover would have been withdrawn two days before the session of the Parliament. Due to this reason, this change was done.

I am grateful to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar for giving the detailed analysis of SPG Act. He has rightly commented on the Act while introducing the SPG bill, I said many things about VIP security which were not directly related to SPG bill. Therefore, some Members have pointed out certain things in the context of SPG, like huge expenditure on it etc. When we discuss about the security of the country, we say that no matter whatever amount is required to be spent on the security of country, it must be spent. Just to save a little amount. We are not supposed to take any risk about the security of the country. I am of the opinion that the position of Prime Minister in this democratic country

is such as you should consider yourself fully competent of talking any type of decisions in this regard. In view of this, there is no question of worry if some what expenditure is required to be incurred on the security of the Prime Minister as it is very essential.

The second thing which I pointed out in this context was much more related to the Internal Security System rather than it was related to expenditure. The security system for a common man was much better 20 years. Now, it is deteriorating. We are having a limited number of security personnels. However there is a limit for us and in view of this we are doing our best to provide security to the eminent persons in public life officers, judges or other high-ranking officials. Therefore, I had raised the second issue.

Generally, all the speakers have accepted that security arrangements should be seen in the context to the threat perception of the concerned person. For the first time, it has been stated in the amendment to the SPG Act being brought by us that Security could not be provided to anybody for indefinite period, just because he is a former Prime Minister. Our intention is not to reduce it by 10 years, because this facility was going to be withdrawn for one former Prime Minister after one year and for other Prime Minister after two years. Therefore, the provision was made for ten years instead of five years but we have not extended it to 10 years to 15 years or 20 years. For the first time the provision of threat perception is mentioned in the legislation, that SPG cover may be provided in view of the threat perception N.S.G. cover can also be provided. As told by Shri Mani Shankar, at one stage, it was suggested that SPG cover could not be provided to Shri Rajivji because laws do not permit this, so he could be given NSG cover.

[English]

NSG is the second elitist Group prepared for security.

[Translation]

Avoiding all these things, we adopted the way on which consensus is there. When security is provided to somebody.

[English]

It should not be merely to enhance the status.

[Translation]

It is provided continuously. Since I have taken this office. I am regularly requesting that NSG should be withdrawn from my security. I understand that the other reason for it is that as mentioned by other people also, Shri Banatwalla has said it should be discrete and unobstructive.

[Shri L.K Advani]

I visited Israel, where people are really in threat of terrorism. I did not see there such a huge security arrangement as it is in India. They may also be having guards, but they could not be seen. Therefore, here also we should decide that NSG guards deployed on VIP security will not be in uniform. This is my personal experience. When I used to go on visit, generally people do not get to know who is travelling, but if vehicle is stopped at railway crossing. The commandos surround the car. By this way even if somebody is unaware of who is travelling, he also gets curious and ask who is there, why so many black commandos are standing? Whenever, I talk with NSG officers, I tell them, why do they make commandos so conspicuous. They should wear plain clothes, so that they do not have to drill and could not catch attention of every body.

Even if someone was not targetted earlier, he will become target due to their presence. Due to their specific uniform, black commando have become a status symbol. Gradually every state has prepared its separate commando force. Some states call them black serpent and some have given them another name but their uniform is almost identical. Their objection is that the standard of training given to commandos of State Governments is not up to the mark. I would like to emphasize the point that I will be the first person to offer withdrawal of NSG if that is required to be withdrawn. There should be no political conception about anyone in this regard. On the basis of my experience of last 1½ or 2 years. I would like to say that people approach me for providing security cover in case of threat to their lives. I tell them that I will ask the State Government to take necessary action. They immediately say that they have no confidence in the State Government and Union Government should make arrangements in this regard. Then I try to make them understand that union Government has its own limitations, we can only ask them to take necessary action. As just now Shri Rawale has stated that during the debate in Rajya Sabha it was stated that security cover of the Chief of Shiv Sena Balasaheb Thackeray was being downgraded I asked the State Government of Maharashtra but they have sent a written reply that :-

[English]

"There is no move to down grade the security of Shri Bala Saheb Thackeray."

[Translation]

whether it is the Central Government or State Government, credibility of Government will suffer a set back if issue of security cover is decided on political grounds. There cannot be two opinions in the matter of security

cover. The issue of Soniaji was also raised here. We may have political differences but I asked the intelligence about the appraisal of security threat in this regard. They said it was grave and continuation of SPG cover would be appropriate.

Some people have publicly said that they do not require SPG cover. There is a provision in the earlier Bill that security cover can be withdrawn if a request in this regard is made by a former Prime Minister. Such a demand cannot be made by the Prime Minister. As per law Prime Minister has to be provided security cover which should be accepted essentially. But we have no problem in withdrawing SPG security if such a request is made by a former Prime Minister. A former Prime Minister had given this in writing and then security cover was withdrawn. Vishwanath Pratap Singhji has given this in writing and asked me personally to withdraw the security, then it was withdrawn. Another former Prime Minister had also asked to withdraw the security cover and that was withdrawn. Later on, he asked again to provide security cover and the request was accepted. . . .(Interruptions). Under the law it is my duty. If I have to estimate threat perception in this regard, that will be done after ten years. It is a statutory responsibility of the Government of India to provide security cover for former Prime Ministers and their family members. We are fully performing our duty and we shall continue to do so in future also.

Names of several persons have been mentioned here. I would like to say that there will not be any blank withdrawal of NSG. If a beginning is to be made for withdrawal of security. I will be the first person to offer myself for that. There is no question of political perception in this regard. Excepting one Member, all the Members have opposed the system of allotment of accommodation on the ground of security. Banatwallaji has said that accommodation is provided in the name of providing security. Personally, I feel that there was no such arrangement 2 or 3 years ago.

If someone demands 'Z' plus security to get accommodation as the person concerned thinks that he is not an MP or Minister and it will be difficult for him to stay in Delhi and procure an accommodation, it is difficult for me to decide in such cases as to who should get accommodation and who should not. On the basis of my experience I would like to say that in such matters it is very difficult to take a decision. It can be done only if the Government takes a blank decision that no one will be given accommodation in the name of providing security cover. Otherwise getting accommodation in Delhi is a big facility. If such a matter is decided on discretionary grounds then people will accuse us that a particular person is being favoured by the Government.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I would just like to seek one clarification. Do these remarks apply to the SPG as well? Because, in the instant case, Shrimati Priyanka Gandhi Vadra wished to stay in her own personal house and it was the SPG which refused to give her permission to stay in her own house and insisted that she must stay in Government accommodation to be able to provide SPG security. So, I would just seek the clarification whether your remarks apply also to the SPG category.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have not applied my mind to the SPG beneficiaries. But, basically what I am saying apply to the political activists in general. So, it is in that context, I am saying so.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Do you have any idea as to how many such persons have been given accommodation?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : This number is not much. Cases of providing NSG cover are also not in thousands. Security cover has been provided to many people. The figures given by me in this regard yesterday pertained to Delhi only. I know that in some States almost all the MLAs are given a Shadow or security cover. This number will be quite large if figures pertaining to whole country are collected. Yesterday, I made a mention about the security cover provided to persons living in Delhi and it was not a happy position.

I have been given figures about it. The accommodations given in Delhi for security reasons are 15 only and all are big bungalows. The number of NSG beneficiaries is 19 only.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : They all should be provided flats at one place then there will be no problem of public security. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Some one asked me whether 'or' has been put here by mistake?

[English]

"There shall be an armed force of the Union called the Special Protection Group for providing proximate security to (1) the Prime Minister and the members of his immediate family and (2) Any former Prime Minister or to the members of his immediate family."

[Translation]

This 'or' is not included by mistake. It is so because in the first case it is for the Prime Minister and thus 'and' has been included there. But in case of former Prime

Minister, he may not be alive, then Prime Minister and the Members of his immediate family will be there and in this case 'or' has been written.

[English]

There is no error in this.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Was it there in 1991 also?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It is true.

[Translation]

It was enacted after the death of Rajivji. The amendment regarding former Prime Minister or to the Members of his immediate family was included later on. Earlier it was not for the former Prime Minister, Rajivji.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have tried to reply to all the main issues raised during the debate on this Bill.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I fully appreciate your stand. While considering this question, as a Member of the House Committee, we are facing a problem about the Punjab MPs. They are not ineligible for accommodation. As Members of Parliament, they are entitled to get Government accommodation. As Members belonging to Punjab, they have got four or five security personnel with them. As a first-time MP, they are entitled for two-room flats. They are giving one room to their security personnel and in other room they are staying with their family. So, it has become very difficult for them to stay in one room with their families. While considering such cases, you should not give blanket order. Discretion should be applied and better accommodation should be provided to those Members in whose case it is necessary to give security.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : So far as Members are concerned, the jurisdiction vests with the Speaker or the Presiding Officer of the other House. Whatever they direct me to do, I shall have to do. I am talking about the requests that come to me from the people who are not entitled to any accommodation as MPs but who on the grounds of security think that they must be given a house. Till now the Government has approved houses being allotted to freedom fighters of certain categories, but that too goes to the Accommodation Committee of the Cabinet and then it is passed. In cases of this type, on grounds of security if accommodation is being given, it becomes a serious problem to deal with the problem of VIP security as such objectively and correctly.

I once again thank the House for the unanimous support given to this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Special Protection Group Act, 1998, as amended by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall 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.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.38 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS – GENERAL

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Item No. 13. The time allotted is four hour. Hon. Members are requested to speak on the Demand and in brief so that maximum number of Members may participate in the debate.

Motion moved :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 2000, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof – Demand Nos. 3, 5, and 6, 8 to 12, 15, 17 to 20, 23, 29 and 30, 33, 38 and 39, 42 and 43, 45 to 48, 53 to 55, 57 to 59, 62, 65 to 67, 69, 71, 73, 75 to 77, 79, 81, 83 to 85, 87, 95 and 101 to 103."

Lok Sabha

List of Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) for 1999-2000 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

| No. and Title of Demand | Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha | |
|--|---|----------------|
| | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Ministry of Agriculture | | |
| 3. Department of Agricultural Research and Education | 692100000 | – |
| Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers | | |
| 5. Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals | 1770000000 | 438100000 |
| 6. Department of Fertilizers | 100000 | – |
| Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs | | |
| 8. Department of Consumer Affairs | – | 80000000 |
| 9. Department of Food & Civil Supplies | – | 100000 |
| 10. Department of Sugar & Edible Oils | – | 210000000 |
| Ministry of Coal | | |
| 11. Ministry of Coal | – | 100000 |
| Ministry of Commerce | | |
| 12. Department of Commerce | – | 100000 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--|---|-------------|------------|
| Ministry of Communications | | | |
| 15. Department of Telecommunications | | - | 100000 |
| Ministry of Defence | | | |
| 17. Defence Pensions | | 36759200000 | - |
| 18. Defence Services - Army | | 28600000000 | - |
| 19. Defence Services - Navy | | 23600000000 | - |
| 20. Defence Services - Air Force | | 14700000000 | - |
| Ministry of Environment and Forests | | | |
| 23. Ministry of Environment and Forests | | 200000 | - |
| Ministry of Finance | | | |
| 29. Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments | | 7650000000 | - |
| 30. Loans to Government Servants etc. | | - | 2000000000 |
| 33. Pensions | | 5000000000 | - |
| Ministry of Food Processing Industries | | | |
| 38. Ministry of Food Processing Industries | | - | 100000 |
| Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | | | |
| 39. Department of Health | | 100000 | - |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | | | |
| 42. Ministry of Home Affairs | | 3600000 | - |
| 43. Cabinet | | 100000 | - |
| 45. Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs | | 100000 | 314700000 |
| 46. Transfers to Union Territory Governments | | 826700000 | 177800000 |
| Ministry of Human Resource Development | | | |
| 47. Department of Education | | 300000 | - |
| 48. Department of Youth Affairs and Sports | | 100000 | - |
| Ministry of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises | | | |
| 53. Department of Heavy Industry | | 4276300000 | 161800000 |
| 54. Department of Small Scale Industries & Agro and Rural Industries | | 300000 | 200000 |
| Ministry of Information and Broadcasting | | | |
| 55. Information, Films and Publicity | | - | 34100000 |
| Ministry of Labour | | | |
| 57. Ministry of Labour | | 4200000 | - |
| Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs | | | |
| 58. Law & Justice | | 4097800000 | - |
| 59. Election Commission | | 32500000 | - |
| Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | | | |
| 62. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | | 100000 | - |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas | | | |
| 65. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas | | 1000000000 | – |
| Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation | | | |
| 66. Planning | | 200000 | – |
| 67. Department of Statistics | | 44300000 | – |
| Ministry of Power | | | |
| 69. Ministry of Power | | 1500000000 | 100000 |
| Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment | | | |
| 71. Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation | | 300000 | 500000000 |
| Ministry of Science and Technology | | | |
| 73. Department of Science & Technology | | 100000 | – |
| 75. Department of Bio-Technology | | 79400000 | – |
| Ministry of Steel and Mines | | | |
| 76. Department of Steel | | 9587400000 | 792800000 |
| 77. Department of Mines | | 1674300000 | 100000 |
| Ministry of Surface Transport | | | |
| 79. Roads | | 5470000000 | 13485000000 |
| Ministry of Textiles | | | |
| 81. Ministry of Textiles | | – | 701700000 |
| Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment | | | |
| 83. Urban Development | | – | 100000 |
| 84. Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation | | – | 100000 |
| 85. Public Works | | 251300000 | 100000 |
| Ministry of Water Resources | | | |
| 87. Ministry of Water Resources | | 100000 | – |
| The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President | | | |
| 95. Rajya Sabha | | 53600000 | – |
| Union Territories Without Legislature | | | |
| 101. Dadra & Nagar Haveli | | 10000000 | 19600000 |
| 102. Daman & Diu | | 4200000 | 21400000 |
| 103. Lakshadweep | | 1700000 | 15300000 |
| Grand Total | | 113220700000 | 18953300000 |

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : I would like to begin by congratulating the Finance Minister on the signs of revival which we have had the opportunity of seeing in the economy in the last few months. The stock market is booming as never before. Exports are showing

signs of revival, indeed encouraging revival. The rate of inflation is at such a low level that some economists are even disturbed at how low is the level of inflation.

Agricultural production, by and large, has been satisfactory. It has been particularly good in the area of

foodgrains. The signs for the future, that is for the next six months, are perhaps even better than the performance of the last six months. On all these grounds, I think, the Government is to be congratulated.

But at the same time, I think, we have to ask ourselves the question whether the Finance Minister is able or lucky. At a personal level, I have known the Finance Minister for the last 30 years. We have had opportunities of working together as civil servants. So, with regard to his personal ability, I have no doubts nor wish to cast any doubts. But whether the signs of revival that we have seen in the last few months are sustainable or not, in those terms, I think there is no cause for euphoria and there is some cause for caution about the significance that we should derive from the indicators of things being a little better now than they have been for the last three years. I sound this note of caution on the question of revival because for one thing there seem to be very varying predictions about the rate of growth that the economy will actually attain in the current fiscal year. I have seen some rather optimistic predictions from the Finance Minister. We have heard somewhat less encouraging sounds from at least one member of the Planning Commission and economists – as is the custom with economists – do not always have a similar view on how things are going. What we can say is that the economy is likely to grow at a higher rate this year than it has grown in the last two-three years. How much better, I for one, would like to reserve judgement until we come to the presentation of the Budget and the receipt of the Economic Survey for the next fiscal year. At the moment, I would say that it is good that there are signs of recovery. But we should not let ourselves be overtaken by over optimistic predictions. Also, I think, we must not fall into the arithmetical illusion of thinking that it is rates alone that matter without taking into consideration the base upon which these rates are calculated.

The Finance Minister is lucky because his immediate predecessor's performance was so poor that it was possible for him to – in comparison to himself in the year 1998-99 and in comparison to his predecessor in the two years that followed the fall of the Congress Government – give an account of himself this year which could be a statistical illusion unless it is maintained into the future. My very best wishes to him for maintaining it into the future because if his performance is good then the country's performance is good. I do not wish to deny the country the opportunity of growing because I wish to deny Shri Yashwant Sinha the opportunity to further grow.

Apart from the low base from which we have started and therefore, the indication that this might be something of a statistical illusion, I would also like to draw the Finance Minister's attention to serious sectoral imbalances which are there in the economy. At the beginning, of the 1980s,

to take one striking example, the second biggest Indian import after crude oil was edible oil. Then came the oilseeds technology revolution that was initiated in the Congress Government of 1985-89 and carried further forward in the period 1991-96 with such enormous success that India became a net exporter of the products of oilseeds. Now, within three years, we have reverted to the position which obtained nearly 20 years ago when edible oil has become a major import into this country. Not only does this have a serious adverse impact on the balance of payments but this flood of edible oil imports into the country is seriously threatening the green revolution that took place in the dry land which is where oilseeds are grown.

Similarly, we have seen what appears to us to be completely unwarranted imports of agricultural products like wheat and sugar which have also had an adverse impact upon our farmers. The first sectoral imbalance, therefore, to which I would wish to draw attention and underline is that the economy is doing much better for the industrial corporate sector than it is for the farmer, at least in terms of what Government policy is doing. The Lord has been kind and compensated for some of the Finance Minister's faults; we had a good monsoon and, therefore, production has gone up. But the performance of the Government of India in the last 18 months with regard to the farming sector has not been such as to enable the farmer to take full advantage of nature's kindness to him.

Within the industrial sector itself there are some segments of Indian industry which have picked up extremely fast, but there are a lot of others which are virtually stagnating. These include several engineering industries and we have heard complaints particularly from automotive parts manufacturers as also from some industries engaged in engineering, particularly of the heavy engineering and structural engineering kind. Therefore, I would say that while overall figures might be encouraging in some respects, particularly in the manufacturing sector, there are segments of the manufacturing sector which seem to be in urgent need of special attention.

Also, we have a low rate of inflation today. But there is a serious danger that there could be a kind of cascading inflation that could come about over the next few months partly on account of the Government's financial imprudence in not being able to manage the fiscal deficit and partly on account of the rising international prices of petroleum products – I am thinking particularly of diesel – which could translate themselves through the economy into a much higher rate of inflation to the detriment of real economic growth. Consequently, I would sum up this survey, this thumb nail sketch of the Indian economy at midyear by saying that the economy is doing well, but the Government's finances are not doing equally well.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

When it comes to the Government's Finances, our attention must first go to the fiscal deficit. Now, there is no really knowing until the Finance Minister clarifies this as to what is the fiscal deficit that we are faced with in the current financial year. We began this financial year on the reassuring note given by the Finance Minister that he might be able to hold down the Central Government fiscal deficit to even perhaps four per cent. It looks as if it is going to be nearly six per cent and there is the danger that it could go even higher than that. Perhaps even more worrying than the Central fiscal deficit is the way in which the fiscal deficits of the States are going virtually haywire. We have already had a doubling, it would appear, of the fiscal deficit of the States as a percentage of GDP from around 2.7 per cent to around 4.3 per cent. Putting it all together it looks as if the real deficit of the Governments in India, not the Government of India but the Governments in India, as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product could be ten per cent or above. That simply is unsustainable.

What worries me about the climbing of fiscal deficits of the States at a time when the Centre itself is unable to control its own deficit is the alliance politics that has now got institutionalised by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, for the NDA contains a large number of parties. They are significant really only at the level of one State or perhaps two States, not more than that, and the pressures that these parties will be exercising on the Central Government to not keep State deficits in check is a very real danger. We have already seen that in the current financial year the kind of cap that had been placed on the borrowing of the States in the previous financial year has been eased.

I fear that in the interest of playing good politics, the Finance Minister might be persuaded to play bad finance. After all, he is not a technical appointee. He is a political appointee. He belongs to a political party which is part of a political alliance and this political alliance contains so many interests who are narrowly limited to their respective States. I think it would be in the interest of the nation as a whole to sound this note of caution that we have already seen an exponential increase in the contribution of State Governments to the overall fiscal deficit and it could get even worse.

The Finance Minister himself has very recently warned of India walking into an internal debt trap. Walking into that internal debt trap is likely to be accelerated rather than braked in consequence of alliance politics. Therefore, I would really, with all the power at my command, stress that the Central Government cannot limit itself only to concerns about the fiscal deficit in the Union Budget. The Finance Minister has no option but to address himself to the overall

deficit in this country which includes the State deficits and therefore, to ensure that not only does the Centre keep its house in order but that it keeps its house in such order as to compensate for the gross disorder that is prevailing in the Finance Ministries of many State Governments.

Sir, at the end of the day, it is not in the stock market but on the shop floor that we are going to discover how really the economy is growing. The stock market is behaving in a bizarre manner. It is rising at a rate that bears no resemblance whatsoever to the real rate of growth in the economy. When the Finance Minister was on this side in the other House rather than in the distinguished position in which he sits now, he and I had served together on a Joint Parliamentary Committee whose origins lay in a bizarre expansion of the stock market back in the first half of 1992. I would like to remind him of that and say to him that it would be inappropriate for him today as the Finance Minister to take more than a certain amount of satisfaction at the way the stock market is going. I do not think the stock market is reflecting the reality on the ground. Therefore, there is the danger of this bubble bursting and when this bubble bursts, I trust that he will not be caught saying that he lost little sleep over what is happening in the stock market.

In the light of this, I would like to state that we, in this side of the House, particularly our section of the House, are faced with a curious problem. We are being described as the BJP's "B" team in economic policy. That is hardly our fault. What the emperor has done is to steal my clothes. He came into this House in 1998 as a favoured son of the *Swadeshi Jagran Manch*. He gave us in his first Budget a resounding account of what it means to be *Swadeshi*. Over the next 18 months, he has said that he defines *Swadeshi* as *Videshi*. He has taken our policies and our programmes and adopted them as his own. We can naturally only endorse him when he abandons his own position to accept our position. But I do not think that means that we end, once he has finished exhausting using our clothes, as his "B" team for, then, he will have to invent his own policies and his own programmes.

Compared to the confusion over *Swadeshi* in his ranks, there is clarity in our ranks over our economic policy as stated at Pachmarhi. We have reaffirmed at Pachmarhi our belief in the socialistic pattern of society as enunciated at Avadi. We have reaffirmed our faith in the mixed economy and we have reaffirmed our belief in planning for development. I am deeply concerned over the growing nexus between this Government and big business. We have had captains of industry announcing at the end of an election that they would wish to have this particular gentleman as the Finance Minister.

Now, given my own personal relationship with Shri Yashwant Sinha, I can confide in the House that I am very

happy that he has been reappointed as the Finance Minister of India. He is an able man and particularly given the quality of talent in his party, he is an exceptionally able man. However, when we have a situation in which leaders of industrial conglomerates, like the Confederation of Indian Industry, not only appoint but appoint the Minister of Finance, inform the Prime Minister that this is their particular preference, then it makes for concern. For if we do not have any apprehensions about the role of business in the life of our nation, then we might as well hand over the governance of this country to the Confederation of Indian Industry. But so long as there is a role for the State in controlling and regulating the corporate sector for people to become Minister of Finance on the basis of good chits issued to them by the head of an organisation, like the CII, is, I think, undesirable.

I do not think our current Minister of Finance invited this endorsement. But since he has received it unsolicited, I think it is in the interest of the country as a whole that the Ministry of Finance should keep its distance from the corporate sector. And the keeping of that distance is not much in evidence as revealed by the Finance Minister's former Economic Adviser which demonstrated that. This nexus on television. . . .

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I will just remind the hon. Member about the speech made by their leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, in a recent meeting of the FICCI about her closeness and her party's closeness to the corporate world. She has been accusing the industrialists why they should not be closer to the Congress Party.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I promise that I will send the hon. Member a copy of the speech of the Leader of the Opposition with notations underlining certain words so that he can better understand what she said instead of relying on Ganeshakti's reports about what the Congress President stated.

I am only drawing attention to this because of the attempt being made by the corporate world to project itself as being extremely close to North Block and the lack of an attempt on the part of North Block to keep at least a dignified distance between itself and the members of the corporate world.

We have had in the last 18 months disturbing examples of the Ministry of Finance, in collusion with other Ministries concerned, playing with things like tariffs and referral prices. We saw this with respect to steel. We then had seen it with respect to wheat just now. We have also seen it with regard to sugar. The WTO certainly does oblige us to increasingly open up the market for imports into India. But it has not taken from us the right to utilise tariffs as a way of protecting the Indian economy or of protecting our security.

In attempting to protect the economy, a major step was taken a few days ago by the Minister of Finance in announcing a 50 per cent tariff on the import of wheat by roller flour mills. This was a decision which could have been taken partially or fully at any time since May, 1999. It was deliberately postponed for six months before being brought into effect. Why? There is cause for legitimate concern here. Is this the consequence of the close relationship between the corporate world and North Block which is growing or is it happenstance or is it negligence on the part of the Government? I do not know which it is. But the industry itself and agriculture have been crying themselves hoarse for the last six months that wheat imports are taking place at a time when there is such a glut of wheat in our godowns that the new crop is not being picked up adequately and prices are rising in the market. Therefore, when we see this happening in steel, when we see this happening in wheat, we see that sugar imports were continuing into this country from a country with whom we were at war – the WTO itself provides that on security considerations you can cut off, without further ado trade relations with a country with whom you are engaged in hostilities.

17.00 hrs.

One wonders whether the game being played by the Finance Ministry at the behest of other Ministries, including the Prime Minister's Office, is really in the economic interest of this country or in the political interest of this party. That is why we would like to have clarifications which will enable us to believe that there is an honest Government functioning here in the national interest and not a dishonest Government functioning in the interests of the corporate sector.

Sir, when I look at the Budget that the hon. Finance Minister presented several months ago, I could not have said this has my electorate had not the kindness to elect me to the Eleventh or Twelfth Lok Sabha, I couldn't, therefore, I am taking the advantage of saying it now.

Ten paragraphs of his speech were devoted to the agricultural development of India, the rural sector. Something like 90 per cent of his speech was devoted to the corporate sector. It is not he who is responsible for this as an original sin, his predecessors too have been increasingly giving attention to the corporate sector at the cost of other sectors of the economy. I think we must not allow disproportionate attention to be given to the corporate sector in the Ministry of Finance because if the Ministry of Finance starts dealing virtually exclusively with the corporate sector, then perhaps he should be redesignated as the Minister of Corporate Affairs and we can have a quite different Minister to deal with the finance of the country as a whole.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

What is necessary is for the Finance Minister to recognise that the State must not abdicate its responsibility to the poor, and we are a poor country. Two-third of our labour force is in agriculture but agriculture accounts for only one-third of our GDP. Therefore, the attention that you gave to the corporate sector, while it might dazzle the eyes by having a beautiful Hyderabad or a beautiful Delhi or a booming Mumbai, will be nothing as compared to the suffering of the people engaged in agriculture or rural development activities who account for a disproportionately large number of Indians engaged in those occupations.

Rural poverty in India has yet another dimension which the Finance Minister must take account of. In rural India, whereas only 20 per cent of the population of Punjab and Haryana is below the poverty line, the figure goes up to 63 per cent in Bihar. There are such major variations in the incidence of poverty in the country as a whole that it is for the Finance Minister to use his Budget as an instrument for accelerating poverty eradication in States where poverty is larger and helping those States who are nearer the margin to pull the rest of their population above the poverty line.

That kind of attention is given so readily to an ESSAR that runs into problems in New York or to a private sector power project in Visakhapatnam and things like that. The Finance Ministry are so preoccupied with looking after the interests of a few rich Indians and very rich multinationals that they completely altered the Telecom Policy because they were threatened by a few Indian business houses and their multi-million multinational partners. But when it came to wheat, they could not find the time to pay attention to the fact that the Indian farmer was suffering on account of wheat import. It is this kind of distortion that I am warning against.

We also have variations in the rate of poverty eradication. For example, in Rajasthan, between the late '50s and early '90s, the reduction in the share of the population below the poverty line fell by only one per cent, from 46 per cent to 45 per cent, whereas in States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala, both of whose poverty levels were higher in the late '50s and both of these States had a poverty ratio of 69 per cent, they brought it down to 41 per cent and 33 per cent respectively. So, the performance of States with regard to poverty eradication is varying greatly. What the Finance Minister ought to be doing is using his powers, both of the purse and of persuasion to get these kind of inequalities also changed.

We need employment, we need credit, we need food in the rural areas. Those are the three most important

instruments of poverty eradication, yet the amount of time dealt with on these subjects in the Budget is so disproportionate to what is given to the corporate sector.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mani Shankar Aiyarji, I am not stopping you. More hon'ble Members will be able to participate in this debate if you express your views in brief. There are 11-12 speakers from your party and, therefore, it will be better if you express your views in brief.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I will conclude after speaking on one point. Then I will abide by your directions.

[English]

To remove poverty apart from employment credit and food, decentralization is the single most important element. Now, both Shri Yashwant Sinha and myself have been bureaucrats. So, one knows better than us the ills of the bureaucracy. So long as the bureaucratization and politicisation of grassroots development continues, thus long there would not be grassroots development. We do need to bring in the Panchayat Raj institutions. Yet I do not think that any Finance Minister till today has taken into account the Panchayat Raj institutions' fiscal deficit in calculating what the overall deficit of the country is.

Now, Sir, under the Constitution, we have the State Finance Commissions, many of whom, I think, most of whom, have presented specific recommendations which are at varying stages of implementation in the States, and that will result in large sums of money going to the local bodies for their development. What we need to know is whether there is a rectification of the current imbalance where the States place upon local bodies big responsibilities for raising revenues, to keep the revenues so raised for themselves and for their own expenditure. So, a Finance Minister, I think, now in the light of the 1992 Constitution Amendment, the Reports of the State Finance Commissions, and above all the Report that is due to come shortly from the Khusro Commission, the Eleventh Finance Commission, which has been specifically mandated to look into the finances of the local bodies, will have to address these issues when he is dealing with the finances of this country.

In the light of this, I would now come to the specifics of what we have before us. We have a Supplementary Demand for Rs. 14,500 crore in terms of net cash outgo. There are a few thousand crores of rupees which are accounted for in other ways and, therefore, I do not wish to go into that because that is merely a matter of accounting. What we now have is that a sum of Rs. 14,500 crore is being asked from us, which cannot but aggravate the fiscal deficit and which cannot but compound the

current fiscal crisis. This is what is disturbing the macro economic framework. If the micro-economic framework is disturbed, then there is very little hope for micro-economic decisions to be able to reverse the adverse consequences of going wrong with the macro-economic framework.

I am particularly concerned that the proposals that have been placed before us are much more disproportionately on the Revenue Account, which means that the increase that is being sought by the Finance Minister is much higher as a percentage of the Revenue Account than a percentage of the total expenditure. We must see as to how this has happened.

There is one Demand, which is now not only unavoidable but to be supported, and that is, the Demand for replenishing the Army, the Armed Forces stores for the Army, the Navy and the Air Force on account of the unfortunate war that took place in Kargil between May and July of this year. Of course, I wish to state now that that war was avoidable. If the Government had been just a little bit more alert about the intrusions that had been taking place for close on eight months before they were identified in the Kargil sector, perhaps we would not have had to suffer this war at all. But we would deal with these matters in detail after the K. Subramaniam Committee Report is presented to us. For the moment I just wish to flag this. But when I see that Demand No. 17, which relates to Defence Pensions, it is 50 per cent higher than the Budget Estimate and it constitutes 25 per cent of the total demand for net cash outgo that is being presented to us by the Finance Minister, I ask myself whether this could not have been anticipated earlier.

For, in the papers that have been circulated to us Demand No. 17 for a sum of Rs. 3,675 crore is explained as follows :

"The Supplementary Grant appropriation is required to meet additional expenditure on account of payment of arrears to pre-1986 and post-1996 pensioners, dearness relief to re-employed and other pensioners, ex-gratia payment, leave encashment, medical allowance, restoration of commutation, etc."

All these are not related to Kargil. They could have been anticipated when the Budget was presented. They should have been anticipated when the Budget was presented but they were not so anticipated. What I want to know from the Finance Minister is this. Why were they not anticipated? Were they not anticipated to help him to present a pretty picture when he presented the Budget? Or are there real inescapable reasons for suddenly burdening us with Rs. 3,675 crore on this account when it should really have been done earlier.

In a similar manner, I turn to Demand No.29, "Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments", which also accounts for 25 per cent of the total net cash outgo that he has mentioned. Most of this money, almost all of it, is for creating an Extended Ways and Means Advances Facility for reforms-linked assistance to State Governments. Was he not contemplating reforms at the time of the presentation of his Budget? Did he not know what these reforms would be? Could he not know and guess that these reforms could have an impact on the finances of the State Governments? Why did he not anticipate this Extended Ways and Means Advances Facility at the time of the Budget? Why now? Why at a time when the country has to pay for something as unavoidable as the Kargil war do we have to be burdened to the extent of 25 per cent by financing a facility which should have been thought of before he moved into his second stage of reforms?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your party has been allotted a total of forty five minutes and you alone have taken 45 minutes.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am just going to wind up with in a minute. Lastly, the Finance Minister, in Demand No. 79 has asked for another Rs.1000 crore. If we take up the two demands that I have already mentioned which amounts to Rs.6000 and odd crore, nearly Rs. 7,000 crore, plus this Rs. 8,000 crore, it is more than 50 percent of the total you are asking for. He has asked for Rs. 1032 crore for investment in the National Highway Authority of India. Now, investing in this is a good idea but for him to bring it on us in the middle of a year when we are in a serious financial crisis is wrong. Either he should have anticipated this level of expenditure in March and said it was part of his Budget, in which case, of course, all the plaudits that he got from those very same gentlemen who have now appointed him as the Finance Minister, would not have been available, or, he should have deliberately, responsibly delayed making this provision until the next Budget. It is this kind of fiscal indiscipline on the part of the Finance Minister that is landing us increasingly in the double relapse of the financial crisis. Therefore, I would urge the Finance Minister to take all these points into serious account before he concludes this debate and asks us to vote for his Grants. We will vote for his Grants but only after we have satisfied ourselves that he is going to be more responsible in the coming six months than he has shown himself in the last six months.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise here to discuss the supplementary demands for grants for 1999-2000 Budget. Just now, my

[Shri Chinmyanand Swami]

friend Mani Shankarji has spoken less on Supplementary Demands and more on Budget. When the Budget was presented, he was not a member of the House. Therefore to compensate that, he spoke more on Budget. I thank him that he has appreciated both the budget and the Minister of Finance.

Being a learned Parliamentarian he has full knowledge of merits and demerits of the budget. He drew the attention of the House towards those meritorious points on which our able Finance Minister has paid attention while drafting the budget. I would like to thank the Finance Minister for the efforts he has made to maintain the balance of the economy of the country under adverse conditions which can either prove to be a historical step in the last fifty years or can be a role model for the coming generation. On the basis of the present financial position, we can say that the demand for Rs. 14500 crore is not too much. This is true that the fiscal deficit towards which Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji drew the attention of the House is a big challenge before the Government but we hope that the Finance Minister would be able to face it with the same skill as he has applied to achieve the target of bringing the derailed economy back to the tracks.

The incidents which have occurred in the country during the last 6 months are unique in their own way, they were not expected. While presenting the budget, they were not even dreamt of. Though my friends in opposition can criticise it on political vendetta but the truth is that the Prime Minister had tried to develop such an atmosphere as no crisis might take place on the borders and the need to increase the defence allocations could be averted. Therefore he undertook the Lahore Bus Journey and tried to improve the relations. But what is happening in our neighbouring country. We can easily understand it. When the coalition government was taking oath in our country, at the same time an elected government was being deposed in our neighbouring country. We can not comment on as to what is the intention and mentality of our neighbour country but can say with surity that our country, for the last so many years, is not in a position to say something definite about the defence budget. A sort of uncertainty always looms large over our heads. Sometimes the expenditure increases under the Defence budget and sometimes under the allocations under the head of home Ministry. When the neighbouring country tries to create disturbances and chaos in our country, immediate arrangements are required to be made to combat those activities, when we pay attention toward them, definitely the expenditure increases. Basically I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister that the economy of the country has really improved due to the measures adopted under the budget. As our friends themselves

accept that the condition of the share market which is existing now, had never been so sound during the last fifty years. We never had this much of foreign exchange reserves which we have today. The foodgrains which we have in our stores today was never available in this much quantity. We are grateful to the Finance Minister and appreciate his attempts that our country has made such a record achievement within a very limited period but we are surprised to note that there is more expenditure on unproductive and less expenditure on productive activities. Mani Shankar ji has rightly drew the attention towards the agriculture. We have to pay more attention towards increasing agriculture produce. Alongwith it, there will be a need to expand the infrastructure required in the villages to increase the agricultural production. Roads, irrigation facilities and the means of preserving the agriculture produce in the villages would have to be created. I was surprised to learn that the vegetables and fruits worth Rs.23 thousand crore are thrown after they got rotten. There is no arrangement for their preservation. Had the government searched foreign market for their export, the money earned through export would have been utilised for further export. To improve our economy we have to pay attention towards exports alongwith productivity. If the exports do not increase, we will not be able to boost up our economy, however hard we may try. Not only the manufactured goods can be exported but the Agro-products can also be exported.

17.20 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Had we paid attention towards fruits and vegetables and searched market for them and provided protection to the vegetable and fruit growers, it would have been better but it is a matter of surprise that they are not provided any kind of protection. No protection is being provided by the Government also. They produce potatoes but due to non availability of reasonable prices in the market, they have to sell it at Rs. one per kilogram. While the chips manufacturers sell them at Rs. 200 per kg. Fruits and vegetables are commercial crops. As there is no proper market for these produces. No attention is being paid towards them. No arrangement becomes possible for them. My submission to the Finance Minister is that arrangements should be made for paying proper attention towards commercial crops. Now perhaps, it may be taken up in the new agriculture policy and a proper atmosphere for marketing of fruits and vegetable crops could be created.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, similarly, a lot of foreign exchange can be obtained through the cultivation and export of flowers. That produce can be given a better place in the market by floriculture. Unfortunately, we have not been able to pay our attention towards this sector and the

foreigners have been trying for floriculture in our country. How we corporate with them will depend on our policy in this regard. Had our attention been gone towards flower cultivation, definitely, foreign exchange could have been earned through it. Today the world is finding favour with Ayurveda. The drugs under Ayurveda system are found in northern parts of India. They are also found on our sea-shores. If we pay attention towards it, we can earn a lot of foreign exchange through it. I mean to say that our agricultural production will increase as much as we pay our attention towards it. We would be as much self-dependent as we spend on it. One of our friends was saying that the expenditure is increasing. No one had imagined about the Orissa cyclone. Several of our friends have demanded to constitute a National Calamity Fund to make available enough money for combating such calamities and doing away with the need of supplementary and excess grants which arise out of such calamities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, defence expenditure is increasing. There are two or three reasons for it because the Kargil episode took place suddenly. We had to face it and the expenditure involved in it, could not have been averted. Money was spent to boost up the moral of the army personnels and to provide protection to their families. The Government did a lot for protecting the families of those who were either wounded or killed during the war. It is such an example as is unprecedented.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, unexpected increase has been made in the salaries, allowances and other facilities of soldiers. These expenditures have been incurred to boost the morale of these people. The road which has been mentioned here, it is surprised that even after 50 years that road has not been constructed. It is known fact that earlier 70 per cent of transportation of goods was done through railway and now it has come to 40 per cent and the remaining 60 per cent of transportation of goods is done through roads. Roads are necessary for transportation of goods. So long as roads are not properly linked, we will lag behind in the field of transportation and we cannot reach the right market in time with our products. For this purpose we certainly require roads. Alongwith this, I would like to know as to what are those expenditures which we wanted to avoid. I know that the Government expenditure is increasing. Today only, I was reading in the newspaper that in one State two Ministers went in a helicopter to have feast. Sir, we should try to reduce the Government expenditure.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that now-a-days crores of rupees are spent on marriages and the Ministers and officers attend those marriages on Government expenditure. These are all extravagant expenditure which we should try to

avoid. Those are all personal matters. In personal matters, it will be better if they spend their own money. Whenever there is any Marriage in the House of Minister or Officer or any capitalist then all Ministers attend that marriage on Government expenditure. They reach there with the money of those poor people who could not marry off their daughters for want of dowry and who are not in a positions to offer good hospitality to the guests. This is an extravagant expenditure and an effort should be made to check this. It will be good if some law is enacted so that this expenditure could be checked. If we check this extravagant expenditure then certainly we will be able to control our economy.

I will not take much time of the House and while thanking the hon'ble Minister of Finance, I would like to draw his attention towards rural development, agricultural development, production and towards export for making the country economically self-reliant.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall confine myself to some of the items in the Supplementary Demands for Grants and I will not go beyond that. Only when necessary, to illustrate my point, I shall refer to the original Budget provision.

The hon. Minister got another opportunity to correct the fiscal distortions that had been taking place and which has been a matter of great concern to the whole nation. The interest burden has gone beyond control. As has been referred to by my hon. colleague here on the other side, it is going to such an extent that if you take into account the fiscal deficits of all the State Governments put together it is to the tune of about ten per cent of the G.D.P. But the hon. Minister of Finance has not cared to correct the fiscal distortions that are taking place, although we have been assured about an Expenditure Commission.

On one occasion I have heard that there have been some suggestions about resorting to article 292 of the Constitution and have some gap on the borrowing. If adequate and timely steps are not taken for fiscal correction, I think whatever is being proposed now or whatever is going to be proposed in the next Budget after two months, it will all be a meaningless exercise.

I am first coming to the items of the Supplementary Demands for Grants. There are five items which are there in the Supplementary Demands for Grants. The first is Defence. This is, perhaps, the largest Supplementary Demand made in recent years in respect of Defence. Of course, the near-war situation, or whatever you call it, in Kargil was there which is one of the basic causes which was unforeseen.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

I may agree on it, but pension, dearness allowance, and payment of dues or arrears have all been jumbled up together. Could the pension amount not be foreseen ?

Sir, I have a point to make on the Supplementary Demands for Grants itself. Only new expenses or unforeseen expenses can be taken into account in the Supplementary Demands for Grants. For example, let us take up Defence. This is the latest report of C&AG; of course, this is a civil one. In this, there is a reference to Defence Services at page 106. According to it, the voted original Grant was Rs. 36,643.82 crore, the Supplementary Grant was Rs. 1,268.37 crore, and the unspent provision was Rs. 1,460.21 crore. It means that when the Supplementary Demands for Grants were placed before the House, they had already about Rs. 200 crore unspent or unutilised money and yet they made such a Demand. This is only one illustration. I have so many such illustrations.

Now, I am making a reference to the Thirteenth Report of the PAC (1996-97) relating to the Ministry of Defence. I am just quoting the relevant part only. It says :

"The Committee's examination has, however, revealed that the mechanism of obtaining Supplementary funds was used by the MoD during a particular year in a rather casual and routine manner, without carefully conducting a proper assessment of the expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred by them against the funds already made available to them. The net result was that Supplementary funds of the order of Rs. 157.95 crore obtained under voted portions of the two Grants relating to Defence proved unnecessary as the final savings of Rs. 227.88 crore, in these cases, far exceeded the Supplementary allocations."

Then, I am reading the last part. It says :

"What has disturbed the Committee more is the fact that MoD had obtained Supplementary funds even for those segments in four Grants where original provisions were still more than adequate, despite withdrawal of funds through reappropriations there from."

I mean, Sir, the Supplementary Demands for Grants have become a ritual. The budgetary exercise has become casual and there is lack of seriousness in it. They do not care to look into it. I can quote any number of observations made by very important Committee, particularly the PAC and the C&AG. We are going to pass these Supplementary Demands for Grants. But my plea is, the Chair has a responsibility here and I would seek your protection,

henceforth the Appropriation Accounts must be submitted to Parliament before the Supplementary Demands for Grants are presented. I am making a reference to the Defence Services Appropriation Accounts. It has not been submitted for the previous year. When it is submitted after the passing of the Supplementary Demands for Grants, it becomes a useless or a futile exercise. Parliament cannot be taken for a ride; Parliament has a role, that is, to exercise its control over the executive. We would be failing miserably in performing that responsibility, if we are deprived of such important information which can only come through the Appropriation Accounts.

We pass the Supplementary Demands for Grants as casually as they are being presented, without any proper assessment of the needs and the quantum of funds that are lying unutilized. On several occasions, the funds could not be utilised even at the end of the financial year. This is my first submission.

Secondly, second item has been mentioned as, Transfer to States - ways and means. Could it not be foreseen ? Could the Government not foresee it ? Now, they are saying there is Rs. 3000 crore for transfer to States. This, of course, includes both the States as well as the Union Territories. Now, I have a question to ask. The Tenth Finance Commission had categorically pointed out about devolution and about transfer of funds to the States. There should be a transfer to the extent of 29 per cent of the total revenues. What has happened to that ?

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : It has been accepted but not yet been implemented ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Yes. Day before yesterday we heard that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a Memorandum. Many States, for that matter, have been doing it. Just yesterday I was talking to Shri Farooq Abdullah, the hon. Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir. All States, irrespective of the party in power, are in such a bad financial position that they are even unable to pay salaries to their employees.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I would be making only brief and relevant points.

Sir, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have failed to pay salaries to the college teachers of that States for several months now. Unless restructuring of the financial relation between the Centre and the States is taken up seriously, there would be friction between the Centre and the States thereby resulting in further deterioration in the financial condition of the States, which might finally awaken the Centre as well.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Already it is causing friction between the Centre and the States.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Centre can borrow recklessly and desperately without any limit. They can go to any extent to borrow. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, the Telugu Desam Party is a partner of this ruling combine, has demanded that the State should be given the right to borrow without reference to the Central Government. This is a point which should be taken care of.

Sir, I am happy that Rs. 850 has been allotted as Central Assistance to the State of Jammu & Kashmir. But there is an apprehension in many quarters in respect of many States. I am not talking about the State of Jammu & Kashmir alone, that the money allocated to the States should be utilised for the purpose for which it has been allocated to them. The State of Jammu & Kashmir needs reconstruction of primary and secondary schools, primary health centres, hospitals, roads etc. which have been ravaged by the terrorists on different occasions. I am happy that Central Assistance has been provided to the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sir, a sum of Rs. 1,353 has been allocated for the construction of the National Highways. Out of that amount, Rs. 547 crore has been allocated for maintenance of the roads.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I have a point to make and I hope, we all shall agree with it. During the Budget, Rs. 1/- per litre was taken as cess. Fifty per cent of the income from the Excise and Customs was to be given for the road fund. What has happened to that? How much amount of money was realised on that and how is that fund being transferred for road development?

Sir, I come to the next point. There are five items – defence, civilian pension, transfer to States, allocations and loans. The Central Relief Fund and the National Calamity Relief Fund should be taken resort to in cases of rarest and severest natural calamities. You know, Sir, that nothing comparable to the recent super cyclone in Orissa has occurred in the last two hundred years. I do not know how many people died. However, no provision has been made for extra assistance to Orissa, not only to Orissa but also to West Bengal which was seriously affected by heavy downpour and flood. The Government of West Bengal demanded an amount of Rs. 721 crore. After the Central team visited the State, it had recommended a meagre Rs. 135 crore. Even that has not been given. The same is the case with Andhra Pradesh which was afflicted by floods. The same is the case with Bihar.

When the Government comes to the House here to present the Supplementary Demands for Grants, it should take care of the demands of the States, particularly those States which are afflicted by natural calamities.

Sir, Parliament is supreme and it cannot be treated casually. On many occasions in the past, the budget exercise was undertaken by the Government in such a manner that it did not take into account the obvious expenditure that they may have to incur in the year. Sometimes, the Government comes to the House with Supplementary Demands for Grants very casually even when the original budget is left unspent. On many occasions in the past I had made a mention of these things.

Finally, I would once again request the hon. Finance Minister to make some provision for the States of Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and the other States which have been the victims of natural calamities.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today discussion has been started on supplementary demands for grants (General budget). Yesterday, discussion on Agriculture was held under Rule 193. In that each member stressed only on agriculture and discussion continued till midnight. You were also present yesterday. You have seen that all members had mentioned mostly about miserable condition of farmers. Wherever natural calamity occurs in the form of flood or drought, the condition of farmers will become miserable as timely action is not taken. If their 1-2 crops get damaged then it takes years to improve their condition. The farmers should get the full benefit of Crop Insurance Scheme introduced by the Government so that whenever there is any natural calamity, they can protect themselves. Crores of rupees are spent on flood relief work every year in the areas which are adjoining Nepal border like district Sidharth Nagar which is my constituency. If a master plan is made then the recurring floods can be averted and that area can be made free from floods forever.

Just now Hon'ble members have mentioned many points. We have to ensure that the funds provided to the State Government under any head, whether it is Jawahar Rozgar Yojana or Assured Employment Scheme, should be utilised properly. Often, it is seen that funds are not utilised for the purpose for which it is allocated. In this House many things are discussed about farmers that India is an agricultural country that 70 per cent of its population resides in villages but even today there are many villages where there are no proper roads. It came to our notice when we visited those places during recent elections. There are no roads, schools, electricity and hospital. We do agree that Government has made provision for these

[Shri Rampal Singh]

things in the budget. It is also mentioned in the President's Address that priority will be given to all these things. Through the union Government, I demand from the Minister of Agriculture that first of all the issue pertaining to the farmers of India be discussed. The 70 per cent population of country who lives in villages should be provided the facilities of potable water, schools, medical care and power etc. They should be provided fertilizers and electricity so that their condition could improve. Once the farmers become self-reliant the country will automatically make progress. India is not going to progress due to foreign companies. When farmers become self-reliant then country will automatically be self-reliant. At present there is no need to import foodgrains. Whatever research is carried out in this regard, effort should be made that it reaches the farmers. The credit cards have been issued to farmers. The godowns and cold storages should be set up in rural areas so that things can be stored. Through you, I would request Minister of Finance that attention should be paid towards all these things.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, with regard to the discussion which is going on in the house regarding supplementary demands for grants, I would also like to place some of my views before you. I feel that government don't have scarcity of funds. If the funds provided by government are spent in a prudent manner then there will be no such problem before the country. What kind of irony is this, what kind of phenomenon is this that the need for supplementary demands for grants was felt when the budget was about to be presented two months later in the months of February. Hon'ble Finance Minister should have understood it earlier itself as to what is our expenditure because earlier too he was the Minister of Finance. He should have an estimate of our expenditure. Now, since this issue is being discussed, my only submission is that the funds being provided to the various departments in the name of development should be utilised properly. In case government sends rupee one for development work at any particular place only 15 paise reach there. The Government should think as to how it can stop the bungling of remaining 85 paise and how it can be utilised properly. Today there is a need for monitoring. I would like to stress that accountability of officers should be fixed for development works. I know that thousands of crores of rupees are spent in constructing roads but they do not last even for a year. The scenario in your state is absolutely clear. Bihar is such a state where national highway is not conducive even for running bullock carts. What is the reason for it. The roads of Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra and south provinces are good, well- built, of high quality and strong.

After all, what is the problem in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The reason is that in those states part of funds goes into the pocket of contractors and officers and the remaining funds go into the pocket of politicians. Monitoring is required due to this. Huge amount is being released for JRY and SRY. The funds for JRY are directly given to Panchayats at district level. Has anyone ever tried to find out that the funds, which are directly given to Panchayats, are utilised actually or not. The constituency to which I belong about that I can claim that 90 percent funds of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana goes waste and the Pradhan of the Gram Sabha usurpes the whole money. Whether government are considering to do something in this regard? There is no use in increasing allocation and in passing demands because unless funds are utilised properly our development is not possible.

The biggest problem at present is that our Government is under the American pressure. Whether this issue has ever been considered as to how much subsidy is given to the farmers of America? What is that reason that America gives 27% subsidy to its farmers but ask India that subsidy should be discontinued. Today our Government is working under this direction. The main reason behind increasing the rate of diesel is this only. Though its reason can be that the prices in the international market might have increased but subsidy is decreasing on fertilizers. Afterall, why the excesses are being committed only on farmers. The 50% economy of Government depends upon agriculture and it seems that your intention is to put whole burden on farmers. You are not able to do any special work. Today our Minister of Agriculture is not present here but I would like to know as to how many procurement centres you have opened in Uttar Pradesh where paddy is being procured at the price fixed by the Government? Atleast in our district there is no such arrangement. Whether the Government will pay attention towards this also? When we cannot pay attention towards such small things then there is no use of sitting here and wasting time? I am of the definite view that unless accountability is fixed for proper management of funds, we cannot progress.

At present not only in Uttar Pradesh but in entire India biggest problem is that of potatoes. This problem is existing for the last three years and will be there in future also. Whether it is Uttar Pradesh or Punjab, the farmers are suffering for the last three years. This issue has been continuously discussed in the House and I have myself raised this issue several times but Government never paid attention towards this. Potato is a perishable stock. I belong to Farrukhabad district. One third of potatoes is produced in Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh but not even one third storage capacity of the total production is available there. The remaining potatoes is sent to various states. The

Government talk about giving subsidy on cold storages for storing potatoes but approval will be given in Delhi. There is no such provision of giving 25% subsidy on loans at State level. I request the Government that whatever may be provision for giving subsidy by NABARD but if it is given at State level then certainly more cold storages will be set up and farmers will be benefitted. Last year in 1997-98, when prices of potatoes, which was stored in cold storages, suddenly increased to Rs. 1200 per quintal, the farmers earned some money as their crops were damaged due to some disease. When farmers started getting some money, the Government of that State imposed ban on potatoes and the District Magistrate went to Mandies to monitor the sale of potatoes. The Government banned the export of potatoes to Nepal and Bangladesh and within one week the potatoes which were selling at Rs. 1200 per quintal came down to Rs.350 per quintal. You have imposed ban on their produce but have you ever thought that he should get enough price for his produce? Whether Government has thought about some arrangement for them also? It is true that we do not produce qualitative potatoes so that we can beat international market or enter in competition but it is certain that there are many countries in the world who can consume our potatoes. In this way, we can earn foreign exchange. I would like to warn the Government that at present climate is favourable for potato crop and it has been grown on large scale. The bumper crop of potatoes is expected. If Government do not pay attention towards potato growers of Uttar Pradesh then they can also commit suicide on the lines of cotton growers and sugarcane growers.

Uttar Pradesh has a very big problem, though this is a problem of the entire country but it is somewhat more in our state. The annual income of our State is Rs. 7500 crores and Rs. 11500 crores is spent on the salaries to employees. On 6th of last month when I came from there, I found that only the employees of police department could get their salaries and rest could not get it. This is also a problem associated to our State.

In Uttar Pradesh, no new power House, whether it is of NTPC or any other sector, has been installed for the last 10 years nor there is any scheme to install new power house. We are able to produce only 1/3rd of our installed capacity because there is no proper maintenance. Inferior quality coal is supplied to power plant due to which turbine goes out of order and its result is that people do not get electricity in rural areas. If new schemes are not launched for our State and no power plant is installed then farmers of our State will never get electricity.

The farmer produces but he is helpless to reach mandis as there are no proper roads. The Governments which remain in power in the State said that villages having population of 2000 will be linked by roads. But I

claim that even now 50% of villages having population of more than 2000, do not have roads in Uttar Pradesh. The main State highways are also in dilapidated condition. The tractors and bullock carts get damaged frequently on this road. I know that allocation has been made for roads. My request is that the money sent to the State Government should be monitored. If monitoring is done in a proper manner then the State and country will progress.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House desires so, the time of the House can be extended from 6 o'clock till all the members, who are interested to speak on this subject, complete their speeches.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : It will be better if the reply is also given today itself.

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Alright.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the House is extended till the conclusion of this discussion.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully support the Supplementary Demands for Grants placed before the House by the hon. Finance Minister. This has been brought about to defray the charges which will be accruing in due course and to meet the deficits which have arisen out of the Kargil war and other unforeseen expenses besides the regular expenditure of the Central Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to stress here that this Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee – particularly Shri Yashwant Sinha who has again got the responsibility of holding the Finance Ministry – has proved that the previous Government during the 12th Lok Sabha had served the nation to its utmost. I come from the State of Orissa which is one of the most backward States of the country, as per the Lakadawala Committee Report; the people living below the poverty line in Orissa is more than 60 per cent. Therefore, this clearly indicates that the State of Orissa has been completely neglected in the past by the previous Governments and specially the region known as KBK. The KBK region comprises of the districts of Koraput, Kalahandi and Bolangir, where there were allegations of starvation deaths, where there were allegations of migration and where there were allegations of children being sold for Rs. 20. This was the picture during the period of the Congress Governments which rules the State of Orissa and the country.

Our Government tried its best to remove these black spots in our democracy and had initiated the KBK programme with utmost dedication and vigour. Today you can see that most of the projects in those areas had

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

been sanctioned during the period of the 12th Lok Sabha. I would therefore plead with the hon. Finance Minister, through you, Sir, that the irrigation projects which were not completed may be completed during this financial year itself and the problems of poverty may be solved.

As I was going through the Budget papers, I saw that the unprecedented attack by Pakistan on Kashmir in Kargil sector has affected the Indian Exchequer to a great extent. That is why, they need additional funds to defray charges on account of Operation Vijay, for transportation work of the Army, for transportation work of the Air Force, etc. It is also seen that additional moneys have also been given to poverty alleviation programmes. In Demand No. 71, it has been clearly mentioned that an amount of Rs. 91 crore has been earmarked for the IRDP programmes, an amount of Rs. 340 crore has been earmarked for economic assurance schemes and an amount of Rs. 120 crore has been earmarked for special loan assistance for DRDA.

This clearly indicates that this money will go to the backward areas of the country where it is needed the most. It is also seen that this sector was completely neglected by the previous Government. Today, our Government is bound to remove poverty from the society and the country.

I would like to remind the august House that Navaratnas, where the organised sector of the country works, are in dire straits.

18.04 hours

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

They are in dire straits. Take the example of SAIL, take the example of NALCO, take the example of Hindustan Cables, or NEPA Limited or Burns India Limited. All these companies were run by political postings previously lacking expertise, thereby leading to the failure of these projects. Today, they should have been blue chip companies of the country but they have turned poor companies and they are in red because of bad management and policies of the previous Government.

The Government have taken steps to take the economy towards liberalisation. A few days ago this House has passed several Bills like the Insurance and the FEMA Bills. This would give boost to the economy which is in a poor State which this Government inherited from the Congress Government. This dying economy has to be improved. New legislations have been brought forward to take full advantage of the liberalisation.

Before I conclude, I would like to make a mention about the cyclone that swept Orissa. Recently my State, Orissa, was ravaged because of the super cyclone.

Cyclone of this nature which has hit the Orissa coast is unprecedented and unheard of. The hon. Prime Minister has provided grants to the extent of Rs. 950 crore. I thank the hon. Prime Minister for that. This issue was discussed in this House a few days ago.

The Orissa Government has messed up the whole situation. It is unable to execute the relief work properly. Scandals, one after the other, are coming up in the relief work. From this, one can understand that the Congress which should be humane in its approach towards the flood-affected and cyclone-affected people, is behaving very callously. I plead to the Government that steps should be taken on a warfooting, a machinery should be set up, to see that the benefits of the relief work reach the affected people. There has been an announcement to the effect that Cyclone Reconstruction Committee would be set up. This should be set up immediately.

With these few words, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government and the House that Guru Teg Bahadur's Martyrdom Day falls on 13th December. Earlier, the Delhi Government declared holiday on 24th November, but when it came to know that it is on 13th December, it has declared holiday on 13th December. I got it confirmed that the House never transacted any business on this historic day. If the House has never done business on this day, this time it should be considered.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Madam, hon. Finance Minister has approached this House with a request to withdraw huge sum from CFI. In fact, it is a mini Budget and it is not a Supplementary Demands for Grants. Before the House gives him permission, through you, I would like him to inform the House as to whether his Budget proposals providing facilities and exemptions are successful or not. Generally, the party in power, when it goes to the elections, talks of poor people, unorganised sector and agriculturists. But immediately after elections, the Government holds its first meeting with organisations like the FICCI and the CII. The Government is not giving audience to INTUC, AITUC and other trade unions and other vulnerable sections represented by certain NGOs and Parliamentarians. I was employed in the Revenue Department. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the status of black money in this country.

For all these years, the industrialists and rich people of this country were demanding that the Government should reduce the tax limit if it wants to collect more tax from the people. According to me, the present limit is one of the lowest in the world. As per many economists, as also the Press Reports, if one compares the rate of

collection linking with the index and inflation, in spite of the reduction in limit the Government could not collect enough tax as compared to the tax collected in the year 1991. Let the House know the response of the hon. Minister. Why, even after the decision of the Government to introduce a heavy reduction, particularly in direct taxes, people did not respond? I welcome Corporate Tax but I do not welcome a Finance Minister selected by a corporate sector. During the last two to three years, the Government has not paid proper attention to various social sectors. I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Finance Minister a few areas from where the country can get more and more revenue without imposing tax. For all these years, we have somehow ignored these areas.

As a Revenue Officer, I was posted at a minor port known as Bhavnagar. Under Section 192 of the Income Tax Act, I was supposed to give clearance certificate for the departure of cargo steamer. I enquired from them as to what was being exported because Bhavnagar is not manufacturing any particular item which can be exported. I was shocked, astonished, surprised, to know that they were exporting rice husk and marble chips which are otherwise thrown away in our country. I then enquired from the exporter as to what they were doing with these two articles. I was informed that rice husk has about 8 per cent of rice bran oil. We do not undertake that job here as a result tonnes and tonnes of rice husk is being exported from a minor port to foreign countries. I also enquired about the marble chips which we throw away. I was told that they convert it into a powder which was again imported by our country for beautifying big bungalows.

Sir, I come from a constituency which is agro-based. About 60 per cent to 80 per cent of China Grass or the *Isabgol* is being produced in Patan, Rajasthan and Gujarat. I was surprised to know that the *Isabgol* being produced at Mehsana and certain districts of Rajasthan was exported to Japan and America by Air. I enquired as to why it was being exported. I was told that we do not have the processing machines which Americans or Japanese have. It is processed there and again sent back to our country at a cost which is twenty times more. It is used as a laxative. If it is enclosed in a capsule, it can act as a medicine. Like these, there are many sectors from where the Central Government can earn more revenue. If the Government could earn revenue from these sectors, there would not have been any need to approach the House with this Supplementary Demand. . . . (Interruptions)
Madam, I am making points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are so many more speakers even from your Party and there is not enough time. I cannot give more than 10 minutes to each Member.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : The Government should not go for mega cities, info cities and macro cities. I am making the statement with a responsibility. This Government is pro-urban, pro-rich, anti-poor, anti-villages and anti-agriculturists.

I will give you a small example. I come from a State where inhuman system of carrying night-soil on head is even now going on. There are no funds with the Central Government or the State Government for removing that. But we have sufficient funds for flyovers, over-bridges, mega cities, metro cities and what not. My State Government had requested the Central Government to give Rs. 100 crore for drinking water. My State Government requested for Rs. 600 crore only, but it was not given. Hardly Rs. 40 crore to Rs. 50 crore was given. So I would request the hon. Finance Minister that before this House passes this Bill, kindly come forward and tell what was the result of various schemes, namely, SAMADHAN, etc. announced by you for the rich people. We would also like to know whether the blackmoney has come down or it has increased.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : Madam, Chairperson, I have been hearing with rapt attention the illuminating speeches from both sides on the Supplementary Budget. I heard hon. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar when he was eulogizing our macro economic achievements. There is no harm if macro economic achievements are eulogized. But the State of micro economic imbalances has been ignored. When he was telling that in all sectors of the economy, there will be good growth and good achievement, they have forgotten one part of the country, namely, Eastern part of India - Orissa - which has lost everything. If one limb is suffering from disease how can you say and vouch that the growth is balanced one and we have achieved very many good things. I have been always holding this view. The Constitution was so framed, the laws thereunder were so enacted, the administration at the Centre so behaved and the politics is so designed that they have stood always to the detriment of the interest of the backward classes. It was emphasized at the time of framing the Constitution that if such provisions were there, if the Constitution would contain such provisions then the backward States like Orissa, Bihar, Assam and (U.P.) Madhya Pradesh would remain always backward. During 52 years of Independence, these four States have remained backward and if such Constitutional provisions will continue, if such attitude will continue then those States will remain always backward.

I shall confine myself to one or two areas only. Madam, we have to keep in mind articles 292 and 293 of the Constitution. The Finance Minister has rightly told that we

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

are moving into the debt trap. I am asking one small question. Under article 292, there is a provision that we should limit our borrowing and debt.

If I remember correctly, only Prof. Madhu Dandavate, when he was the Finance Minister, announced in this august House that by the end of the year he would bring in a legislation to limit our borrowing as required under article 292. But he did not see the end of the year and that was not enacted. Never before did a Finance Minister say that and after him it has never been told or attempted by anybody.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : That was a phrase only.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : The borrowing should be limited; the debt should be limited for the Centre as well as for the States as required under article 293. My point is very simple. Today some States, particularly backward States, have staggering debt burden. As you know, as per the provisions of article 293, a State cannot borrow a single copper coin from outside or from anybody without the permission of the Centre. It has been said that as per Gadgil formula, in the Plan assistance, there will be 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant. As a result, the outstanding debt burden is mounting up constantly. Therefore, very recently, the C.M. of Andhra Pradesh has rightly demanded that article 293 should be amended and freedom should be given for borrowing by the States. My point is, it was there in the Government of India Act, 1935. But it is not there in our free and Republic Indian Constitution. It has been taken away. Had that been there, the State could have grown on their own. It was not given to them and therefore the debt burden has been mounting up constantly due to the faulty policy of the Centre.

Secondly, I have always been maintaining that laws made under the Constitution are so enacted that they have stood against the interest of the backward States. I may give you one example, articles 269 and 270 are not only similar; they are same. The language used in both the articles is the same. But Income Tax has been brought into the divisible pool and the Finance Commission is empowered to devolve it among the States. But, so far as other taxes under article 269 are concerned, they are not devolved. Both the languages are the same, I don't say similar.

If people look at the Central Sales tax, they would see that Maharashtra is earning a revenue of more than Rs 1500 crore every year. It is a developed State as per Indian standards. Whereas Orissa, as per one report of 1994-95, had earned only Rs. 4 crore. Had it gone into the divisible pool, things would have been different.

Similarly, Consignment Tax has been incorporated in the Constitution of India in 1982, but no law has yet been enacted. As a result, backward States like Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal too are deprived of this.

It is not only that. I told you day before yesterday regarding the royalty on minerals. By no stretch of imagination royalty on minerals is to be imposed by the Centre under the Constitution. It is not at all within the power of the Centre. It is a State subject. It is there in the State List listed as Item No. 50. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you have to wind up. We are running out of time.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Should I stop in the middle? If you want that, I will do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am requesting you to wind up as soon as possible.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : I am doing that. But you are taking most of my time. I shall not take much time because I am a new Member. I have not yet become a problem to the Chair. The old Members are there. Only, they are the problems to the Chair. Please remember that the new Members are not your problem. . . .(Interruptions)

Coming to the subject, royalty has been fixed by the Centre. Again, royalty has been revised arbitrarily. Royalty has not been fixed as per the provision of the Act. Royalty has been fixed as per the caprice of the Central Government. As a result, I am telling you that Orissa alone is losing about Rs. 500 crore every year. How can Orissa improve its infrastructure? How will it provide money for social services like education and health? These are the problems. These are the pertinent things that I am raising before the august House to have a rethinking in the 50th Year of the Republic. This should be borne in mind. We should revise it accordingly. Unless we do that unless the micro-economic imbalances are corrected, I tell you that all the macro-economic achievements will become meaningless. I feel it is absolutely a futile exercise. I shall tell you this boldly.

I know the ability of the hon. Finance Minister for quite a number of years. But I would again request him to look into the area to which the successive Governments have turned a blind eye.

Last but not the least, I have made a request to the Finance Minister, to the Prime Minister and to the Parliament of India to extend the term of the Eleventh Finance Commission. Let the Eleventh Finance Commission give an Interim Report for 1999-2000 and then for five years because the Members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha will get ample time and opportunity to interact with

them. I tell you why I have told this thing. All the successive Finance Commissions have been given the responsibility to suggest means for sound finance both of the Centre and the States. But not a single Finance Commission has ever made such recommendations to that effect. I have requested the Govt. to extend the term so that the hon. Members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha would get an opportunity to interact with them. I hope the Finance Minister and the Union Government will look into it.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Pansukura) : Madam, at the outset, I would like to say that we all know that the economic situation of most of the States is very bad. Some of the States are not being able to pay the salaries of their employees. Under the circumstances, the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission to give the States 29 per cent of the total revenue has not been carried out.

At least that should have been there. I would have liked to see it in this supplementary Budget. West Bengal wanted Rs. 721 crore for flood, etc. Unfortunately, there is no provision for that in this Budget. I do not want to go into the details again about Orissa. Naturally, Orissa will need much more money.

I was the first person to reach Bhopal after the Bhopal gas tragedy. So many years have passed and so many Governments have gone. Unfortunately even after 14 years, they have to come and beg for their compensation. I see that Rs. 177 crore have been allocated this time. I hope that this amount will really reach the victims of the gas tragedy and solve this problem once and for all.

Now, I find that an amount of Rs. 50 crore is being given as an advance to the Central Government employees for buying motorcars. I do not know the necessity to give this amount now when there is so much financial crunch.

Then, I find that Rs. 8 crore have been given to the National Reconstruction Corps. Who are the people in the National Reconstruction Corps ? Is that not an outfit of the RSS ? Is it a fact that this money has been given for financing the hidden agenda ?

Now, last but not the least is the question of black money. I would like to know how much black money has been realised during this period. Everybody knows that if we could realise the black money, then, we shall not be in trouble because of our finances. But no serious attempt is being made for retrieving the black money. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much effort has been made in this regard. This being the situation, naturally, I am not in a position to support the supplementary Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on the Supplementary Demands for Grants. I am very happy that various types of discussion took place in this House regarding the tribals; but in view of these demands, I think it is not proper to ask for such Supplementary Demands after the General Budget. I was under the impression that funds would have been sought through these demands for the cyclone victims of Orissa but after going through these demands it appears that it is not so. Thus it is not correct to get approved the Supplementary Demands for Grants after the General Budget.

Hon'ble Chairperson, I would like to say only are think about agriculture that a lot of research works have been conducted in this field. There is a village named Chinchor in my constituency which is a part of the backward region and agricultural activities are not being undertaken there for the last five to six years. When we talk to the researchers we were told that still they have not been able to find out any solution in this regard. As such I want to know as to where they are carrying out there research work ? They should go to villages to carry out their research. They do not go to villages. Instead of going to villages for research work. They manage any how to stay in cities. They should go to village.

I would also like to say something about the Small Scale Industries. Large number of people are engaged in handloom industries in Malegaon, Ichal Karanji and Bhiwandi in Maharashtra. There are five lakhs people engaged in handloom sector. The handloom sector is such a sector as is capable of eradicating unemployment upto some extent. I request the Minister of Finance to allocate more funds for this sector. I would also like to say something about the Supreme Court. About this Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said that some parts of the Constitution should be deleted and on some other there should be a discussion. Judiciary is the part of democracy but people do not get justice from it. There should be some discussion with the Pant Pradhan the Prime Minister about the time frame for disposal of cases and a stipulated period should be fixed so that the poors can get justice as early as possible. I want to say that poor people are not treated properly.

In my Parliamentary Constituency there should be a four lane road from Nasik to Dhule. There is only one approach road from the Badaiwue village to the National Highway and there is heavy traffic on it. On one side of that road there is a school and offices of health department and other government organisations. Due to dense traffic on the road, 4-5 children have died there in road accidents. I demand that a fifteen kilometre long road should be

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

constructed from Badaiwui Tehsil Chandbad. He has visited the said village during the election campaign of the Pant Pradhan so. We did not make any demand at that time as it was the election campaign.

A discussion had already taken place yesterday regarding electricity. I would also like to say something about environment that white collar Babus talk much about it but the employees of the rural department do not take interest in such affairs. What sort of environment is it? Though we have no forests, our region receives heavy rainfall. These people are making money in the name of environment and creating awkward situation for the government. The Forest department has acquired four acre of land in Nipad Taluka Tehsil. You should also pay attention towards this. I thank you very much for giving me time to speak.

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH (Kodarma) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have risen to speak on Supplementary Demands for Grants on the Budget. Several hon'ble Members have said many things in this regard. I do not want to go into the details of those things but I would like to say something about rural areas. The hon'ble Minister is a dynamic leader with rural background. There are two aspects of implementation. Fund is allocated to the agencies of the State Governments and there are some departments under them. These two things are separate. I would like to say that due to improper way of implementation the condition of the farmers is worse.

J.R.Y. was an assured scheme under rural development. Recently it has been renamed as 'Samrudh Gram Yojana'. No mention has been made about the expenditure to be incurred on the schemes undertaken under the J.R.Y. Whatever allocation has been made under the rural schemes, a condition has been laid down while allocating the funds that only new schemes will be taken up and earlier schemes should be discontinued. The old buildings whose walls have been erected and ponds which are near completion have been left incomplete. I request that it should be ascertained as to how much fund is required for completion of the schemes undertaken earlier under J.R.Y. will you make provision in this regard in the Budget if it has not already been made. It is necessary to complete these schemes in March otherwise the expenditure thereon will increase after monsoon. No clearcut directions have been issued so far about the assured scheme. Funds have not been allocated and nothing has been said about the fate of the old schemes and what will happen to the new schemes, only circulars keep on changing and guidelines are being issued from time to time. I would like

to say that clear directions should be issued on these two points which are related to rural people.

The issues relating to the farmers were discussed here yesterday also. The earlier Government had announced that farmers' loans upto Rs. 10,000 would be waived of. It has been announced several times but it has not been translated into action anywhere. The farmers in villages were in a fix and they did not make repayment of their loans under the impression that their loans would be waived of. Now the compound interest on their loans have run into lakhs of rupees which is outstanding against them. A difficult situation has arisen before the farmers so clearcut directions should be issued in this regard.

Second point is related to banks which are under the purview of your Ministry. There is a provision that banks provide loans to farmers for purchasing Tractors. Various types of loans are sanctioned but banks are not co-operating fully in advancing loans to the farmers. You have told that if the farmers want to purchase a tractor, they can from a group of 5-7 farmers and they can have a tractor loan from the Bank. But the employees of the banks do not pay any attention to them rather they prefer to pay their attention towards big industries. It is the need of the hour to realize as to how the subsidy meant for farmers can reach to the farmers.

Cyclone swept Orissa. In addition to Orissa, the cyclone hit the bordering area of Chhota Nagpur region i.e. Girideeh Kodarma, Hazaribagh, Santhal Pargana and Dumka also. Entire standing crop was destroyed due to cyclone. By the grace of God bumper crop was being expected this time. The Bihar Government should pay attention towards this. You have not formulated any scheme in this regard which is very essential for Orissa and a survey should also be conducted in Bihar to assess the loss caused to the farmers due to cyclone. Not only this but the houses of a number of poor, Adivasis and Harijans have also been demolished due to cyclone and they have taken shelter in schools. A provision should be made to provide Government assistance to the affected people that they could repair their houses.

Now D.R.D.A. has also been renamed.

There is no problem - in it. A provision has been made under it that where there is district Boards it will be implemented through the district Boards and where there is no district Boards it will be implemented by the Government and the collector will be the Chairman of D.R.D.A. This is very strange. I would like to request that till the elections of the District Boards are over. This should be kept out of the purview of the Collector and a provision should be made so that the meetings of D.R.D.A. should

be chaired by the Member of Parliament representing that particular region. The States where district Boards have not yet been constituted the meetings which are chaired by the Collector, if possible, efforts should also be made that meetings of D.R.D.A. are chaired by the Member of the Parliament representing that particular region.

Children of the farmers get education in villages. You also know that radius of a block stands ten kilometres. Lot of problems are being faced in imparting education to the children in villages particularly in Chhota Nagpur region. In this regard I would like to request you that at least those Block where not a single High School exists should be identified and the Union Government should formulate a scheme to open at least four High Schools in every block.

In the interest of the farmers, I would like to say that large wells are very useful for the farmers in the Chhota Nagpur region. Efforts should be made to dig large wells in huge number in this region so that the farmers could be benefited. The Government provides funds but there is a need to ensure that the funds are utilised properly. The hon'ble Minister is aware that an ordinance factory was proposed to be set up at *Bariyardoh* under my Parliamentary Constituency Kodarma and thousands acre of barren land was available there for this purpose but the said factory has been set up at Biharsharif, Nalanda. The Lord Budha attained enlightenment at Nalanda, now weapons of war will be manufactured there. Lot of agricultural land of the farmers will be acquired for this purpose. I would like to request the Government that it should reconsider its decision and the Government should consider to set up this factory at *Bariyardoh* in Kodarma under Chhota Nagpur region where adequate barren land is available for setting up this factory.

New districts have been created from the education point of view and Kodarma is also one of those new districts. I request the hon'ble Minister to sanction a Navodaya Vidyalaya there also. Till now, school building has not been constructed at Hazaribagh. It should be ensured that Navodaya Vidyalayas are invariably sanctioned and opened in newly created districts.

[English]

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara) : Madam, Chairperson, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants. I support them. This is the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Some people say the number 13 is a very unlucky number.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Who says ?

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE : Some people have said it. But the Thirteenth Lok Sabha seems to be a lucky one.

There is a turnaround in the economy of the country. There was a recessionary trend for some time. That seems to be over. That was because of so many factors. There was a world wide phenomenon and there was a recession in most of the countries. The Asian tigers were also facing a lot of economic crisis.

I think the captains of the Industries of our country have also welcomed the NDA's agenda. It is supported by the Congress also. Madam, let me come to the point. There is some worrying factor which needs to be addressed by the Finance Minister.

It is true that the IRA, FEMA, TRIPS Patents and Trade Mark Bills are all coming up and they have been welcomed also. But the worrying factor is that as to why the industries in India are closing. Why is it that the joint ventures made by most of our big industries are being bought over by the MNCs ? If this trend goes on in the new millennium, in the 21st Century, in ten years, I suppose, most of our big industries would have been bought over by the MNCs. Now, have you really thought about it ? I am not right now talking about *Swadeshi and Videshi*. Let us forget this. We are all in favour of giving a boost to the industry and this is what I am talking about. Have you really given this a thought ? I think, it was a welcome idea and it was good that the captains of our industry were also taken to Seattle. They were also a part of the discussions there. But the worrying factor is that unless we give them a level-playing field, I think, they will not survive.

Let us take the example of the car industry. I do not want India to go back to the days of Ambassador and the Fia. Those days are over. But still can Indica compete with the Honda or Toyota ? Can they compete with all these modern cars ? Even that one industry, the Tatas, which has a name, will not be able to survive in the 21st Century. This is what I want to ask you about.

Madam, the other problem is that they do not have the investment which is required for taking up the competition of the MNCs. Have you thought about that ? If the money which they raise here is at the rate of 14 per cent to 17 per cent and the money that the MNCs are getting at three per cent to four per cent, then I want to ask whether there is a level playing field.

Then, there is also a problem that you have to think about. There are advantages and disadvantages of globalisation, of free market access, but unless all these problems are addressed, I think, our industries are going to face a big problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much for being brief and to the point.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has placed before the House the Supplementary Demands for Grants for total amount of Rs. 549.79 for the year 1999-2000. On going through these demands it appears that the adequate allocation of fund which was required for the people of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor people, has not been made. The film on Baba Saheb Ambedkar has been completed one and half year ago. The Director and Producer of this film Shri Zabbar Patel had demanded rupees two crores for the release of this film but no provision has not been for this purpose. Earlier a film was made on Mahatma Gandhi and a wide publicity was given to it.

Baba Saheb Ambedkar had been honoured with an award. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had drafted our Constitution, but the Government does not pay any heed to make a film on him. This is not fair. There was a demand to set up a National memorial in his memory. He breathed his last at 26 Alipur Road, Delhi. A procession was also organised at Bombay in this regard. About 20 to 25 lakhs people are demanding setting up of this memorial for the last several years but the Government is not considering their demand. You were the Finance Minister during the Twelfth Lok Sabha also and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji was the Prime Minister but no attention was paid towards setting up of the said memorial. Even now no attention is being paid to set up the said memorial. If the Government does not consider the demand for setting up of the said memorial then how this Government will function we will not allow this Government to function. 26, Alipur Road is in possession of Jindals and two three years ago there was a proposal to pay them rupees fourteen crores to acquire the said premises. It seems to me that the Government will not be able to take the possession of 26 Alipur Road. Hence, we can launch agitation and can think to take law in our hands. Baba Saheb Ambedkar also had said that in case one did not get justice then needs arose to take law in one's own hands. I mean to say that there is a need to acquire 26 Alipur Road. As the hon'ble Minister is very active he will think in this regard. The hon'ble State Minister is my friend and he will definitely think over it. Rest of the Members are not my friends. That is why I am demanding it. Therefore, there is a need to pay an attention in this regard.

As far as the question of Government employees is concerned, there is a provision of Rs. 200 crore to grant them loan, and the provision of Rs. 150 crore has been made for vehicle loan. But an amount of Rs. 200 crore is

not enough, it should be increased to Rs. 500 crore. As far as small scale industries are concerned, there is a provision of Rs. 0.2 crore for it, which is not sufficient. In case of national highways, there is a provision of Rs. 547 crore in the form of revenue and Rs. 1348 crore in form of capital. I want to say in regard to national highways that accidents often occur there, therefore, the national highways should have four lanes. Alongwith it, a lot of corruption is prevailing in CPWD and PWD. A provision of Rs. 1900 crore has been made for roads, but only Rs. 1000 crore will be spent on roads and remaining Rs. 900 crore will be misappropriated. Therefore, the hon'ble Minister of Finance should look into this scheme.

19.00 hrs.

The way black money is increasing in the country is harmful for the welfare of the country, therefore a good system is required in this regard. You have sanctioned Rs. 1900 crore for national highways. At least Rs. 1700-1800 crore should be spent on it. If Rs. 100 crore goes to the contractor, then also it does not matter, but the money sanctioned for it is not utilised properly. Therefore it is necessary to streamline the system. Whenever an effort has been made to change the system, efforts have also been made to remove good people. The corrupt people do not give chance to good people to work. Therefore, good people should work collectively to isolate corrupt people. But this has not happened in your case. Therefore, this problem has arisen. Therefore, the time will come when the good people, whether they are from this side or that side, will collectively form the Government and nobody will be able to topple that Government, and corruption will be curbed and till the corruption is curbed, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the country cannot progress, the poor will not get justice. The budgets will be presented, supplementary demands will also be presented and after one or two months you are again going to present the budget. At that time you will mention your achievements. You have been doing everything, but the funds are not being utilised properly. We do not discuss this system even for once. The demand of Rs. 1600 crore presented by hon'ble Minister of Finance is not required at present, because after a short time, budget is going to be presented. There is a need to make a provision for whole year in the budget. It has happened this time, but it should not happen next time. The supplementary demands of thousands and crores of rupees should not be there. You should think over it and the hon'ble Minister of Finance should also consider issues which I have raised. You should announce Rs. 100 crore for National Memorial of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Mumbai today itself and there is a need to take decision about 26, Alipur road, Delhi.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, if you have no objection, we will just allow two more members to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (Ropar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on supplementary demands. The supplementary demands are presented only when the expenditure of every department exceeds the provisions made in the budget. It shows that the present Government does not have proper Control over different departments. Although the Minister of Finance does make efforts, but the economy of the country has suffered a set back in the last 2-3 years. He is trying to come out of it. The country cannot progress until consideration is paid in this regard. Unless black money is flushed out from the businessmen, bureaucrats or whosoever he may be, the growth of black money cannot be checked. The issue of food supply is included in supplementary demands. The loan of Rs. 900 crore is going to be converted into equity. It will not be wrong to call Food Corporation of India as corruption of India. Every year, F.C.I. incurs losses of thousands of rupees which the country has to bear.

I hail from Punjab. The per capita income of that State was second highest in India, now it is at 8th place. The farmer is called the food provider. Our country is an agriculturist country. The suicides committed by farmers, whether they are of Punjab, Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh depicts that agriculture sector is being ignored. You have spent so much on Kargil. The State of Punjab too fought proxy war with Pakistan. The former Chief Minister of Punjab, Late Shri Beant Singh had restored democracy in Punjab while fighting the battle. We still have to repay the loan of Rs. 85 crore. Though Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri Gujral had announced to waive off this loan, but still loan repayment is being demanded from Punjab. It should be checked whether the funds sanctioned to Punjab under Special Component plan, whether it is for agriculture sector or through social justice department or for investment in Industry, are being utilised properly or not.

Since the formation of this Government, the Children belonging to Scheduled Castes have not been given scholarship and books. Old Age Pension Scheme and Widow Pension Scheme are no longer functional over there. The Government employees have not been paid salaries for the last four months. They daily stage 'dharna' What to talk of Government projects and development? The funds are being demanded for edible oil and sugar industries. The mills in cooperative sector are running in

loss. The mills, controlled by the bureaucrats are also running in loss. The corruption is also involved in the maintenance of national highways. It should be curbed. The Thein Dam Project was started with an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crore and has reached the level of three thousand crore rupees. I would like to say that electricity can be generated by this project. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to probe whether the funds allocated to Punjab under special component scheme have been properly utilised or not. Whether these funds have been spent on social welfare or not. I regret to say that funds allocated for social welfare have been diverted to electricity board. Similarly, the funds allocated for animal husbandry, which was meant for poor people has been diverted to some other head. We people have given memorandum to the Governor about financial position of Punjab that there is no opening for farmers in agro based industry. There are three sugar mills in my constituency which have not paid the price of sugarcane to the farmers. 350 mills are closed in Mandi Govindgarh my constituency, which is known as steel town. It is due to the Government's policy in regard to steel and industry. The growth rate has declined due to low tax collection from there. It will affect the Centre. The farmers and labourers of our country are weak. I would like to request the Government that some percentage of direct tax collected from Punjab should be given to us, but it is not so. The banks also get money from there, but banks have been ignoring the agriculture sector. They do not give loans to the farmers. If a loan of Rs. on lakh is given to the farmer, his one 'Killa' land is kept mortgaged, but if an industrialist asks for a loan for a project, he is given loan of Rs. 80 lakh. Government gives him subsidy also. We are having dual policy in our country, which means industrialists are given more importance than farmers. The gap between rich and poor is getting wider. The agriculture labourer of this country are not being given the possession of land. Punjab is fighting proxy war with Pakistan. Our hon'ble Prime Minister and his predecessor had announced to waive off all loans. I would like to request the Minister of Finance to waive off all the loans because the State of Punjab is indebted. Punjab is a border State and produces food for the whole country. It provides 60% food grains to Central pool. This fact should be kept in mind.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Thank you Madam, Chairpersons. First of all, I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister for the excellent macro-economic management of the economy in the last two year or so. May I remind him, through you, Madam, in his last Budget

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

speech he mentioned that he was going to introduce a 'Zero based' Budgetting and now I would like to know whether he took any steps in that direction or not; if so, with what results.

Madam, Chairperson, the basic problems in the economy today is, as I conceive it, in the Budget for instance, It is consumption of expenditure, the Government has totally failed to contain consumption expenditure; secondly failure to bring about reforms and turn around in the public sector; and thirdly, related to it, is the question of subsidy – failure to control subsidy.

Madam, Chairperson, while I do support these grants fully, I also oppose some of the points made by some of the Members of the Opposition who asked as to why is it so big an amount, Rs. 1600 crore. The hon. Finance Minister could not have anticipated the Kargil war or the Orissa cyclone. At the same time, I also sympathise with the position of the Union Finance Minister who every year expects that at least some Ministries would come to his rescue by producing a surplus but year after year he faces only newer and larger demands from his colleagues.

It has become a psychological process that no Ministry would ever try to prepare its Budget for a lesser figure than the previous year's one. It is almost a kind of a compulsion that they have to project a figure larger than the previous year's figure.

Madam, Chairperson, macroeconomic parameters, as I said, are all very sound. Our economy has got a momentum of its own where it is taking off without the kind of daily dispensation of policy favours by the Government of the day which we were accustomed until about a decade or so. Subsidy has to be controlled. In public consumption expenditure, the biggest item perhaps is subsidy. For instance, fertiliser subsidy was only of the level of not more than Rs. 300 crore in 1979 when it was introduced. I do not know what it is today.

Coming to public sector reform, Rs. 6 lakh crore are lying invested in various Central and State public sector units. It is a very critical area. Even if it had got a return of five per cent to 10 per cent on the massive investment of Rs. 6 lakh crore, the Government, whether at the Centre or in the States, would not have been in such a sorry State. But nothing much has been done in this regard. It may be partly due to lack of political will or maybe due to tremendous political pressure. Let us take the example of a company which produces gold in Karnataka. I remember the production details of a company. The production cost of that company was about Rs. 11,500 per 10 grams of gold while the sale price for years was only Rs. 4,500. You

can well understand what the position would be when the nation has to subsidise to the extent of the difference between eleven and a half thousand rupees and four and a half thousand rupees. But it has gone on for three-four decades. There is nothing wrong in subsidy but it must come from a sector which is generating a surplus. We have reduced our Central Government's financial position to such an extent that no sector is generating surplus now. Every sector is discounting more and more. Somehow, we seem to lack the political will to be tough and to control some of these areas.

With these few words, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants completely.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Madam, Chairperson, hon'ble Minister of Finance has presented the supplementary demands for the year 1999-2000 in the House. We can understand the contingency expenditure incurred on some items like Kargil war, Orissa cyclone or terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir etc. which have been included in it, however, it can be noticed from the outline that there is no item which has not been included in it. The main point is that presentation of Supplementary Budget has become a routine practice. Every year we face the same situation, we prepare the budget and pass it in Parliament. Then we have to consider the supplementary demands received from almost all the departments which are usually passed.

The important point is that what is the objective of presenting supplementary demands for grants. There can be no doubt as far as contingencies are concerned, but we have to consider that as to what is the justification of presenting supplementary demands for grants of the other departments. Hon'ble Minister, earlier when the discussion regarding the economic reforms was going on, I had expressed my apprehensions during Question Hour regarding the effectiveness of functioning of our executive and delivery system. What is the return of the investments being made? Are they appropriate? One of our hon'ble Member had mentioned that the previous Government had acknowledged the fact that out of the total funds spent on planning, only 10% is utilized actually and the remaining 90% is spent on establishment. Such an enormous expenditure is made on establishment but with no result. I have no hesitation in saying that we need to look deeply into the achievements and efficiency of our delivery system.

Madam, Chairperson, for the last 50 years we have been making progress on the path of development and have achieved self-reliance in many fields. But, today the circumstances have changed and we are forced to change

our constitutional objectives also. Earlier we had decided to follow the socialism for the development of everyone but now we are the socialism for the development of everyone but now we are emphasizing the economic liberalisation under the pressure of foreign powers. We could not achieve our those very targets which we had fixed four ourselves. A few day back eminent economist Shri Amrutya Sen has apprised us of the fact that our shortcomings are within us. The shortcomings for which we are searching outside are in our own system, in our executive and as a result we are unable to achieve any tangible results. Today, the whole world says.

[English]

"India is a sleeping demon."

[Translation]

It will do miracles the day it will awake." But when will it come out of its slumber and who will do this. We think in terms of importing resources. We are making every effort to bypass the system but the fact is that we are unable to utilize our internal resources. Today, it is a well known fact that the lack of primary education and the shortcomings in our production system has become a liability for us. Our approach is not properly focused, hence it is not giving the desired results and has become a liability for us.

One thing I would like to mention especially is that many big powers of the world are dreaming to enter India for their own vested interests. We have to use our internal resources very efficiently if we want to counter these big powers. We have to develop a will power which would run our executive, our delivery system smoothly and with a new approach.

Hon'ble Madam, Chairperson, as per my experience, the targets fixed by our system could not be achieved in the absence of effective law and order. I would like to ask the hon'ble Members who play a vital role in the development of their respective constituencies that how much time they get for the planning of their own constituencies. My experience is that most of their time is spent to facilitate the justice and the maintain security and improve law and order situation. Actually, we all have to contribute at district level to achieve the targets fixed.

Madam Chairperson, we need to bring our economy back on the tracks. Unless and until, our executive plays its role efficiently and streamlines its delivery system, the targets can not be achieved. We shall not be able to adopt the orderly system. Definitely, we shall have to face many difficulties. Hon'ble Minister, the new era is knocking at our

door. New challenges are also being posed. Most of our population lives in villages and is engaged in agriculture. The prime need of our agriculture is to re-organise it very efficiently. There is a need to develop a balance between our population and resources. A focused attention is required to meet the global challenges. It is well known that development and future of our country depends in our farmers. We have to focus on capital, technical and management requirements of our farmers.

Madam, Chairperson, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that in villages, educated people are also unemployed. Capital is invested only in urban areas which is not being utilized for the development of our economy. This supplementary budget will be passed but I hope that you will keep all these facts in your mind while formulating the next plan. The delivery system plays a major role in facing the challenges posed before our country. When we are reorganising our economy, the delivery system should also be re-organised.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry) : Madam Chairperson, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to a difficult situation which we are facing in our State of Pondicherry. You know very well that my State is living on your Grants as well as the taxation which we get out of sales tax. You have brought forward this uniform taxation which I fully support. But there are difficulties which we are facing. One third of our Budget is our revenue and one third is our Plan performance. The other is Grants. But by applying this uniform taxation in the Union Territory of Pondicherry, you are just giving a very big blow to the whole economy of the State. Therefore, when you take up the case of uniform taxation which I support in all its aspects, you have to take Pondicherry in a different level. What I would like to plead before you is, please treat Pondicherry on par with the North-Eastern States on special status as far as the taxation is concerned.

I would like to say that there is no raw material in my State. We have to get raw material from outside and there are more than 400 medium scale and small-scale industries which are thriving. If you apply this uniform taxation in Pondicherry, you would be not only throwing more than two lakh people into unemployment, but it will also be a severe blow to this Union Territory. I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister of this country to take a pragmatic view of the whole situation in his larger vision and kind heart and find out a solution as far as Pondicherry is concerned.

[Shri M.O.H. Farook]

Therefore, I plead with you that our interests should be protected. While the bigger States can talk on very many subjects, I have to bring to your notice only this subject. My Chief Minister and I gave a representation to you. Please go through the representation and try to solve this problem.

We are under the Ministry of Home Affairs. There are certain pay anomalies about which the Ministry is satisfied and which the Ministry referred to the Expenditure Secretary. There are problems which have been there since the implementation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendations. Our Thasildar's matter has been pending with you for a long time. It has been approved by the Government of Pondicherry and sent to the Home Ministry, which has examined it thoroughly. I would like that such small problems are sorted out easily.

Please do not apply the same yardstick which you apply to other States. Kindly take a sympathetic attitude towards our State so that I can also thrive under the shadow of the Minister of Finance.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while starting debate on Supplementary Demands, the hon'ble Member from Congress Party Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar associated himself with the hon'ble Finance Minister on several issues and stated that hon'ble Minister of Finance derives huge advantage from corporate sector, big industrialists, CII and FICCI and he does not care for poor. I also feel that neither he cares for poor people nor the poor states. As per the basic policy of our country the Government should create opportunities and provide facilities to poor states, areas and poor people to bring them in mainstream. But I have seen that after taking charge of Finance Ministry he has done nothing for the welfare of poor states and for solving the problems of poor people and backward areas.

For example, I would like to remind that in his budget speech hon'ble Finance Minister proposed to provide green card to poor people of rural areas on the basis of which poor people were supposed to get foodgrain upto 10 kg. free. I would like to know as to whether any single person has got the green card – none has got that. I will prove that you have not worked to fulfil the promises made in that statement. It was his own statement and we give due importance to the statement of hon'ble Finance Minister. As just now Shri Sengupta was also saying that whenever any department tries to implement some scheme, the Ministry of Finance put impediment of paucity of funds for which subsidy cannot be provided. People say

that hon'ble Minister of Finance is an able person, renowned economist and knows English very well. But he says that subsidy should be withdrawn. To whom this subsidy is being provided. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : It is the subsidy on non-merit goods and services; not on merit goods and services.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He will say that subsidy is given to farmers and it will create problems. . . .(Interruptions) WTO lobby is quite influential. It is necessary to protect poor states from the corporate sector and multinational companies. This institution was set up to boost trade and now they say that trade should be linked with standard labourers, environment, information and technology. Besides, several other laws like TRIPPS and TRIMS are to be brought. We are ready to fight in every way. We will not kneel before pressure of the lobby of multinational companies and USA. We are 1/8th of the world population. If some one threaten us that our country will become backward if it is excluded from WTO. I would like to tell the world that India cannot be excluded from such an organisation. They have to follow democratic system in this regard. In this House that arm twisting policy of USA can't prevail. . . .(Interruptions) They have not issued green cards. During tenure of our party's Government red cards were issued for the poor people. At that time, six crore families were estimated to live below the poverty line. What is being given to poor people. They do not get power, housing and drinking water facility. What is being done for them. At that time the amount of subsidy was six thousand crore which has now increased to 8 to 10 thousand crore. Earlier foodgrain was proposed to be given to people living below the poverty line. Economists fix the criteria as to who will be regarded poor person but I would like to say that the people who do not get proper food, clothing, housing education and medical facility should be considered as living below the poverty line. At that time this estimate was 6 crore. As per the census of 1991 the rate of population increase is 2.3 percent thus this number may be 7 crore at present. As per the estimate, there were total 16 crore families in the country at that time and out of it 6 crore were living below the poverty line and now after 10 years it cannot be 6 crore but may have increased to 7 crore. When we go to villages poor people say that they are not getting foodgrain. At that time the number of families living below the poverty line was estimated on the basis of list of IRDP beneficiaries and in that way actual poor were not included. During implementation of IRDP, rich people who have 5 to 10

bigha of land also got their names included in the list for getting loan and names of poor people could not be included. With total number of six crore families proportionately Bihar got a share for 86 lakh families but on visiting villages people complained that they did not get red cards, should it not be considered seriously? Even two years after taking charge of Finance Ministry he has not tried to do anything for the welfare of poor people and poor States. He has issued several statements about CII, Tripps, Trims, big industrialists and corporate sector but has done nothing for the welfare of poor. In our vast country, number of poor people is more and they cannot be ignored. We are very much concerned about it. If the hon'ble Finance Minister does not spare some thought in this regard, the efforts of his department will be wasted. I, therefore, demand that monitoring should be done and hindrances should not be created for subsidy by the Ministry of Finance. The number of families living below the poverty line have increased to 7 crore from the earlier estimate of 6 crore, there may be a difference of 2 or 4 lakh families. They have not got red cards and foodgrains which should be provided to them.

It has also been complained that it is a State subject but I would like to say that union Government should monitor it. A huge amount of subsidy is being spent and poor families are not getting 10 kg. of foodgrain. The standing committee constituted in this regard had given recommendation to increase it to 20 kg. because 10 kg. foodgrain is not sufficient for a family. On the one hand the Government proclaims that is sufficient quantity of foodgrains in godowns but on the other hand poor people are not given 20 kg. of foodgrains. Today Shri Basu Deb Acharia has also advocated to increase it to 20 kg. It should be provided as this question relates to poor people.

Now, I come to the question of Bihar. Sindri fertilizer unit situated in his constituency is lying closed and unfunctional. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had set it up and had said that it was the biggest and best fertilizer factory in Asia. How much money is spent on fertilizers and how much quantity is imported from foreign countries. The best urea was produced in that factory but for to want of modernisation it has come back to square one. There is a need to revive it. A committee of experts which has nothing to do with our party was constituted in this regard and the Committee recommended for its rehabilitation, which will involve an expenditure of approximately 300 crore of rupees. The Committee recommended that it should be rehabilitated and it is a viable unit. It is relevant from every point of view. I would like to say to the hon'ble Minister of Finance that nowhere in the world, you would find such an example of discrimination. When the Government has been implementing the recommendations of the Committee, with regard to Namrup, then why Bihar

is being discriminated against? This way the public of Bihar won't allow us to present our views. They will say that when the maximum number of Ministers are from Bihar and that too in all important departments, even then discrimination is being done against Bihar at such a level which never occurred before, you better reply this question. I would like to ask whether or not the said Committee of experts recommended for both the units, whether or not did it call the Sindri Unit a viable one and recommended for its rehabilitation in the interest of the country? We want to know that when the work in Namrup started, why it was not started at Sindri. Barauni fertilizer plant is also lying closed, but if there is any hindrance in its restarting, I would not like to hurl allegations in its regard. Similarly the Gorakhpur and Barauni plants are lying closed. The Government should pay attention towards the factories which are lying closed. I accuse them for adopting discriminatory attitude. Why did not the Government start the Sindri fertilizer plant. Sindri is adjacent to his Constituency.

Then there is Koel Karo hydro power project. All the learned people say that there should be a ratio of 60:40 between thermal power and hydro power for the supply and generation of electricity in a country. But the hydro electricity is only 15-20 percent in our country. Still there is a lack of hydro-electricity in our country. But the Koel-karo project is estimated to produce 732 megawatt of electricity and it has already been passed at all the level including technical Committee, techno-economic Committee and Cabinet Committee. All the formalities have been completed. The Central Government had imposed a condition, at that time and had said that the matter of rehabilitation was sent to the Supreme Court. Supreme Court ruled that the State Government should assume the responsibility for rehabilitation. The State Government accepted that condition and all other conditions imposed by the Central Government but even then the Koel Karo Project which has an estimated capacity of 732 megawatt electricity was not approved. The Union Government is still withholding its consent regarding this project. We want a reply in this regard. I want to cite examples only to reveal as to how much discrimination and irregularity is being practiced in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken 15 minutes. You wind up quickly.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Now I would not say much. Similarly 10 more factories are lying closed. I do agree that the ruling party here does not see eye to eye with the State Government of Bihar. You dismissed it but the President did not accept it. You once again dismissed it but your decision was not backed up by the Parliament. But I would say as to what is the fault of 10 crores people of Bihar. What concern have you shown

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

towards them? You have also not done anything with regard to the scheme which has nothing to do with Bihar Government? Can any of the economist, sociologist, and expert say that India can progress without Bihar. No it can not progress. General Hilton who was a British I.C.S. officer wrote a book titled 'Bihar the heart of India'. This way, Bihar is the heart of India. If the heart of a person is weak, how can he become strong. Similarly, the backward states and population of the country should be uplifted first. In this regard we have several formula like Gadgil formula which favour the assistance of a State on the basis of its internal resources. But the backward States are becoming more backward. You can see example of Orissa and Bihar. There is Natural Calamity Relief Fund at the Centre. Its total capital is Rs. 100 crore. As I have seen in the supplementary demands for grants this time that there is no provision to increase its' capital. We have been persistently demanding to raise it to Rs. 1000 crores. Whenever a State is struck by a natural calamity, Rs. 500 crore or more money is sought as central assistance to that State but when the corpus of the fund itself is worth 100 crores rupees, how so much assistance can be given? The natural calamities strike the Indian states at a regular interval, hence it is my submission that this fund should be increased to Rs. 1000 crore, so that if any natural calamity strikes a State, it could be handled properly. In our country Hindustan fertilizers plant, Barauni's plant, PDIL, Sindri, RBHL Jute Mill, and IDPL Muzzaffarpur, Mokama spinning Mill, Kanpur, Morhoa Sugar Mill, all of which are in the central sector, are lying closed. I am at loss to understand why these are not made functional. Similarly the Ganga water drainage plan, Gandak project and the project on raising the bank of river Kosi, all are lying pending. We face floods and famine every year. The Central Government should co-operate in it. It is our social philosophy that a backward State or people should be given assistance. But you have not provided any assistance till now. You must look into the pending projects and complete them after consulting the State Governments. If there is a fault of the State Government and fraud by the officers of the State Government, you should observe it. You too have been an officer there and your name used to be included among efficient officers. Therefore you should have an eye over the bureaucracy there and pay attention to the fact that the interests of 10 crores people of Bihar are not neglected. Gandhiji's name was mentioned in the President's Address. Whatever work is done, the yardstick to measure its efficacy is to assess as to whether it is for the welfare of poor or not? If it is not in welfare of the poor, it should be deemed as useless. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance that he should think over it. The entire day as

to whether he has done something for the poor people. If nothing has been thought for the poor people then you must accept that your deeds are averse to the Gandhian philosophy. It is my firm belief that aversion to Gandhiji is not going to benefit India :

Gandhivaad hae Prasangik hai,
Gandhi-Lohia aur Jay Prakash,
Dharati gunje our Aakash.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Madam, Chairperson, I must begin by thanking the hon. Members of this House not only for having participated in such a lively manner in this debate but also for having sat up late so that we could complete this business of Supplementary Demand. If I have only one regret, it is here that my friend of over three decades, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is not here to hear the reply.

Madam, Chairperson, those Members - and I suppose all of us - who are familiar with Parliamentary practice are aware of the fact that according to the traditions and according to the Parliamentary practice, Governments bring three Supplementary Demands - one in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the other in the Winter Session, and the final one along with the Budget. This is the tradition. Unfortunately, as the Lok Sabha was dissolved, we could not bring the first batch of Supplementary Demands for this year in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, and therefore, this Supplementary Demand that we have brought is actually two Supplementary Demands and not one. I would like the hon. Members to please remember that the size of the Supplementary Demands and the net cash outgo of Rs. 14323.79 crore is on account of the fact that it is two Supplementary Demands in one.

Now, other issue which has been raised in the House by many hon. Members is in regard to management of the finances of the Government of India in a manner that such Supplementary Demands do not become necessary. Naturally, a conclusion which has been drawn is that because we are poor in management, therefore, it has become necessary for us to bring a Supplementary Demand of this kind. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is not here but Shri Rupchand Pal is here. He questioned about a number of items which I will deal with very quickly explaining as to why we did not anticipate this at the time of framing the Budget.

I must say that the Members have been very kind to me and they have said that these Rs. 3243 crore on

account of Defence Services which is ascribed to the Kargil Operation could not have been anticipated. It is a matter of opinion whether it could have been. A point was raised whether we could not have anticipated the Defence pension which amounts to Rs. 3676 crore and civil pension of another Rs. 500 crore and over Rs. 4000 crore going by way of pension and various other allowances for retired personnel. It could not have been anticipated as we do not prepare the estimates in the Finance Ministry. The estimates come to us from the various Ministries. In this particular case the estimates would come to us from the Ministry of Defence and we would examine them, of course. But they are the ones who would know what exactly is their requirement under this Head for the whole year. They also could not anticipate it at all because of the Fifth Pay Commission. It could not be anticipated because the arrears on account of Fifth Pay Commission are tricking in. There are many issues in relation to Fifth Pay Commission which are still being settled.

Another Member, Shri M.O.H. Farook, who has now gone away, raised an issue of some pay scales relating to Union Territory Services. Many issues relating to the Pay Commission are still being settled and this pension payment is spread over various banks all over the country, treasuries all over the country, even a part of Nepal and the exact amount just cannot be calculated. This is a situation that we faced last year; this is a situation that we are facing this year. It is only when the demand materialises that it becomes possible for us to provide for it in the Budget. Therefore, I would like to plead that it was not on account of any effort or any desire on my part to conceal parts of the expenditure that I told the Ministry of Defence to suppress Rs. 3600 crore of Defence pensions, arrears and other allowances and to allow me to fiddle with the fiscal deficit. No. I could not have done it. I will plead with Members not to ascribe such lowly practices to me. Therefore, these two points are explained.

Extended Ways and Means of Advances to the States, Rs. 3000 crore. This was an issue raised as to why we did not anticipate it. It was very loudly raised in this House. We are such dumb people that we could not anticipate this and therefore we did not provide for it and now I am coming surreptitiously through a supplementary demand and am trying to raise it. Madam Chairperson, I will take just two minutes of the valuable time of this House on this point. The National Development Council held a meeting on the 19th February 1998. In the National Development Council also the same point was made which has been made in this House, namely that the finances of the States have been literally rent asunder, that they have been completely devastated because of the impact of the Fifth Pay Commission. Rs. 20,000 crore is the additional impact of the Fifth Pay Commission on the finances of the State

Government. So, Chief Minister after Chief Minister who spoke in the NDC meeting told the Prime Minister that they cannot face the situation and something ought to be done.

The Prime Minister, when he was winding up, instructed me as the Finance Minister of the Government of India that I should call a meeting, as quickly as possible, of Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers of various States and sit down with them to work out what exactly needed to be done in order to bail the States out. I could call that meeting on the 20th March 1999, 20 or 21 days after the Budget had been presented. In this meeting with the State Finance Ministers and some Chief Ministers who attended it we could reach certain conclusions. The conclusions were that the Government of India will constitute a high powered committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of the Planning Commission, the Secretary (Expenditure) of the Finance Ministry will be a member, and that we will discuss the issue with each State Government because there was no one solution. We knew, the States knew that there were structural problems relating to each State. Each State was in a different category. There was no one category. Therefore, we decided and each State Government accepted that while the Government of India should come forward to help the State Governments, the States must also take steps to help themselves.

Therefore, the idea came that we sit down and discuss a medium term structural adjustment plan with the State Governments. We took a number of steps to see that from April this year itself we started helping the States in a much more effective manner than we had done in previous years. These discussions went on and with many States we have reached an understanding and there are many States with which we are in dialogue and we will be reaching an understanding. We are putting our heads together with them. I am discussing it with the Chief Ministers to find out how the fiscal problem of the States can be taken care of. We have now evolved the Fiscal Facility Fund of Rs. 3000 crore in order to be able to help the States get over their problem this year and in the medium term, that is, three to five years. That is why, this provision could not have been made in the Budget. It came after the Budget. This is the first opportunity where I could come to Parliament and taken the approval of Parliament for this Fiscal Facility Fund. So, this could not have been anticipated. This is something that we are doing to help the State Governments.

20.00 hrs.

I would like to say this because Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar also made the point that because the NDA consists of so many allies, I am, therefore, under pressure to let go the fiscal discipline and help the States which are in

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

alliance with us or the political parties which are governing some State or the other. I can assure the House, through you, Madam, that there is no politics whatsoever when I discussed these issues with the Chief Ministers of the States. We have here nine States with which we have entered into some kind of an understanding in regard to fiscal correction programmes. These States are Mizoram, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Orissa, Manipur, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh. Can anyone tell me that this is based on politics? Can anyone say that I am favouring the Government of Rajasthan or the Government of Orissa because they belong to an alliance partner of the NDA? No. We are looking at each State and we are trying to help that State and helping it means that we are sitting down with the State and working out a plan of action so that the State concerned could correct the fiscal situation.

I entirely agree that the fiscal situation has to be corrected. So, the sum of Rs. 3000 crore could not have been anticipated. This is a facility that I am creating for the first time. I am taking the credit for the fact that at no point of time has any other Finance Minister created such a facility to help the State Governments. We have the ways and means facility. But this extended ways and means facility is a special facility to help the State Governments.

Then there is Rs. 850 crore Central Plan Assistance etc. The total adds up to Rs. 13,769 crore. About Motor Car Advance and the House Building Advance, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee can say that we should not give it to the employees. But there is an obligation because these are provided for by rules and we cannot anticipate the whole expenditure. It all depends on how many people want it. So, there is Rs. 200 crore provision for that. All these add up to Rs. 13,769 crore out of a total of Rs. 14,323 crore. The point that I am making is that the bulk of this expenditure could not have been anticipated when I was framing the Budget, when I was preparing the Expenditure Statement for 1999-2000. There is absolutely no trick, no fiddle in this. I have not done anything of which I could stand before this House and feel sorry about.

I am grateful to the various hon. Members of the House. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Shri Nitish Sengupta and some other hon. Members referred to the fact that the economic indicators are looking good. They are looking good. But it is not I alone who am saying this. In fact, I was very cautious. I agree with Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that no Finance Minister can afford to be over-optimistic. I am certainly not over-optimistic. I am certainly not complacent. I shall never rest on my oars. I was the one who described, when we had the first quarter results of

this year, that there are tender signs of revival. "Tender" is the word that I had used. Then, the second quarter results came in. There was some confirmation of the fact that the revival was going to hold. Then, we have the part of the third quarter which indicates that things are looking up. But we will have to continue to work hard in order to ensure that this revival of the Indian economy is sustained. Nobody is under any delusion – certainly I am not – in regard to what needs to be done.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was asking me whether I am able or lucky, whether it is all happening by itself or whether the Government could take some credit. I would not like to take the time of the House in claiming credit. But, perhaps, it is both. I have here the figures of the growth in cement and steel, the two sectors which had been very badly affected by the recession. Cement production has grown in the first six months of this fiscal year by 18.8 per cent and steel production has gone up by 4.3 per cent. It is improving continuously. I can certainly take credit for the fact that it is because of the concessions that I had announced for housing and for construction in this Budget that all these activities have picked up and that is leading to greater consumption of cement and steel.

Now, there are sectoral imbalances. Those sectoral imbalances will have to be corrected. We are continuously reviewing the programme and the various aspects of economic development. I would only like to say that, yes, it is true. Many of us are here. Certainly, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and I were Members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE : You are not replying to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. Are you? . . . (Interruptions) We are also contributing to the debate.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : He started the debate. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : What about the regional imbalances?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am coming to that.

We were Members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Therefore, nobody is more acutely aware of what goes on in the stock market than perhaps me because I not only was a Member of the Committee which studied it but I am also the Minister of Finance of this country today. But I would like to say because I have said this in this House before – that if the stock markets have gone up, we should not look for some scam somewhere or there is no point in being a prophet of doom and saying that this is going to burst. Just because it has gone up, it must burst. I am not interested in where the Mumbai

Sensex is, I am only interested as the Finance Minister of this country in the safety of the market. As far as the safety of the market is concerned and as far as the security of the investors is concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that the various steps which have been taken by the market regulator, namely, SEBI, there is absolutely no danger of that thing happening and the market being in any kind of danger.

Now, the question was raised in regard to road cess because one of the items here is Rs. 1,900 crore for repair and construction of the national highways. Now, Madam Chairperson, you would know it better than anybody else that when the Minister of Finance makes his Budget speech in Parliament, there are many things which he says and which have not been provided for in the Expenditure Budget which is prepared weeks in advance. If we wait for the finalisation of the speech, then neither the Revenue Budget nor the Expenditure Budget will ever be able to see the light of the day. So, the Expenditure Budget is prepared. Then, the Revenue Budget is prepared. Finally, the speech is prepared. In the speech, we include it. This is not merely me but all Ministers of Finance have done it before me. We include a number of new ideas. The surcharge in excise duty of Re. 1 on diesel was one such idea that we introduced in order to garner resources for helping improvement of the national highways network in this country. Therefore, it could not have been provided for in the Budget. All the money could not have been provided for in the Budget. That is why Supplementary Demands are there. The whole system operates like that. That is why we are providing Rs. 1,900 crore by way of Supplementary Demands to help construction of national highways.

I would also like to clarify, Madam Chairperson, through you that it is not a cess. The Cess Bill will come later to the House. That is under preparation. Then, it will go from the Consolidated Fund of India to a separate Fund which will be the Central Road Cess Fund or whatever name it is given. At the moment, all this money is coming to the Consolidated Fund of India. From here, it has to be distributed for the purpose of construction of national highways and even other highways. So, that is as far as the road cess is concerned.

Now, a number of other issues have been raised in the course of this debate. One issue which has been raised is in regard to the Calamity Relief Fund. Now, it is not Rs. 100 crore as Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has said. It has to be raised to Rs. 1,000 crore. I think, the Calamity Relief Fund or National Calamity Relief Fund or National Fund for Calamity Relief has been discussed in this House before. But the National Fund for Calamity Relief was recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission. That Fund was set up. It had a corpus of Rs. 700 crore. It got

exhausted in the first three years. Now under that Head, we have no money.

That fund is a joint fund, 25 percent comes from the State and 75 percent comes from the Government of India. That is how this fund is built up. Now, apart from the National Fund, there are State Funds also. When Tilakdhariji, who comes from a constituency adjacent to mine, was making the point about Bihar Cyclone, then the State Calamity Relief Fund has been created with a view to meeting the requirements of smaller natural calamities in each State. It is only when a national calamity of a rare severity takes place in some parts of the country that we make money available from the National Fund for Calamity Relief. In this particular case we have not waited and we will not wait.

As far as Orissa is concerned, we have gone full stream ahead and given all the assistance that Orissa wanted. I would like to take this House into confidence that the then Chief Minister of Orissa had come to see me a couple of weeks ago. He told me that he needed Rs. 300 crore. Rs. 300 crore is all that he asked for. He needed Rs. 300 crore to help people rebuild their houses and I, without batting an eyelid, Madam Chairperson, told him, 'Mr. Chief Minister you have these Rs. 300 crore, go, spend it and do not bother about anything else. The relief work in Orissa should not be held up because you are looking at the colour of money. We will square up the account at the end of the year. There is no problem.' There has been no problem in regard to that.

But at this point of time, there is absolutely no difficulty in that regard. I had clarified it in the House the other day when I was answering a question that the procedure is well settled, the State which is afflicted by a natural calamity, not the kind that Orissa has had but West Bengal, for instance, or Bihar or any other State, they have to approach the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture constitutes a team. That team goes there, studies the whole thing. The State Government makes its representation and then they make their recommendation. If, from the Natural Calamity Relief Fund, some assistance has to be given, then there is a Committee of Chief Ministers which meets and decides how much money should be given to each State. We will follow that procedure. There is absolutely no difficulty, as far as any other State is concerned.

Now, the question of whether I am anti-poor, pro-poor, anti-rich, this that and the other. I am sorry that some hon. Members of this House have raised those irrelevant issues, absolutely irrelevant issues. I do not want to join issue with them. But here I have *The Economic Times* of 30th August 1999. Second time it has been said in this House that I am the nominee of the CII- just because somebody from

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

the CII in some wretched debate which I did not watch because I was not here, I was in my constituency at that time fighting elections and waiting for the results-said that Yashwant Sinha should continue as Finance Minister. I was the incumbent Finance Minister. It was not that I was dropping from the Heaven. I was the Finance Minister of this country, but the question was whether I will continue as the Finance Minister or not continue as the Finance Minister. If somebody said, 'I should be the Finance Minister of this county', I do not know what great sin has been committed and what nexus it establishes. How does it make me pro-rich. I feel extremely hurt.

If I were to throw it back, I have this *The Economic Times* of 30th August, as I said, which says, 'CEOs want Vajpayee as the PM, want Manmohan as FM.'

This was a survey carried out of the Chief Executives of corporate India and 61.4 percent voted for Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee as their favourite Prime Minister; 59.9 percent voted for Shri Manmohan Singh as their favourite Finance Minister; only 20.8 percent voted for me as the next in the line; and poor Shri Chidambaram was only 13.2 percent. Now, can I hold this against Dr. Manmohan Singh and say that he is a laity of the capitalists, corporate, this that and so on. Just because one goes to their functions, I will say, 'Yes, if I am invited by FICCI, if I am invited by CII, if I am invited by ASSOCHAM, if I am invited by an trade association, any industry association, I will go, just I go to a Khadi and Village Industries Commission function, just as I will go to a farmer's function.' All these days that I have been the Finance Minister, I have not been spending my time dining and wining with the CII.

So, what is this charge that is being levelled in this House?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not think that you should take it that way.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No, Madam, I feel hurt if it is repeated. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was saying that I have no care for the poor as if I have been elected from London or New York or where, I do not know. He knows how poor my constituency is . . . (Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : He was joking. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : He said it very seriously. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : What Shri Raghuvanshji has said should not be taken seriously.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mani Shankar Aiyarji had said that we are very close to each other.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Madam Chairperson, I would like to say that there are various important issues regarding the economic development of this country. Now, this is not the occasion to discuss it in any great detail or give reply to all those issues. There are issues of regional disparities; there are issues of class disparities; and there are issues of incentives to industry, incentives to agriculture.

I would like to end by saying that this Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in the President's Address, had made its intentions absolutely clear. The Prime Minister has said it very clearly that we are going to re-orient our development policy, the entire development policy, in order to ensure that the poor people in the rural areas get roads so that there is rural connectivity; they get power; they get water; both for drinking as well as for irrigation; they get housing; they get schools; they get hospitals; and finally, they get employment. These are the seven core objectives of this Government. We are going to have a total re-look at the whole thing in order to make sure that most of the development funds go to meet these basic needs. I would like to assure the Members of this House, Madam Chairperson, through you, that this Government will be second to none in subserving the interests of the farmers, of the toiling masses. We are totally committed to them and there should be no doubt whatsoever about our total commitment to this class of people.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I had asked a question about giving Rs. 100 crore to the Baba Saheb Ambedkar National Memorial, what happened to that ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I will convey the point raised by Shri Ramdasji, to the concerned Minister so that it could be considered.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Finance Minister, money is to be given by you.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : He will see when the proposal comes to us.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : May I know from the hon. Minister the Budget allocation for SC and ST. Is it not less than five per cent ? You kindly explain if it is not more than five per cent. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The Budget allocation is given in the Expenditure Statement. Please go and have a look at it. It is all published documents.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1999-2000 to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 2000, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof – Demand Nos. 3, 5 and 6, 8 to 12, 15, 17 to 20, 23, 29 and 30, 33, 38 and 39, 42 and 43, 45 to 48, 53 to 55, 57 to 59, 62, 65 to 67, 69, 71, 73, 75 to 77, 79, 81, 83 to 85, 87, 95 and 101 to 103."

The motion was adopted.

20.20 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO.4) BILL*

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1999-2000

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise Payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1999-2000."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I introduce the Bill.**

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration;

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Madam, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1999-2000, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1999-2000, 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.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

20.22 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 10, 1999/ Agrahayana 19, 1921 (Saka).

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 9.12.99.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Thursday, December 9, 1999/Agrahayana 18, 1921 (Saka)

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| 23,24/13 | 1.85 | 1.05 |
| 77,78/11 | 608 | 6.08 |
| 96/21 | MAJ.GEN.(RETD,) B.C.KHANDUARI | MAJ. GEN.(RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI |
| 125/11 | SHRI ASHOK N.MOHAL | SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL |
| 170/last | 26.77 | 26.27 |
| 173,174/15 | 0.79 | 0.74 |
| 203/20 | Ministry | Minister |
| 236/20 | SHR | SHRI |

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