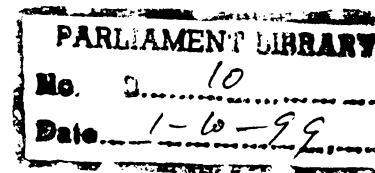


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)



Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 20 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, July 27, 1998/Shravana 5, 1920 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, we have given notices for suspension of Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 562, Prof. P.J. Kurien.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ASIM BALA: (Nabadwip): Sir, we have given notices to suspend the Question Hour on the issue of deportation of Bengali-speaking Muslim workers from Mumbai. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone through your notices. It is not proper to suspend the Question. I would allow you to raise the matter during the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise the matter in the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone through the notices. You may raise it in 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 562, Prof. Kurien.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Buta Singh, you can raise it in the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. P.C. CHACKO (Idukki): Sir, what is happening in our country?. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow all of you in the 'Zero Hour'. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): It involves two States. The Government should come forward with a statement, only then this issue can be discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole India is one nation. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. All this is being done in a coercive manner by using the Government and the Police force. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not raise that matter now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please tell us, what should we do?

MR. SPEAKER: You raise it during the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue pertains to two States. So the Government should come out with a statement on it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not good.

[English]

Shri Buta Singh, you are a senior Member, Please understand that you should not disturb the question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Prof. Kurien is saying.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, this is too much. Please take your seat. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir it is not that I am not associated with the feelings of the hon. Member from West Bengal, but let us take it up during 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: My region is also Mumbai.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: That belongs to all of us alike.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is not merely the wish of Bengal Members, but of the entire House.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Let us take it up during the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien, please put your question. I have already said that I would allow them in the 'Zero Hour'. Now, please ask your question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I am supporting them.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not supposed to support them. You may now put your question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I abide by your ruling Q. No. 562.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Transmission and Distribution System

*562. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be please to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation has drawn plans to invest around Rs. 13,000 crore in the transmission and distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Power Grid Corporation has also sought an additional loan of Rs. 4,000 crore from certain other sources;

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

(e) whether the Government have approved Corporation's programme for expansion; and

(f) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE Minister of POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The amount required for completing the ongoing schemes and for taking up new schemes is Rs. 5,700 crores and Rs. 7,235 crores respectively. An additional investment of Rs. 5,000 crores will be required for the construction of the transmission system to evacuate power from the 6x660 MW thermal power plant proposed to be established at Hirma, in Orissa, which would supply power to the States of Northern and Western Regions.

(c) and (d) POWERGRID has already contracted loans for Rs. 2,921 crores. It proposes to raise Rs. 7,641 crores through loans from foreign multilateral/bilateral funding agencies and Rs. 2,300 crores loans from domestic financing institutions.

(e) and (f) The Government has delegated powers to POWERGRID to sanction projects costing upto Rs. 100 crores. All the ongoing projects have been approved. POWERGRID has proposed to take up 27 new projects during the Ninth Plan Period. Government approval for the 17 projects involving investment over Rs. 100 crores will be accorded after the projects have received techno-economic clearance. The remaining 10 projects involving investment of less than Rs. 100 crores will be approved by the POWERGRID Board.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I have gone through the hon. Minister's reply to the question. He has stated that

Powergrid has already contracted loans for Rs. 2,921 crore from abroad. It is a well known fact that in our country the loss due to power transmission is on the very high side. It is more than 21 per cent. But in other developed countries and even in developing countries, the loss due to power transmission is much less. It is as low as three to four percent. Please see the loss of electricity that we are making on this account. If we are able to reduce this power loss alone, I am sure, the shortage of power in the country can be rectified. But I am neither seeing anything in his reply nor any effort being made from the Government's side or from the side of the Powergrid Corporation to reduce the transmission loss.

When there is no much development in technology and when you are contracting for loans from abroad, why is it that you do not consider this aspect and try to bring technology so that the power transmission loss could be reduced?

I would like to ask a question in three parts: (a) What is the percentage of transmission loss in our country? (b) What are the steps that the Government is contemplating to reduce the transmission loss? (c) What is the amount earmarked for offsetting the power transmission loss?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am grateful that the hon. Member has drawn the attention of the House to the high transmission and distribution losses. The figure that the hon. Member has indicate is not just about transmission loss only. It is for both transmission and distribution. The losses in the arena that the Powergrid looks after are within the international standards as indicated by the hon. Member. But with regard to the transmission, what is called the sub-transmission, and the transmission in the State sector, in 1995-96, on an average, it is in the region of 22.67 per cent throughout the country.

We are taking steps in this direction. We have a programme for upgradation of transmission and distribution systems of the States. We are giving both technological advice and assistance and also subsidised interest loans to the Power Finance Corporation to upgrade and modernise the transmission and distribution systems in the States. Fortunately, the transmission of the National Grid is new and extremely efficient. But that alone will not do. One has to improve the transmission systems in the States to ensure that we are able to achieve international standards.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It was a question asking specifically about the total percentage of losses in transit.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Was it for the national transit or was it about the total?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Total.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: In 1995-96, the total is 22.67 per cent.

PROF. 'P.J. KURIEN: And in transmission?

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: All right. I seek your protection. My question had three parts, namely, (a), (b) and (c). He has ignored parts (b) and (c). Have you earmarked some amounts for meeting the transmission loss for making it up? What are your specific plans? I asked about that also but you did not answer to that. I think, you do not have the answer. If you do not have it right now, you kindly write to me. If it is readily available, then, please tell me.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: We do not need to earmark any amount. In fact, it is one of our priority sectors. In the power sector, as and when the State Electricity Boards are asking us for loan assistance through the Power Finance Corporation, we are, in fact, sanctioning these loans on a priority basis.

There is no problem win of earmarking amounts. The situation is that almost 50 per cent of our Budgetary support is towards transmission and distribution. We are giving assistance to the States where they do not have money. Many States have taken up transmission and distribution improvement as their first priority. I do expect that by the end of the Plan period we should be in a much better position.

The question which, I think, Shri Sharad Pawar wanted me to reply was on the energy loss at the national level. We are, at the moment, less than three-and-a-half per cent as against a world average of four per cent. So, we are in a very good position at the national level.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien has to ask his second supplementary.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, those of us reside in Delhi know about the impact of the power failure. Everyday

there is power failure and it is happening even in the houses of the MPs. When I enquired from the concerned Department. I was told that the main lacunae for this was the distribution system.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien, please understand that there are twelve Members who want to ask supplementaries on this question. Please stick to the time.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I would abide by your ruling. But I am raising an important issue.

Sir, everyday there is a power failure. It has been said that the power failure is due to the lack of efficient distribution system. Further, it has also been stated that it is due to our using obsolete technology in this.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this power failure is due to the inefficient distribution system and use of obsolete technology or not. If so, what corrective steps are being taken by the Government to rectify the position?

Sir, the second part of my supplementary is this. Out of the projects that have been sanctioned by the Government, there is no mention of the Southern Grid, especially of Kerala's Kayamkulam Thermal project. This Kayamkulam Thermal project is being commissioned now. How much amount has been sanctioned by the Government for the transmission grids of this project? I would like the hon. Minister to answer these two specific supplementaries. I have used very few sentences for this.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am constrained to agree with the points made by the hon. Member that, including Delhi, we are having a substantial amount of—if I may say, no power cuts - power failures because of inefficient distribution system. The reason is not only the case of poor local distribution system but also the Plan, which was enunciated over four years ago, for putting a ring transmission system around Delhi has not yet been complete.

Sir, I can say that on medium term basis, we are going through the installation of a 400 kva Barnauli SS and a sub-station, namely, Bawana—Barnauli—Ballabgarh line with a 400 KVA ring which would complete this ring. It is my hope that this ring would ensure that there is, at least, efficient transmission grid around Delhi which was a requirement to ensure even power flow into Delhi just like the traffic flows in the Ring Road.

Sir, with regard to the augmentation of the system of distribution and reduction of T&D losses, various options are being worked out. The Delhi Government and the Delhi Vidyut Board have taken a decision that they would privatise certain areas of Delhi's distribution system to bring in investment and also modernise the manner of distribution and collection of revenues.

Sir, the ICICI has been given the consultancy. They have sought 40 weeks' time. We are in the process of trying to convince them that a much shorter time period will serve the purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Bawana Phase-I and Bawana Phase-II have been lying closed for the last 2 years. Get them started.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I say this categorically that we are applying our mind to a problem which has got an historical background. It is my hope that with the support of the Members of this House, within the next couple of years, we should be able to solve most of our problems.

With regard to the question of Kayamkulam, I do not know if my good friend did or did not hear me out carefully, but Kayamkulam is an on-going project in the Southern region for which Rs. 202.7 crore have been allotted. Funds are made available to it and we hope that Kayamkulam-I should be ready by 1999, which would be capable of transmitting 1000 M^W of power. We would have reached the stage of getting our 2000 MW expansion plan of Kayamkulam-II whereby we would also have a very powerful transmission link there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand it. He is the second signatory. He has to put his supplementary.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister has emphasised on several occasions that in the Ninth Plan he would wish to achieve 40,000 MW power generation. In spite of his giving promises and taking active part also, I could not understand how 1040 MW power project in my Constituency, Visakhapatna, could not be started till now. The hon. Minister had promised to the people of Visakhapatnam that he would be able to start 1040 MW power project before the end of this month and he had gone to Visakhapatnam for its inauguration

also. Till now, it has become a *Endamaavi*, as is called in Telugu, which means seeing the water from distance. Nothing is moving, it is static. I understand that there is gross difference in the thinking of the Ministers of Railways, Finance and yourself. Whatever may be the differences in the interest of the nation and in the interest of power generation, the Minister should make it clear as to what action he is going to take in this regard. The Minister should assure the House as to when exactly he is going to start the Hinduja Power Project. When would the Minister start 1040 MW power project giving new life to the people of Visakhapatnam? When would the Minister going to have Mahanadi Coal Linkage Agreement? I believe that without this agreement the project cannot start. I would like to have a clear and categorical assurance from the Minister.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I have given an assurance that the Cabinet have taken a decision and the decision of the Cabinet would be implemented to the effect that the counter-guarantee drafts should be made available to the three counter-guarantee projects by the end of this month. I am pleased to inform the House, through you, that at least with regard to the Hinduja National Power Corporation Project, the draft counter-guarantee has been initiated by the Finance Ministry for an agreement with the lenders and sent to the company. Now, it is only a case of signing the tripartite agreement between the State Government, the company and the Central Government for executing the final counter-guarantee and for them to move into financial closure. It is true that there is a small bottleneck with regard to finally signing the contract between MCL and the company, it is my hope that we would be able to sort this out very soon.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: When exactly do you hope to do it?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Let me complete. It will be done very soon, well before the company would every reach a stage of financial closure.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has stated in this reply that during the Ninth Five Year Plan period, it is proposed to undertake 27 new projects under the power grid. Government's approval

on them is subject to the acceptability of the techno-economic reports on these projects. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many of these are meant for Madhya Pradesh, out of the 27 new projects which are to be undertaken and what is the state-wise break of these projects?

[*English*]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: With regard to the State of Madhya Pradesh, the Sipat project is expected to be commissioned in the year 2003; the Load Dispatching Communication, Western Region, by 2002; and the Western-Eastern Inter-regional link by 2001. The cost of the Sipat project is Rs. 1000 crore; cost of the Load Dispatch Communication of Western Region is Rs. 298 crore; and that of the Western-Eastern Inter-Regional Link is Rs. 680 crore. This is with regard to the projects in Madhya Pradesh. The Sipat project is cleared in status, loan funding has been announced. The Load Dispatch is before the PIB and the Western-Eastern Inter-Regional Link, at the moment, is pending with the Central Electricity Authority for TEC clearance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now-a-days, Madhya Pradesh is in the grip of power Crisis. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, please sit down.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board is reeling under severe power crisis. It supplies power to other States but is not being paid the electricity charges by them.

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Sir, Kerala is facing a lot of problems in the fields of electricity generation, transmission and supply. Kerala is having only a 400 kv line from Udumalpet to Thrissur. An agreement has been signed now according to which an additional power of 200 mw is going to come to Kerala. This cannot be realised unless a new line of 400 kv is laid. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a proposal to construct a new 400 kv line from Talcher to Kerala.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: There is a proposal for Talcher II project. It is expected to be commissioned in the year 2003. The amount of money allotted to it is Rs. 3589.17 crore. It is, at the moment, proposed to be taken to the PIB for consideration.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Thank you, Sir, for giving me the first chance during the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Transmission lines are planned taking into account the projection of loads coming to the various load centres and the amount of power carried from generating stations to the load centres. I want to know whether it is a fact that the transmission lines commissioned, either with foreign assistance or loans, are not carrying the projected load of power to the different load centres. I say this because some load comes at the time of planning and afterwards it is found that the load is not available. In such cases the whole investment that is made in the transmission line becomes a bad investment. Has any assessment been made in this regard for the transmission lines already commissioned with foreign loans? Is it a fact that the transmission lines commissioned with foreign loans are not carrying the required quantities of power as envisaged during planning?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: To the best of my knowledge, none of the transmission lines which are commissioned for specific loads is showing any signs of failure of carrying the load. It true that there have been cases where the expected load centre growth has not taken place, especially in the Eastern region. I do not want to go into a batting exercise to say why they are not. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: There are other regions also. If the Minister is not well-prepared, he should not confine himself to some regions only. He should have rational outlook.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Let me make one thing clear. As rightly pointed out by the hon. Member, Shri Anil Basu, it is correct that there are times when it takes place. As I said, transmission lines which have been built according to specifications are capable of functioning up to specifications.

But there are two sides in a transmission line. One side is generation and the other side is Load Centre. If one of them is delayed in coming up, then the utility of transmission lines comes down. There have been cases where Load Centres have not grown. I can give very harsh reasons but I do not want to. But there is a growth

problem and when it does not happen, one should look at the overall economy in that place.

There are times when delay in commissioning of generation projects causes certain problems. But these are very few and in fact we start the construction of transmission lines only when we see that the generation plant and the Load Centre are picking up. Therefore, it is not that it has not happened. We are now on a very safe wicket on this matter.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister, the other day placed on the Table of the House the rules of Central Electricity Authority in regard to distribution. According to his own statement, the NTPC power which is being given through grid system cannot be supplied to any consumer at the NTPC rates directly by the NTPC. Unfortunately, in the name of export-oriented units for Ferro Alloys industries, which is not even exporting one kilogram, are supplying and charging at the rate of Rs. 1.50 per unit. Thus, Electricity Boards are being deprived of Rs. 2 per unit.

For example, the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board is losing Rs. 600 crore. The hon. Minister has to protect the electricity Boards. The hon. Minister has no right to directly supply the power at the NTPC rate. The Hon. Minister has directed the State Electricity Boards to give it. It is an important question Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Already half-an-hour is over. Even though it is an important question, you can straightway ask the supplementary. I know, it is serious but you should also consider the time constraints. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: He was in Vishakhapatnam on 18th June. The hon. Chief Minister A.P. has gone on record saying this. I would request the hon. Minister to review the supply directly. What is the situation? Is the hon. Minister going to review or stop supplying for Rs. 1.50 per unit, which is not proper? The electricity Board was put to loss. Will the hon. Minister make good the Rs. 600 crore loss to the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is true that under the Act, the NTPC is not a distributor or a licensee to directly give supply but the Act also so provides that the State Government, on the recommendation of the SEB, can give consent to any generating unit to give direct supply to a particular industry or a consumer. These cases, in fact, are cases which have taken place well before our Government came into office. My good friend

who asked the question, it is his party which gave the direction. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: I am asking the Government, not the party.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is his party which was in power gave the direction. Let me make it clear that this is done only when the State Government recommends and gives consent. We are very categorical about it. We do not do it directly unless such a situation arises. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: The State Chief Minister has requested you to review it. ...*(Interruptions)* It has appeared in the Press. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am sorry to say that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has not written a letter to me or made a request to review it. In case such a letter comes, I shall look into it.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: You never mentioned about the rate at which you are supplying. That is more important.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The rate, as I said, would be the NTPC rate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: It is not the SEB rate. SEB rate is Rs. 3.75 per unit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is the NTPC rate.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, out of the projects taken up by the Power Grid, how many 400 kv Sub-stations and 132 kv Sub-stations have been installed in Orissa

Secondly, the 6/660 MW project...

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only one supplementary and no second supplementary.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, this is in continuation of that.

Sir, I would like to know when would the 6x660 MW project, which is coming up in the State of Orissa, evacuate power and when is the project contemplated to be completed.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, the situation as in Orissa is that there are three projects. The Load and Despatch and Communication Centre of the Eastern region which is expected to be completed by the year 2002. The amount of money sanctioned is Rs. 210 crore. The Talcher project is to be completed by 2003. It is of Rs. 3,589.17 crore and the Western-Eastern Inter-Regional Link is of Rs. 680 crore.

With regard to Hirma Project or the 6x660 MW Thermal Power Plant, we have run into a little problem because the Government of Orissa is insisting on 12 per cent free power being given in addition to the coal royalty. It has never happened in any other thermal project, thereby raising the tariff to a non-saleable situation. The purchasing States in this Inter-State Project refuse to take on the burden on this 12 per cent. So, until that is sorted out, there is no way in which the dates for the Hirma Project can be given.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Northern India has not been covered in this question. ...*(Interruptions)* Thereafter, wherever there is need of power, there ...*(Interruptions)* Northern India assumes greater significance in this matter as it caters to the grain requirement of the country. There the power is required. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not so.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You do not allow any Member from northern belt to raise questions. That is not fair.

THE Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND Minister of TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Bhajan Lal ji, the train has already left.

[English]

Festivals of India Abroad

*563. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Festivals of India were organised in various countries in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of the countries where Festivals of India are proposed to be held in the near future;

(c) whether Government are sluggish in organising these festivals; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

THE Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Festivals of India were held in UK in 1982, France in 1985-86, USA in 1985-86, Sweden in 1987, USSR in 1987-88, Japan in 1988, Germany in 1991-92, China in 1994 and Thailand in 1995-97. There is a proposal to hold a festival in Italy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, after a hesitant start with the Festival of India in the UK in 1982, there were a series of Festivals of India in various countries. In fact, it was Shri Rajiv Gandhi who gave a thrust to this concept of Festivals of India abroad as a part of our cultural diplomacy. This was serving a very useful purpose in propagating the Indian culture abroad and also through reciprocal festivals in India by acquainting our people with the cultural traits of other countries. But after that it has been derailed.

During Shri Narasimha Rao's regime, there were three festivals, but after that, no Festival of India has taken place.

In answer to Part 'C' of the question, the hon. Minister has said that 'the Government is not sluggish in organising the Festivals of India'. But from 1995, not a single Festival of India has been held. I would like to know what does the hon. Minister mean by sluggishness. Is it not sluggishness?

The hon. Minister has stated that there would be a Festival of India in Italy. I would like to know whether it is a part of the scheme of a series of Festivals or is it

just a stray festival that the Government is going to organise.

There is Directorate of Festivals in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. I would like to know what is it doing. Is it sitting idle? I would also like to know whether they are going to organise a series of festivals and whether they are going to involve the ICCR in organising those festivals.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, Festivals of India was organised in Thailand in 1995 and 1997. Therefore, to say that no festival has been organised during the last three years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It was organised in 1995.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It was organised from 1995 to 1997.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It was held there in 1995 and here in 1997.

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: That is what I am saying that it was held between 1995 and 1997. The countries where we hold Festivals of India, later organise these festivals in our country. This is on exchange basis. This series is on the same pattern. A decision has been taken to organise a Festival in Italy. We have already given them the Calender of events and the programme. We have also informed them about the protocol and we are awaiting the response from the Italian Government. As soon as we get the response, we would go ahead with the matter. This was to be held in October, but as so far, we have not got any response from the Italian Government. It may not be possible to hold it in October. Further dates would be decided depending upon their response. Germany is organising a Festival here in 1999. The Festivals Division does not sit quiet. It all depends upon the response of the host Government. We are making efforts. Dates have been fixed, protocol has been sent and list of programmes has been finalised. We are waiting for their response, so that we could move ahead in this direction.

Secondly, this should be borne in mind that during 1997-98 many programmes are being held in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of India's Independence. These programmes are not only being held within the country but also abroad. During 1997-98 lot many programmes are being held at various places in

the country. The Departments are not sitting quiet. Our Ministry is active in this matter. We want to have cultural exchanges with other countries on this basis so that we can have better knowledge of their culture and they can understand us better. There is no laxity on our part nor will we allow any laxity.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, there is a lot of disturbances in the House. I am not able to hear anything. A lot of running commentaries are going on.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Order please. No running commentaries please.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the Festivals of India find place in the draft National Cultural Policy. They are a part of the National Cultural Policy. The Approach Paper for the National Cultural Policy was approved by the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Human Resource Development more than three years ago and it was sent back to the Ministry. The Ministry is supposed to place a final draft of the National Cultural Policy before Parliament long time ago. So far, it has not been done. What steps are you going to take to finalise the draft National Cultural Policy? When are you going to place it before Parliament because the Festival of India are also a part of the National Cultural Policy?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, this question does not arise from this Question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It arises. ...*(Interruptions)* How can he say that it does not arise? The festivals of India are a part of the National Cultural Policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is the responsibility of the Speaker to decide whether this question does not arise or not. The Minister is not supposed to reply in this manner. You cannot say that. How can you say that?. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I will need a separate notice for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA: You can say that but you cannot say that it does not arise. ...*(Interruptions)* If you are not prepared, you can tell, 'I am not prepared.' ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given shortest possible reply to the question. I do not think there can be a shorter reply than this. The hon. Member had sought details about the festivals and question hour provides an opportunity to us to get the

information about these festivals. But the reply does not mention anything worthwhile except the places where festivals were held during the last few years. In the reply it has been mentioned that some festivals were held in 1998 whereas some were held from 1995 to 1997.

Secondly, I would like to know about the expenses incurred in these Festivals. The hon. Minister has mentioned about the Golden Jubilee celebrations but the hon. Members do not know as to which of these programmes are being held within the country and abroad. Would the hon. Minister be pleased to inform the House in detail about the programmes that would be held abroad, particularly in Italy. I would also like to know how much expenses were incurred on the programmes during these festivals.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: If there is a programme to be held in Italy, the inauguration would be held in Rome on 5th and 6th October. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA: What do you mean by saying 'if it is to be'.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You have not heard my reply carefully. It depends on the Italian Government. If the response is not received this year then the festival would be held later. But whenever the festival is held, the inauguration would be held at Theatre Opera in Rome. Then the Festival of Classical Dance and Music would be held in Milan, Verona, Padua, Bologna, and Naples Theatre. Buddha to Gandhi: India's Heritage of Love, Peace and Tolerance (Dialogue/symposium) (two days) would be held at Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome or Complesso D.S. Michelangelo. Then, the performance will be a month long painting exhibition, photographic exhibition, book exhibition and film festival. All these events would be held at Rome, Milan, Turin, Remis, Urine, Bolan, Ramini, Geneva, Pisa, Perugia, Naples, Pelormo, Kepliyari. Then there will also be an exhibition on Costumes and Textiles.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know the expenditure?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: He wants all the details. He asked for all the details.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: The Minister is right. It is I who had sought the details and had also asked for the expenditure to be incurred. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I will give the details. I am giving details. He has asked for the details.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: All right, please give the details.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please be attentive. The hon. Member said that he wanted the details. I am giving the details.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: All right, details should come.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Whatever details he wants, I will give. Thereafter, photography exhibition, book exhibition, film exhibition would be held. Then an exhibition on costumes and textiles, fashion show, science and technology exhibition, book exhibition would also be held.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: It relates to the internal conflict of the BJP.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: That is not the answer to the main Question.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am answering. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Premchandran, please sit down. Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Whatever I have asked please reply that.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It is a question asked by an hon. Member. I have to reply that.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Let it take half an hour, but please give the details.

SHRI ANIL BASU: But, it is also-not proper to cause inconvenience for the House.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: But he should give the details.

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Book Exhibition, Seminar, Tribal and Folk Art and Craft Exhibition, Folk Festival: (i) Indian Village (comprising folk music and dance, folk art and craft, food and ambiance),

[Translation]

These events would be held at Rome and Sari. The Folk Music and Dances would be held at Florence, Pardia, Gairona, Naples, Plormo, Kapliyari. The expenditure on these events and the earlier ones has come to Rs. 40 crores. Now the whole 1995. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: There should an orientation programme on how to give reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, let him complete please. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Does this expenditure of 40 crore rupees relate to one festival or all festivals?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The total expenditure of all the previous festivals has been Rs. 40 crores. I would also say as to how much has been spent country-wise.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Please say about Italy. What will the expenditure?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: A provision of about 2 crore and forty two lakh rupees has been made for the festival to be held in Italy. His question is what we have done abroad at the end of Fiftieth anniversary of independence. I want to say as to what we are doing.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Please send a copy giving all these details.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: That is a different issue.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: I would like to know from the hon. Minister the criterion adopted by the Government in selecting the countries to conduct Festivals of India. I would also like to know whether the Government has approached any country in the Middle-East or Africa, especially the countries where there are millions of Indians living. I would like to know the details from the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: When such festivals are to be held the ICCR generally takes the initiative and makes contacts in this regard. Presently talks are being held with Turkmenistan to hold India festival there. If it is settled and protocol finalized then the matter would be pursued further. Both the host and the Government must agree to it. Government's consent alone does not matter.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: The hon. Minister did not give the names of the countries which have been approached. That is my question. I would like to know whether they have approached any country in the Middle-East or not. That is my question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, these festivals were initiated with the objective of familiarising the people of foreign countries more and more with the culture of India and also familiarising the people of India more and more with the culture of other countries. The other objective was to attract more and more foreign tourists to this country. Thirdly, in the present day world the cultural international relations have assumed significance, we want to make some progress in this direction through such festivals. I would ask the Government whether it considers these objectives to be right and if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this direction to achieve these objectives?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The objectives enumerated by the hon. Member are very much right and the Government of India agree to these objectives. We are making all our efforts that the culture of India is

well reflected before the world and we, the Indians get acquainted with the cultural events taking place world over. Not only we should be seized of cultural events but also we should see as to how we could improve our relations on cultural ground with the rest of the world. That is why as I have stated currently the negotiations are on with Italy in this regard. Germany is going to hold its festival next year in India. We are also holding talks with Turkmenistan. This is the position from recent period till now. We are also trying to ensure that foreign cultural troupes visit India to participate in the golden jubilee concluding celebrations of independence. I hope that on the occasion of 15th August hon. Members would witness our cultural relations which we cherish with our neighbouring and other Asian countries whom we have invited to participate in this celebration. Particularly the ICCR is very much active in this work. Though this department is not under my administrative control yet we have a good rapport with them. Our ministry would extend its full cooperation and complement their efforts. We are taking all steps to establish good cultural relations with the world.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Festival of India was held in the United States of America many valuable treasures from our museums and even sanctimonious idols from the *Garbhagrihas* of the temples of Tamil Nadu were taken. When these valuable treasures were taken to the United States of America some of them got damaged. Despite a stiff resistance and objections from religious head there was a move to take these idols and the issue was raised in both the Houses of Parliament. And finally the Government dropped the idea. Even the most valuable pieces which were taken then got damaged.

Sir, the famous portrait of *Mona Lisa* never was allowed to be taken out of France. They are going to hold a Festival of India in Rome, Milan. That is why, I am afraid. That is why I am asking the hon. Minister whether he will take into consideration this aspect because we should not commit the same mistake which was committed in 1984-85.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We would protect each and every exhibit taken outside India and see to it that our cultural heritage do not get damaged.

Environment Hazard due to Plastic Waste

*564. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plastic waste has been affecting the environment to a great extent;

(b) if so, the steps to be taken by the Government to solve the problem;

(c) whether the cooperation of the voluntary organisations is likely to be sought in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) As per the Report of the National Plastics Waste Management Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, plastic wastes account for only 1 to 4% by weight of the total municipal solid wastes. Most of the plastic waste is recycled. The Task Force has recommended a programme of preventive, promotional and mitigation measures for management of plastic wastes. An Implementation and Monitoring Committee has been set up by the Ministry of Environment & Forests to oversee the progress in this regard. NGOs will be associated in a consumer awareness programme.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an official of World Labour Organisation, Mr. Stalin Smith in his study report says that the industrialized countries like America, Germany, England, Australia and Netherlands are very much worried at the deteriorating environmental conditions in their countries. That is why they are dumping their waste material in India. Due to export of this waste material is posing a grave threat in the country.

According to the report of Director General of Commercial Intelligence, waste material weighing 1,70,000 tonnes, 2,51,000 tonnes and 3,25,000 tonnes was dumped in India in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively. Does this practice still continue? Have the Government conducted any study on the adverse effect of this waste material on environment and health? The report probing the cause of fire incident in Delhi says that the terrorists were responsible for this incident but have the Government got any study conducted to assess the

environmental hazards being caused by the import of plastic and its dump in India because the methane gas caused by the waste material of plastic is twenty times more dangerous than the carbon dioxide to health and it may even cause fire. Have the Government of India felt any need to entrust any agency to assess the adverse effect of methane gas on the health of people of India.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, there are three components of the Supplementary and let me deal with each one of them separately.

It is true that for the last few years the import of plastic waste is permitted to be imported in the country. All this plastic waste which is imported in the country, is used for recycling purposes. It is very dangerous when we really do not know the source of the plastic, and when it is used for recycling, it could pose serious threats to health and other related matters. So, it is absolutely a matter of fact that one should be very very careful while allowing import of plastic waste into the country and when it is used for recycling purposes. We are in the process of formulating the guidelines for the use of not only imported. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Let him complete.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Who is permitting this import? When you say that one should be careful, who is that one?. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you address the Chair, not the Members.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: In fact, Sir, we are allowing these imports into the country. But the Government is not recycling, Government is the monitoring agency, the implementing agency and the regulatory agency. When I say one, it includes all those who are involved in processing or recycling of the material. The Government's job is to ensure that they are following certain norms and guidelines which are stipulated from time to time. That is why it is very necessary that the imported material is used carefully.

About three million tonnes of plastic is used in the country and about 1.2 million tonnes of plastic which is used, is recycled in the country. That is why we have to

be extremely careful in dealing with recycled plastic. It is also true, as the hon. Member has pointed out, that it could pose serious health hazards. If the recycled plastic contains harmful dyes, heavy metals and plasticizers, then it could also be a potential danger for cancer. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Ambedkar and Shri Sultanpuri, you please go to your seats.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: This is also a sort of pollution. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SURESH PRABU: That is the reason, Sir, why we have issued new guidelines. In the next two weeks, we will be taking such measures as will ensure that all those who are recycling the plastic which is used for manufacture of various types of materials, follow certain guidelines and will take all such measures which will ensure that it does not cause any health hazard.

It is also true that plastic could pose fire threats. But then, there are so many inflammable materials which can pose fire threats.

It is not plastic alone which, if not stored and not dealt with in a proper manner poses a serious threat of fire, there are also many other inflammatory commodities. This is also an aspect about which all the local self-Governments, which are supposed to be dealing with problems related to fire, have to be extremely careful while deciding where the plastic should be stored and how it should be dealt with. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, taking me for a farmer, the Minister was explaining the things in English. He was explaining that there is no danger in burning the plastic materials.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: This is not so. I have said that plastic is an inflammable substance and burning it is hazardous.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: I would like to know from the Environment and Forests Minister whether the purity of the river Ganga....

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is a good Minister, do not spoil him!

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: I do not say that he is a bad Minister, I too said that he was good Minister. One who convinces my feelings, he would be considered good Minister by me and one who does not, he would be considered a bad Minister by me.

Sir, the river Ganges is considered to be a symbol of purity through out our country. The river Ganga, traverses places like Musourie, Dehradun and Haridwar. Its tributary streams are getting polluted by effluents. Crores of rupees are being spent on cleansing Ganga water but in spite of all this effort Ganga water has not been cleaned. Another danger to the Ganga water is pollution. Wherever there is an abattoir, the remainants and other waste are allowed to be scattered on the roads in rivers and drains which cause pollution. For example the slaughter house of Dailabad. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Singh, ask your supplementary. What is this?

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: In the sameway there are many slaughter houses in the country which are dangerously polluting the environment. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Ministry of the Environment and Forests propose to bring a legislation to legally close down such factories which emit hazardous gases or the slaughter houses which emit effluents and waste materials or the factories which create sound pollution and which tell upon our health.

[*English*]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, the original question which has been raised by the hon. Member pertains to plastic waste. I am not sure whether the hon. Member is interested to know whether the animals which are created from plastic waste will pose any environment problem or he is dealing with a situation of live animals, and their disposals.

Sir, as far as live animals and their slaughtering are concerned, it does not come under the purview of the Environmental Protection Act because the 29 activities which have been mentioned under the Environmental Protection Act for impact assessment do not include the category of 'slaughter houses'. However, it is the responsibility of the State Pollution Control Boards to deal with such a situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rama Nand Singh, please take your seat. I have already allowed you one supplementary. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rama Nand Singh, please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, it is a fact that many countries are finding it a very good way to dump their waste into our big country.

12.00 hrs.

For that matter, plastic as well as other things which can be used to make plastic like things are being exported. Polyurethane is one thing which is exported and we are reducing import-export duty on such stuffs. Can the hon. Minister do something for importing it into our country? We have, in each Budget, reduced the import duty on polyurethane. So, can the Ministry of Environment take this as a very serious matter, and can the Government increase the import duty on all this stuffs, including polyurethane which is causing great loss to our farmers also?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, the imposition of import duty is not within the purview of my Ministry's responsibility. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance as well as the Ministry of Commerce. However, I would definitely convey the feelings expressed by the hon. Member to the concerned Minister.

Sir, our country is a part of Basal Convention and as a result of Basal Convention's requirements, we do

not allow indiscriminate use of waste and hazardous materials into the country.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rewriting of Indian History

*565 SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to rewrite the Indian history incorporating the views of nationalist school of historians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to see the light of the day?

THE Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds for Afforestation Programme

*566. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has sought more funds for the afforestation programme;

(b) if so, the details of programme to be launched and the total amount required for the purpose;

(c) the estimated area in each State likely to be covered under the programme;

(d) whether any international institution or donor agency has also been approached in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (e) The Working Group on Forestry in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the Ninth Five Year Plan proposed an annual target of 3.04 million hectares for afforestation in the Ninth Plan period. The fund requirement for both the Central and

State Sectors was estimated to be of the order of Rs. 20,300 crores for the Ninth Plan period. Of this, the proposal for Central Sector was approximately Rs. 9,450 crores. Lists of the schemes for the Central and State sectors with the proposed financial outlays against each and the proposed area coverage are given in Statement I and II.

The recommendations of the Working Group were assessed on the country's requirements as a whole and no state-wise break-up was given.

Subsequently, the Ministry was advised by the Planning Commission that, due to financial constraints,

the projections were to be estimated at about 35% more than the Eighth Plan expenditure in real terms. The Central allocation for afforestation programmes on this basis is calculated at approximately Rs. 765 crores. At further discussions relating to the Ninth Plan the Ministry has repeated its request for more funds for afforestation.

17 Externally Aided Projects with a total project cost of about Rs. 4,043.66 crores are under implementation in 12 States. Four more projects have also been posed to donor agencies for consideration. The details are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

Proposed Ninth Plan Outlay for Forestry (Central and State Sectors)

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Area to be covered (in million ha.)	Proposed Outlay for IXth Plan (Rs. In crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Natural Regeneration of Dense Forests	5.00	4500.00
2.	Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest		
	(a) Fuelwood & Fodder Plantations	5.00	6500.00
	(b) Non-timber Forest Produce		
	(i) Bamboo	1.00	750.00
	(ii) Medicinal/Mixed	0.50	750.00
	(c) Plantations of economically important Species	1.50	3500.00
	(d) Pastures	1.00	1000.00
	(e) Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Development Projects (IAEPS)	1.00	1500.00
3.	Maintenance of plantations created during 8th Plan		500.00

1	2	3	4
4.	Support to JFM		150.00
5.	Protection		500.00
6.	Grants-in-aid to NGOs		25.00
7.	Development of seed and planting material		100.00
8.	Association of ST & rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests		225.00
9.	Protection from forest fires		200.00
10.	Registered nurseries		50.00
11.	Communication and extension		50.00
Total		15.00	20,300.00

Source: Report of the Working Group on Forestry for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Statement-II

Proposed Ninth Plan Outlay for Forestry (Central Sector)

S.No.	Name of Scheme	Sharing pattern between Centre and State	Target for Ninth Plan (in million hectares)	Proposed outlay for Ninth Plan (Rs. In Crores)
1	2	3	4	5
A. Ongoing Schemes				
(i)	Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project	100% Central	1.00	1500.00
(ii)	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects	50% Central and State	3.75	2400.00
(iii)	Non-timber Forest produce	100% Central	1.50	1500.00

1	2	3	4	5
(iv)	Grants-in-aid to NGOs	100% Central		25.00
(v)	Development of seed and planting materials	100% Central		50.00
(vi)	Association of ST & rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests	100% Central	0.20	225.00
(vii)	Control of forests fires	100% Central		200.00
<i>B. New Schemes</i>				
(i)	Natural regeneration of dense forests	50% Central and State	2.50	1125.00
(ii)	Plantation of economically important species	50% Central and State	0.75	1750.00
(iii)	Urban forestry	100% Central		100.00
(iv)	Pasture development	100% Central	1.00	100.00
(v)	Registered nurseries	100% Central		50.00
(vi)	Communication and extension	100% Central		25.00
(vii)	Protection	50% Central and State		
	(i) Surevey and demarcation			150.00
	(ii) communications			75.00
	(iii) overheads including incremental establishment and vehicles			25.00
(vii)	Support to JFM	100% Central		150.00
Total			10.70	9,450.00

Source: Report of the Working Group on Forestry for the Ninth Five Year Plan

Statement-III*Project-wise details of on-going Externally-aided Forestry Projects*

Sl No	Name of the Project	Implementing Agency	Funding Agency	Project Cost (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Maharashtra Forestry Project (2328 - IN)	Maharashtra Government	World Bank	431.51
2	Andhra Pradesh Forestry Project. (2573-IN)	Andhra Pradesh Government	World Bank	353.92
3	Dungarpur Integrated Wasteland Development Project	Rajasthan Government	SIDA	28.21
4	Rehabilitation of Common Lands in Aravallis, Haryana (ID-P-73)	Haryana Government	EEC (Japan)	48.15
5	Afforestation and Pasture Dev. along Indira Gandhi Canal	Rajasthan Government	OEFC (Japan)	107.5
6	Afforestation of Aravalli Hills Rajasthan, (ID-P-80)	Rajasthan Government	OEFC (Japan)	176.69
7	Western Ghats Forestry Project	Karnataka Government	ODA (U.K.)	84.2
8	Forestry and Eco-Development Project for Changer.	H.P. Government	FRG	18.7
9	Himachal Pradesh Forestry Project, Kullu Mandi.	H.P. Government	ODA (U.K.)	13.92
10	Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project. (2700-IN)	Madhya Pradesh Government	World Bank	245.94
11	Integrated Gujarat Forestry Development Project. (ID-P-112)	Gujarat Government	OEFC (Japan)	608.5
12	Rajasthan Forestry Project, (ID-P-104)	Rajasthan Government	OEFC (Japan)	139.18
13	Tamil Nadu Afforestation project	Tamil Nadu Government	OEFC (Japan)	499.2
14	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	Karnataka Government	OEFC (Japan)	565.54

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Capacity Building Project for Participatory Management of Forests	Orissa Government	SIDA (Sweden)	8.5
16.	Uttar Pradesh Forestry Project	Up Government	World Bank	272
17.	Punjab Afforestation Project	Punjab Government	OECF (Japan)	442

Projects posed to Donor Agencies

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Implementing Agency	Funding Agency	Project Cost Cost (Rs. in Cr.)
1	Kerala Forestry Project	Kerala Government	World Bank	179.68
2	Eco-conservation and Reafforestation of shifting cultivation, Nagaland.	Nagaland Government	EEC	41.25
3.	Aravali Forestry Project	Rajasthan Government	OECF, Japan	563.08
4	Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project, Phase-II	Madhya Pradesh Government	World Bank	1380.00

Discontinuation of Private Broadcast on FM Slots

*567. SHRI VAIKO:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

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

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati Board has decided to discontinue the private broadcast on FM slots from June 26, 1998 and directed All India Radio to operate all FM slots;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this decision has since been implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such a decision by the Prasar Bharati Board is arbitrary since the cases of three FM AIR channel operators are pending before the Supreme Court; and

(f) if so, further action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND Minister of COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The broadcast by private operators on FM slots was discontinued w.e.f. 26th June, 1998 as per the order of Delhi High Court dated 29th May, 1998 which had dismissed the petitions of three operators who had pleaded for continuation of their licence and cancellation of Tenders. The High Court had allowed them to continue upto 25.6.1998 only.

Out of 40 slots which were being operated by private licencees at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Panaji, 27 are now being operated by All India Radio w.e.f. 26.6.1998. As far as other slots are concerned, the operators of those slots have filed cases in different Courts and have got Interim Injunctions in their favour.

(e) and (f) The decision has been taken after the Delhi High Court dismissed the petitions and the Supreme Court dismissed the SLPs.

Training to Youth in Sports

*568. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken up by the Government to select and train young children with a view to developing their sports excellence upto the international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where such scheme have been launched; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India, through the Sports Authority of India (SAI), has already launched the following sports schemes for selection and training of young children to develop their sports excellence upto international standards:—

- (i) The National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
- (ii) Special Area Games (SAG)
- (iii) Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC)
- (iv) SAI Training Centres (These Centres are the outcome of the merger of two schemes, viz. Sports Project Development Area and Sports Hostels Scheme).

(c) These schemes, except SAG and ABSC, cover all the States and Union Territories.

(d) A statement containing the details is enclosed.

Statement

Sports Authority of India Schemes Operational in States/Union Territories

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme

The scheme aims at selecting the school children in the age group of 8-12 years through a battery of tests in Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Swimming, Table Tennis, Wrestling and Volleyball for their scientific training in the SAI Adopted Schools. At present 30 schools are functioning throughout the country.

Action is in hand to revive the schools in J&K and Punjab which were earlier kept in abeyance due to law & order problem there:—

1.1. Adoption of Akharas for promotion of Wrestling:

In order to tap the rural youth who still continue to train in conventional *Akharas*, the scheme of adoption of *Akharas* is in vogue. Under the scheme, the children under 14 years of age who have already shown prominence in Wrestling while training in the *Akharas*, are adopted by SAI and to meet their diet & schooling expenses, stipend is given to them. At present following 2 *Akharas* have been adopted under the scheme of NSTC:—

(i) Kirda Vikas Vyavam Mandal, Sangli

(ii) Gokul Ustad Talim, Pune

2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Scheme:

The Scheme which is an extension of NSTC Scheme provides for scouting of talented boys in the age group of 8-12 years for admitting them into the Regimental Centres of the Army for further training on scientific lines with due care of their regular education.

On ABSC at Subhathu (HP) was closed consequent to reviewing of the schemes. At present there are 16 ABSCs are functioning.

3. Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme:

The Scheme envisages identification of the budding talent from the regions which are genetically or physically

gifted for achieving excellence in a particular discipline like a Archery, Fencing, Athletics, Boxing, Weightlifting, Shooting, Wrestling, Hockey, Water Sports, Cycling, Judo etc. Apart from this talent is also tapped from indigenous games and marital arts of the country. The selected talented boys and girls are admitted in the SAG Centres for inhouse scientific training where their education and vocational training is also taken care of by SAI. At present 9 (nine) SAG Centres are functioning.

4. SAI Training Centres:

Consequent to reviewing of the sports promotional schemes by the Governing Body, the Sports Hostel Scheme and the Sports Project Development Area (SPDA) Scheme stand merged as SAI Training Centres. These Centres cater for children in the age group of 14-21 years.

There are 41 SAI Training Centres are functioning.

Name of States/UTs (Region-Wise) where the Training Facilities are available under SAI Sports Promotional Schemes

Sl. No.	Name of the School	Discipline
1	2	3

(1) Eastern Region

(a) *NSTC School (adopted by SAI under NSTC Scheme)*

1.	St. Ignatious High School Gumla (Bihar)	Athletics Football Hockey
2.	Sukantanagar Vidya Niketan Salt Lake City, Calcutta (WB)	Football Athletics Gymnastics
3.	Bhawani Shankar High School, Sundergarh (Orissa)	Athletics Hockey
4.	Umakant Academy, Agartala (Tripura)	Football Gymnastics
5.	Tashi Namgyal Academy Gangtok (Sikkim)	Football Badminton Swimming Table Tennis Athletics
6.	Govt. Girls High Schools, Ranchi (Bihar).	Athletics Hockey
7.	Govt. Girls High School Krishnanagar (W.B.)	Athletics Gymnastics

1

2

3

(b) Army Boys Sports Companies

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|
| 1. | SRC, Ramgarh (Bihar) | Hockey
Football
Athletics
Misc. |
| 2. | BRC, Danapur (Bihar) | Hockey
Swimming
Football
Athletics |

(c) Special Area Games Centres

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | SAI-SAG Centre, Ranchi
(Bihar) | Hockey
Athletics
Archery |
| 2. | SAG Centre, Jagatpur
(Orissa) | Kayaking & Canoeing |

(d) SAI Training Centres

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | SAI Training Centre,
Burdwan (W.B.) | Basketball
Gymnastics
Volleyball |
| 2. | SAI Training Centre,
Lebong (W.B.) | Archery
Football |
| 3. | SAI Training Centre,
Siliguri (W.B.) | Athletics
Football |
| 4. | SAI Training Centre,
Calcutta (W.B.) | Athletics
Archery
Football |
| 5. | SAI Training Centre,
Cuttack (Orissa) | Athletics
Football
Basketball
Gymnastics |
| 6. | SAI Training Centre,
Dhenkanal (Orissa) | Athletics
Football |

(2) Western Region*(a) NSTC Schools (adopted by SAI under NSTC Scheme)*

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Muktangan English
School, Pune (Mah.) | Athletics
Gymnastics |
| 2. | Pravara Public School,
Pravaranagar (Mah.) | Athletics
Swimming
Gymnastics
Basketball |

1	2	3
3.	Bhupal's Nobles Hr. Sec. School, Udaipur, (Rajasthan)	Athletics Wrestling
<i>Day Boarding Schools</i>		
1.	Bhonsla Military School, Nasik (Mah.)	
2.	Sanjeevan Vidyalaya, Panchagani (Mah.)	
3.	St. Anthony High School, Goa	
<i>(b) Army Boys Sports Companies</i>		
1.	Bombay Engineering Group, Kirkee (Mah.)	Boxing Swimming Gymnastics Athletics Rowing
2.	Artillery Centre, Nasik (Mah.)	Basketball Wrestling Misc.
3.	Guards Regimental Centre, Kamtee (Mah.)	Basketball Swimming Misc.
<i>(c) Special Area Games Centres</i>		
1.	SAG Centre Post Blair	Kayaking & Canoeing Rowing Cycling Football
<i>(d) SAI Training Centres</i>		
1.	SAI Training Centre, Kandivali (Mah.)	Athletics Hockey Wrestling
2.	SAI Training Centre, Devgarh Baria (Guj.)	Archery Athletics
3.	SAI Training Centre, Gandhinagar (Guj.)	Athletics Hockey Handball Swimming Wrestling Basketball Football

1	2	3
4.	SAI Training Centre, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	Athletics Volleyball
5.	SAI Training Centre, Alwar (Rajasthan)	Athletics Basketball Volleyball Wrestling
6.	SAI Training Cente, Margaon (Goa)	Athletics Football Boxing

(3) North-East Region*(a) NSTC Schools (adopted by SAI under NSTC Scheme)*

1.	Dony Polo Vidya Bhawan, Itanagar (Arunachal)	Athletics Football
2.	Sainik School, Golapara (Assam)	Football Athletics
3.	Don Basco High School, Guwahati (Assam)	Badminton Swimming Table Tennis
4.	Sainik School, Imphal (Manipur)	Athletics Badminton Football Hockey

Day Boarding Schools

1.	St. Anthony High School, Shillong (Megh.)	Football
----	--	----------

(b) Army Boys Sports Companies

1.	Assam Regimental Centre, Shillong (Meghalaya)	Boxing Football
2.	58, Gorkha Training Centre, Shillong (Meghalaya)	Boxing Football Achery

(c) Special Area Games Centres

1.	SAI SAG Centre, Aizwal	Boxing Judo
----	------------------------	----------------

1	2	3	-
2.	SAG Centre, Imphal (Manipur)	Boxing Judo Wrestling Wt. Lifting	
<i>(d) SAI Training Centres</i>			
1.	SAI Training Centre, Dimapur (Nagaland)	Football Boxing	
2.	SAI Training Centre, Imphal (Manipur)	Athletics Football Hockey Cycling	
3.	SAI Training Centre, Guwahati (Assam)	Athletics Football W. Lifting	
4.	SAI Training Centre, Golaghat (Assam)	Athletics Football	
5.	SAI Training Centre, Shillong (Meghalaya)	Athletics Archery Football	
(4) Central Region			
<i>(a) NSTC School (adopted by SAI under NSTC Scheme)</i>			
1.	Mahadevi Kanya Patshala Inter-College, Dehradun (UP)	Hockey Badminton Table Tennis	
2.	Govt. Multipurpose High School, Indore (MP)	Athletics Wrestling Gymnastics	
3.	Udaipratap Inter-College, Varanasi (UP)	Athletics Hockey Basketball	
4.	Colvin Tluqdar's College, Lucknow (UP)	Table Tennis Swimming	
5.	Maharani Laxmibai Govt. Multipurpose School, Jabalpur (Raj.)	Athletics	

1

2

3

(b) Army Boys Sports Companies Misc.

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Bengal Engineering
Group, Roorkee (UP) | Gymnastics
Wrestling
Athletics

Kaya. & Canoe. |
| 2. | Signal Training Centre,
Jabalpur (Raj.) | Hockey
Boxing |
| 3. | Kumaon Regimental Centre,
Ranikhet (UP) | Boxing
Football
Misc. |
| 4. | Rajput Rifle Regiment
Centre, Delhi | Volleyball
Basketball
Athletics
Misc. |
| 5. | Jat Regimental Centre,
Bareilly (UP) | Volleyball
Basketball
Wrestling |

(c) Special Area Games Centres

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | SAG Centre, Delhi | Archery
Fencing |
|----|-------------------|--------------------|

(d) SAI Training Centres

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | SAI Training Centre, Dhar (MP) | Athletics |
| 2. | SAI Training Centre, Jabalpur
(Raj.) | Athletics |
| 3. | SAI Training Centre, Bhopal | Hockey
Basketball
Athletics |
| 4. | SAI Training Centre,
Kashipur (UP) | Football
Boxing |
| 5. | SAI Training Centre,
'Rai-Barailly (UP) | Athletics
Volleyball |
| 6. | SAI Training Centre, Safai
Etawah (UP) | Athletics
Wrestling |

1

2

3

5. Northern Region*(a) NSTC Schools (adopted by SAI under NSTC Scheme)*

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Shivalik Public School,
Chandigarh | Athletics
Badminton
Football
Hockey
Volleyball
Wrestling |
| 2. | Govt. Girls Sr. Sec. School,
Jalandhar (Pub.) | Athletics
Hockey |
| 3. | Motilal Nehru School of
Sports, Rai (Haryana) | Athletics
Gymnastics
Swimming |
| 4. | Chhotu Ram Zamindar Sr.
Sec. School, Sonapat (Haryana) | Athletics
Hockey
Wrestling |

(b) Army Boys Sports Companies

Nil

(c) Special Area Games Centres

Nil

(d) SAI Training Centres

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | SAI Training Centre,
Biwani (Haryana) | Athletics
Boxing
Volleyball
Wrestling |
| 2. | SAI Training Centre
Kurukshetra (Haryana) | Athletics
Volleyball |
| 3. | SAI Training Centres,
Ludhiana (Pub.)
SAI Training Centre,
Patiala (Pub.) | Gymnastics
Basketball
Athletics
Hockey
Judo
Cyclin |
| 4. | SAI Training Centre,
Dharmashala (H.P.) | Athletics
Volleyball
Boxing |
| 5. | SAI Trading Centre
Chandigarh | Athletics
Basketball
Volleyball
Hockey |

1	2	3
6.	SAI Training Centre Chandigarh	Athletics Boxing Volleyball
(6) Southern Region		
<i>(a) NSTC Schools (adopted by SAI under NSTC Scheme)</i>		
1.	St. Joseph Indian High School, Bangalore (Kar.)	Athletics Football Hockey Swimming
2.	Mount Carmel School, Kottayam (Kerala)	Athletics
3.	V.P. Sidhartha Public School, Vijayawada (AP)	Athletics Badminton Gymnastics
<i>(b) Army Boys Sports Companies</i>		
1.	Artillery Centre, Hyderabad (AP)	Volleyball Wrestling Athletics Misc.
2.	Madras Engineering Group, Bangalore, (Kar.)	Boxing Swimming Athletics Misc.
3.	MLIRC Belgaum (Karnataka)	Volleyball Hockey Wrestling Swimming Athletics
4.	Army Supply Core (South), Bangalore (Kar.)	Hockey Basketball Football
<i>(c) Special Area Games Centres</i>		
1.	SAG Centre, Alleppey (Kerala)	Canoeing & Kayaking Rowing
2.	SAG Centre, Tellicherry (Kerala)	Gymnastics Athletics

1	2	3
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(d) SAI Training Centres

1.	SAI Training Centre, Eiluru (AP)	Athletics Volleyball Wt. Lifting
2.	SAI Training Centre, Secunderabad (AP)	Athletics Football Boxing Hockey Badminton
3.	SAI Training Centre, Dharwad (Karnataka)	Athletics Basketball
4.	SAI Training Centre, Medicary (Karnataka)	Athletics Hockey
5.	SAI Training Centre, Bangalore	Athletics Boxing Football Hockey Judo
6.	SAI Training Centre, Kollam (Kerala)	Athletics Volleyball Hockey
7.	SAI Training Centre, Trichur (Kerala)	Athletics Basketball Badminton Swimming
8.	SAI Training Centre, Calicut (Kerala)	Athletics Volleyball Football Basketball
9.	SAI Training Centre, Pondicherry	Football Hockey Wt. Lifting Volleyball
10.	SAI Training Centre, Madras	Hockey Football
11.	SAI Training Centre, Salem (TN)	Athletics
12.	SAI Training Centre, Nizamabad	Archery

Contract to Foreign Company

*569. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether C-DOT have awarded any contract to M/s. COMSAT of USA;

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

(c) whether this project has to be abandoned after spending Rs. 20 crore;

(d) if so, whether the Government are aware that payments were made by C-DOT to M/s. COMSAT even after the project was abandoned; and

(e) if so, the action Government propose to take against concerned C-DOT officials in this regard?

THE Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Telecom entrusted the job for development of software and hardware equipment required for INSAT Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) system, using C x S band transponders, to C-DOT. In order to develop suitable technology, C-DOT invited offers from reputed international telecom manufacturers in the satellite field. After due consideration, C-DOT awarded the contract to M/s COMSAT at a total cost of US\$ 47,75,000 for the development and supply of hub station and mobile terminals including those of portable and maritime types.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) question does not arise.

[Translation]

Package for Power Sector

*570. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare a major package for the power sector;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the time by which the said package is likely to be announced; and

(d) the extent to which the power situation is likely to improve to this package?

THE Minister of POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMAR:MANGALAM):

Statement

(a) to (d) A number of initiatives have been taken by the Government recently to revitalise the power sector. Some of the major policy decisions taken by the Government are;

1. In accordance with the electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has been established. Several States have taken steps for establishment of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). This is expected to help in tariff rationalisation and creating a more efficient and competitive power sector.
2. The Bill for amendment of Electricity Supply Act to identify transmission as an independent activity and to encourage private sector investment in transmission has been introduced in the Parliament.
3. The procedures for clearances of power projects has been streamlined and simplified. Substantial delegation of powers have been made to the States to accord clearances, including environment clearance, to the power projects.
4. Financial allocation for public sector projects in the Annual Plan 1998-99 has been increased substantially.
5. The scheme for accelerated completion of ongoing projects in state sector, renovation and modernisation of old stations and system improvement schemes with concessional financing from PFC has been extended for the Ninth Plan. Additional incentives have been provided to the States setting up the SERCs and to the North Eastern States.
6. The procedure for issue of counter guarantees has been revised and it has been decided that counter guarantee will be given only in the event of termination and will be limited to the outstanding foreign debt only.

7. The policy for use of liquid fuels for power projects has been modified. Accordingly, the States would be free to contract for new power projects based on furnace oil and non-traditional fuels like condensate and Orimulsion over and above 12000 MW capacity based on liquid fuels.
8. Projects for power generation, transmission and distribution are permitted foreign equity participation upto 100% on the automatic approval route provided the foreign equity in any such project does not exceed Rs. 1500 crores.

It is expected that the initiatives taken would help to reduce the power shortages in the country by the end of the Ninth Plan.

Fully Computerised Post Offices

*571. SHRI RAM CHANDRA BAINDA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a fully computerised post office has been inaugurated in Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any scheme to open such post offices in other parts of the country;
- (d) if so the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and
- (e) the time likely to be taken for the commencement of this work?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Parliament Street Head Office has been fully computerised. The Post Office was dedicated to the service of the people on 26th June, 1998.

(c) to (e) Computerisation of Post Office is a Plan Scheme of the Department. The Department has adopted

three approaches in computerising Post Offices, first stage consists of computerising front office, second stage computerising registration, delivery work and lastly providing a linkage through computer between the front and back office of a post office. When all the three stages are completed a Post Office is fully computerised. The number of Post Offices to be fully computerised will depend not only on the size and importance of the Post Office and its functions its cost effectiveness, but also on the resources made available to the Department under the Plan.

[English]

Mahila Commission

*572. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from State Governments to set up Mahila Commission for Women and Child;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have asked for funds from the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have cleared the proposal of Andhra Pradesh in regard to setting up of the said Commission;

(f) if so, whether the Andhra Pradesh Government propose to set up a permanent relief fund to rehabilitate women and children including child labour and child sex workers;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which Mahila Commission will be set up in the States particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following Bills proposing to set up State

Commissions for Women were received from the State Governments and have been given the President's assent:

S.No.	Name of Bill	Assented by President on
1	The Maharashtra State Commission for Women Bill, 1993	24.4.93
2.	The Orissa State Commission for Women Bill, 1993	24.9.94
3.	The Kerala Women's Commission Bill	22.8.95
4.	The Madhya Pradesh Rajya Mahila Ayog Vidheyak, 1996	5.12.96
5.	The Himachal Pradesh State Commission for Women Bill, 1996	9.10.97
6.	The Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission Bill, 1997	9.3.98

(c) and (d) The Union Government has no scheme for funding such Commissions.

(e) The Government of India obtained the President's assent to the Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission Bill, 1997 on 9th March, 1998 which was conveyed to the State Government. The State Government notified the Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission Act, 1998 which came into force with effect from 6th April, 1998.

(f) and (g) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh proposes to set up a Relief and Rehabilitation Fund with a corpus fund of Rs. 50.00 lakhs to attend to the immediate relief and rehabilitation of women, who are victims of rape, dowry harrasment and other offences.

(h) The setting up of State Commissions for women is the prerogative of the State Governments.

[Translation]

Vessels by Shipyards in the Country

*573. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SMT. SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vessels built by each shipyard in the country during the last three years;

(b) the actual production cost and details of profit and loss on each of these vessels, shipyard-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to reduce the cost and modernise the yards and to make them viable from the commercial point of view during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The number of Vessels built, actual production cost and profit/loss made by the Public Sector Shipyards under the administrative control of this Ministry during last three years may be seen in the statement attached.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Union Government to reduce the cost of production and modernise the public sector shipyards and to make them commercially viable during the Ninth Five Year Plan:

- (i) Provision of 30% Subsidy on Ship-building for ocean-going vessels for domestic and export orders;
- (ii) Plan assistance is being given to Public Sector Shipyards under the administrative control of Ministry of Surface Transport for upgradation and modernisation and augmentation of Shipbuilding and Shiprepair facilities.
- (iii) Voluntary Retirement Scheme is under implementation in the Public Sector Shipyards to reduce excessive manpower thereby optimising staff strength.
- (iv) Capital Restructuring of Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, Short Term Revival Plan for Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd. Calcutta have been approved.
- (v) Shipyards continue to avail of facilities under OGL for importing ship components as per liberalised export-import policy.

Further, Shipyards are also taking the following measures for reducing the cost of production and modernisation of the yards;

- (i) optimum utilisation of existing facilities;
- (ii) improved inventory control systems;
- (iii) quality control systems;
- (iv) induction of new technology/techniques, such as
 - (a) modular construction of ships;
 - (b) computer aided design facilities;
- (v) restructuring of organisational set up.

Statement Showing the Number of Vessels Built. Details of Actual Production Cost and Profit (Loss) on each Vessel Built by Public Sector Shipyards During the Last Three Years.

S.No.	Name of Shipyard	Year	No. and (Type) of Vessels	Actual Cost of Production (Rs. in Lakhs)	Profit (+) Loss (-) (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam	1994-95	1 (1000T HSD Oiler)	549.39	-264.39
		1995-96	1 (42750 Dead Weight Tonnage Bulk Carrier)	10672.0	-4334.04
		1996-97	—	—	—
2.	Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Cochin	1994-95	1 (Tug)	1197.00	+211.00
		1994-95	2 (Tugs)	2568.00	+248.00
		1996-97	5 (Patrol Boats)	835.00	+25.00
3.	Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd., Calcutta	1994-95	—	—	—
		1995-96	—	—	—
		1996-97	2 (1 landing ferry) (1 Tug)	840.00 850.00	-322 -404
4.	Rajabagan Dockyard of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd., Calcutta	1994-95	2 (1 Dumb Barge) (1 Pusher Tug)	218.85 400.43	-43.89 -32.51
		1995-96	2 (Pontoons) 1st	49.07	-21.07
			2nd	32.73	-4.73
		1996-97	1 (Dumb Barge)	331.74	-16.45

Telecommunications Network

*574. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:

(d) the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be linked?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Both Optical Fibre and Microwave connectivity are available to 22 out of a total of 32 State Capitals and Headquarters of Union Territories. At another seven stations either microwave or Optical Fibre Cable is available. However, both media have been planned for all these stations and are likely to be made available progressively from 1998-99 to 2000-2001. In the Islands, provision of Optical Fibre and Microwave is technically not feasible. Hence, only satellite media has been provided. At Gangtok, Microwave and satellite media have been provided so far due to terrain condition. The State/Union Territories-wise details are furnished at Annexure-I.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the capital cities and the headquarters of union territories of the country have been linked with the telecommunications network by microwave media and optical fibre cables;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the names of the places still not linked with the telecommunications network; and

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	State Capital/Headquarter of Union Territories	Connectivity Available
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Optical Fibre & Microwave
2.	Bihar	Patna	Optical Fibre & Microwave
3.	Goa	Panjim	Optical Fibre & Microwave
4.	Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Optical Fibre & Microwave
5.	Haryana	Chandigarh	Optical Fibre & Microwave
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Simla	Optical Fibre & Microwave
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu Srinagar	Optical Fibre & Microwave Microwave
8.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Optical Fibre & Microwave
9.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Optical Fibre & Microwave

1	2	3	4
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Optical Fibre & Microwave
11.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Optical Fibre & Microwave
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Microwave
13.	Assam	Dispur	Optical Fibre & Microwave
14.	Meghalaya	Shillong	Optical Fibre & Microwave
15.	Nagaland	Kohima	Microwave
16.	Manipur	Imphai	Microwave
17.	Mizoram	Aizwal	Microwave
18.	Tripura	Agartala	Microwave
19.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	Optical Fibre & Microwave
20.	Punjab	Chandigarh	Optical Fibre & Microwave
21.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Optical Fibre & Microwave
22.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Optical Fibre & Microwave
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Optical Fibre & Microwave
24.	West Bengal	Calcutta	Optical Fibre & Microwave
25.	Andaman & Nicobar IS	Portblair	Satelite
26.	Delhi	Delhi	Optical Fibre & Microwave
27.	Daman & Diu	Daman	Optical Fibre & Microwave
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Silvassa	Optical Fibre & Microwave
29.	Lakshdweep	Kavaratti	Satellite
30.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	Optocal Fibre & Microwave
31.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	Optical Fibre
32.	Sikkim	Gangtok	Microwave & Satellite

*(English)***Nehru Yuva Kendras**

*575. SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various projects and works taken up and completed by Nehru Yuva Kendras in the country during the last three years till date, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the total financial assistance sanctioned and provided to Nehru Yuva Kendras in various States during the said period each project;

(c) the total amount spent by these Kendras during this period; and

(d) the plan, projects and proposals of the Nehru Yuva Kendras in the country for 1998-99, Kendra wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) During the last three years till date, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) has taken up and completed various projects and works under three broad categories, viz., Regular Programmes, Schemes of Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and Special Programmes & Projects of other agencies. Details are given in Statement-I to III enclosed.

(b) The total financial assistance sanctioned and provided to Nehru Yuva Kendras in various States during the last three years under each project is given in Statement-IV.

(c) The total amount spent by these Kendras during last three years is given in Statement-V enclosed

(d) The plan Projects and proposals of NYKS for the year 1998-99 in the country (Kendra wise) are given in Statement-VI and VII enclosed.

Statement-I**State-wise Number of Regular Programmes Organised during the year 1995-96**

Sl.No.	State/UT	TSEP	YLTP	WC	NYD/W	VT(NT)	VT(T)	BLC	SC	Cel D/W	LNBP	Gandhi Ani	PRAT	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	A&N Island	4	10	2	11	9	9	5	0	18	0	2	7	77
	Andhra Pradesh	36	51	17	239	100	51	47	426	71	23	76	23	1160
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	38
4.	Assam	23	32	21	105	52	36	26	122	82	15	66	28	611
5.	Bihar	42	67	7	292	190	133	119	74	313	41	161	122	1561
6.	Chandigarh	1	1	1	1	18	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	27
7.	Dadra Nagar & Haveli	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	4	12	1	1	1	28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8.	Goa, Daman & Diu	5	3	3	9	8	0	3	4	8	46	12	3	104
9.	Gujarat	17	17	13	228	47	16	53	0	123	22	62	37	635
10.	Haryana	29	17	21	118	54	22	22	53	161	57	64	151	669
11.	Himachal Pradesh	16	12	13	109	58	31	17	254	109	31	59	36	745
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	5	9	84	19	5	13	19	78	18	63	24	347
13.	Karnataka	22	33	16	324	127	36	43	9	511	299	317	14	1751
14.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Kerala	37	19	18	441	61	76	68	28	133	44	174	55	1154
16.	Madhya Pradesh	52	69	51	913	140	50	314	69	576	237	373	52	2896
17.	Maharashtra	35	32	21	1214	65	107	270	258	354	44	404	23	2824
18.	Manipur	10	9	11	55	19	9	8	31	75	9	23	8	267
19.	Meghalaya	2	3	5	13	7	3	4	1	6	2	5	2	53
20.	Mizoram	2	2	12	16	2	3	29	2	0	6	2	4	80
21.	Nagaland	5	4	7	12	13	10	6	4	7	5	4	3	80
22.	Delhi	9	52	3	24	14	4	96	20	14	32	10	4	282
23.	Orissa	14	30	17	116	85	28	24	74	65	7	73	77	610
24.	Pondicherry	2	2	1	13	4	6	3	1	10	0	14	1	57
25.	Punjab	16	15	14	136	43	21	42	39	228	115	77	38	784
26.	Rajasthan	32	32	26	297	67	39	50	84	308	103	161	51	1250

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
27.	Sikkim	2	5	1	10	2	6	5	0	0	0	2	6	39
28.	Tamil Nadu	25	29	15	262	152	58	52	9	176	19	105	35	937
29.	Tripura	3	2	3	84	6	4	2	34	21	1	58	3	221
30.	Uttar Pradesh	49	125	65	855	210	99	260	1053	1428	256	534	160	5094
31.	West Bengal	25	43	31	180	131	85	60	250	141	24	83	65	1118
Grand Total		537	724	427	6171	1707	952	1645	2923	5029	1461	2986	937	25499

TSEP = Training in Self Employment Programmes YLTP = Youth Leadership Training Programmes
 WC = Work Camp/NYD/W = National Youth Day/Week VT(NT) = Vocational Training (Non-Technical)
 VT (T) = Vocational Training (Technical) BLC = Block Level Campaign SC = Social Campaign
 Cel. DW = Celebration of National Days and Weeks LNBP = Local Need Based Programmes
 Gandhi Ani = Celebration of Gandhi Birth Anniversary PRAT Panchayati Raj Awareness Training

Statement-I Contd.

State-wise Number of Regular Programmes organised during the year 1996-97

Sl.No.	State/UT	TSEP	YLTP	WC	NYD/W	VT(NT)	VT(T)	BLC	SC	Cel DW	LNBP	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	A&N Island	0	9	3	17	12	5	11	0	9	1	67
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	36	22	163	102	46	36	64	209	4	683
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	2	2	1	15	4	2	0	4	0	30
4.	Assam	2	21	33	128	85	36	108	187	238	72	910
5.	Bihar	77	50	30	380	206	103	108	91	429	150	1624
6.	Chandigarh	0	1	0	3	4	0	1	0	0	10	19
7.	Dadra Nagar & Haveli	0	1	1	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8.	Goa, Daman & Diu	0	4	4	20	14	0	8	0	30	7	87
9.	Gujarat	2	20	13	195	57	15	19	23	223	11	578
10.	Haryana	7	48	12	200	44	12	2021	576	888	34	3842
11.	Himachal Pradesh	3	13	11	89	58	21	13	18	454	16	696
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	5	9	114	37	12	33	26	135	15	393
13.	Karnataka	0	19	11	235	123	24	21	4	324	73	834
14.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Kerala	0	20	0	227	33	24	116	52	254	1	627
16.	Madhya Pradesh	10	57	50	909	140	69	122	66	795	55	2273
17.	Maharashtra	7	29	21	926	64	39	86	124	1169	0	2465
18.	Manipur	1	9	12	72	16	21	15	49	56	8	259
19.	Meghalaya	1	4	5	22	5	6	3	72	9	3	130
20.	Mizoram	0	2	5	10	2	5	2	0	16	13	55
21.	Nagaland	3	7	7	17	9	13	5	1	7	4	73
22.	Delhi	0	2	0	19	6	4	2	0	10	1	44
23.	Orissa	0	13	1	109	56	45	12	46	182	1	465
24.	Pondicherry	0	3	1	10	7	6	3	0	42	1	73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
25.	Punjab	3	14	11	189	59	12	31	34	160	8	521
26.	Rajasthan	0	30	21	382	103	26	122	56	334	86	1160
27.	Sikkim	1	2	0	6	0	3	2	0	4	0	18
28.	Tamil Nadu	1	22	4	191	100	29	25	39	173	11	595
29.	Tripura	0	3	3	54	11	12	34	261	482	2	862
30.	Uttar Pradesh	7	48	67	634	294	117	486	339	1778	229	4199
31.	West Bengal	0	20	12	147	79	45	35	132	343	58	871
Grand Total		133	514	371	5470	1745	754	3383	2460	8757	874	24661

TSEP = Training in Self Employment Programmes, YLTP = Youth Leadership Training Programmes (ULTP)

WC = Work Camp, NYD/W = National Youth Day/Week, VT(NT) = Vocation Training (Non-Technical)

VT (T) = Vocational Training (Technical), BLC = Block Level Campaign, SC = Social Campaign

Cel. D/W = Celebration of National Days and Weeks, LNBP = Local Need Based Programmes

Statement-I Contd.

State-wise Number of Programmes organised during the year 1997-98

Sl.No	States/UT	YCDP	WC	VT	NYD/D/Week	Sports Prog.	Awar Camp	Cultural Prog.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	A & N Island	3	1	4	24	5	3	4	44
2	Andhra Pradesh	27	15	90	235	46	82	12	507
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5	2	24	47	3	8	3	92
4	Assam	21	12	80	90	38	27	8	276

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Bihar	62	22	228	368	82	181	40	983
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Dadra Nagar & Haveli	5	1	8	15	3	3	1	36
8.	Goa, Daman & Diu	10	4	27	44	12	95	10	202
9.	Gujarat	38	13	95	268	43	12	19	488
10.	Haryana	15	13	71	209	39	77	21	445
11.	Himachal Pradesh	20	11	75	190	37	78	18	429
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	8	59	155	28	57	8	330
13.	Karnataka	22	14	111	291	52	99	24	613
14.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15.	Kerala	23	15	90	247	49	96	17	537
16.	Madhya Pradesh	61	19	210	521	92	201	39	1143
17.	Maharashtra	44	12	87	269	46	90	12	560
18.	Manipur	8	2	19	62	16	31	7	145
19.	Meghalaya	3	1	11	31	4	15	2	67
20.	Mizoram	2	1	7	15	3		3	31
21.	Nagaland	3		9	20	4	4	2	42
22.	Delhi	4	3	15	15	7	7	4	55

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	Orissa	28	14	124	271	50	112	19	618
24.	Pondicherry	5	0	0	9	4	3	5	26
25.	Punjab	19	10	73	203	36	80	18	439
26.	Rajasthan	38	19	161	398	69	151	30	866
27.	Sikkim	3	4	18	41	5	8	2	81
28.	Tamil Nadu	25	12	170	267	57	115	28	674
29.	Tripura	3	4	15	94	4	7	9	136
30.	Uttar pradesh	94	15	339	852	151	324	62	1837
31.	West bengal	28	16	118	220	60	77	27	546
Total		634	263	2338	5471	1045	2043	454	12248

YCDP = Youth Club Development Programmes, WC = Work Camp, VT = Vocation Training
 NYD/D/Week = Celebration of National and International Days and Weeks
 Sport Prog.-Sports Programmes, Awar. Camp = Awareness Camp Cultural Prog.-Cultural Programmes

Statement-II

Details of Schemes of Department of Youth Affairs and Sports Implemented by NYKs from 1995-96 to 1997-98

State	National Service Volunteers Deployed			No. of Youth Clubs assisted			No. of Awards given to Outstanding Youth Clubs			Youth Development Centre Established		
	95-96	96-97	97-98	95-96	96-97	97-98	95-96	96-97	97-98	95-96	96-97	97-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	134	129	138	29	17	25	15	12	13	4	10	12
Assam	94	88	105	54	28	63	17	11	18	36	23	22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bihar	266	251	216	26	8	3	7	1	6	—	3	3
Gujarat	77	82	71	—	6	21	8	4	9	1	1	—
Haryana	69	217	81	54	42	82	13	14	13	10	8	1
Himachal Pradesh	38	40	52	40	17	52	11	10	11	7	9	7
Jammu & Kashmir	56	47	49	5	6	5	4	4	3	2	2	1
Karnataka	83	84	74	55	41	112	17	15	10	1	5	6
Kerala	70	70	61	83	26	78	13	13	12	27	20	22
Madhya Pradesh	275	252	225	115	33	93	28	18	30	11	7	8
Maharashtra	157	133	116	159	30	100	16	11	21	6	3	8
Manipur	24	24	23	18	14	32	6	4	7	14	11	9
Meghalaya	15	18	20	8	5	8	1	2	—	—	—	2
Nagaland	21	24	22	—	5	1	6	2	3	—	1	2
Orissa	102	80	66	56	18	43	8	—	7	18	28	2
Punjab	58	62	64	4	11	7	10	11	9	1	1	—
Rajasthan	153	144	149	32	17	36	15	15	13	6	1	2
Sikkim	9	6	14	6	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Tamil Nadu	142	138	133	54	33	48	15	20	9	7	3	57
Tripura	12	11	25	12	5	11	3	2	3	2	3	—
Uttar Pradesh	740	793	768	73	26	94	27	24	32	4	9	10
West Bengal	146	151	102	34	22	33	9	1	10	12	15	9
Arunachal Pradesh	7	7	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A&N Island	16	12	10	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi	12	9	7	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Goa, Daman & Diu	6	10	7	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	7	12	9	1	1	—	1	2	—	1	3	2
Mizoram	6	11	15	—	5	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	4	3	3	2	6	1	1	1	—	—	—
Total	2803	2913	2635	924	420	960	254	200	244	170	166	185

22	17	19
State Level	State Level	State Level
3	3	3
National Level	National Level	National Level

Statement-III*Assisted by Other Agencies*

**Youth Action Goal-2000 (In Uttar Pradesh)
Achievement as per Goal Year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98**

1995-96

S.No.	Name of Activities	No. of Programmes organised
1.	Training of Project Functionaries	403
2.	Awareness Programmes	37630

1996-97 & 1997-98

1. Child Education (In Nos)

	Boys	Girls	Total
(i) Enrolment	380309	287213	667522
(ii) Dropout Reenrolled	79056	63143	143199

2. Child Health and Immunization (In Nos)

	Boys	Girls	Total
BCG	365395	553967	919352
D.P.T., Polio 1	620837	586862	1207699
D.P.T., Polio 2	611654	535570	1147224
D.P.T., Polio 3	522691	422717	945408
Polio Booster	648430	877019	1525449
Measels	507225	423157	930382

3. Water and Sanitation (In Nos):

Handpump Repairing	98231
Cleaning of Wells	69561
Chlorination in Wells	164568
Construction of Drains	108175
Construction of Soak Pit	141591
Construction of Compost Pit	690672

4. Control of malnutrition (In Nos):

Testing of Iodine Salt (Nos. of Family)	Total 2699577	<15 PPM 1193812	>15 PPM 1505765
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Distribution of Iron Folic Acid Tablets 5563034

Constructions of Kitchen Garden 586692

5. Family Welfare (In Nos)

Registration and Test of Pregnent Women 496006

Facility of Copper-T 120910

Vasectomy 69356

Distribution of Condoms 187811

Statement-III Contd.

Assisted in other Agencies

*State-wise Number of Programmes organised under the Health Awareness Units (HAU)
Project during 1995-96 to 1997-98 (In some States)*

Sl.No.	State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	199	182
2.	Bihar	05	2474	2422

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Gujarat	00	1538	1065
4.	Haryana	70	2305	2300
5.	Karnataka	138	190	1643
6.	Kerala	126	755	330
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1230	17108	8325
8.	Maharashtra	140	1518	1145
9.	Orissa	263	2344	1198
10.	Punjab	34	569	291
11.	Rajasthan	00	5713	7086
12.	Tamil Nadu	27	988	552
13.	Uttar Pradesh	139	19546	10126
14.	West Bengal	38	2685	1817
Grand Total		2215	57932	38482

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15.	Meghalaya	40000	5000	-	126000	382400	-	-	553400
16.	Nagaland	-	30000	-	176400	669200	-	-	875600
17.	Orissa	280000	40000	540000	856800	1434000	180130	-	3330930
18.	Punjab	20000	50000	30000	487200	1338400	86000	-	2011600
19.	Rajasthan	160000	75000	180000	1285200	286800	1206875	-	5775075
20.	Sikkim	30000	5000	-	75600	286800	-	-	397400
21.	Tamil Nadu	270000	75000	210000	1192800	2198800	86000	-	4032600
22.	Tripura	60000	15000	60000	100800	286800	-	-	522600
23.	Uttar Pradesh	365000	135000	120000	6216000	6022800	1749253	-	14608000
24.	West Bengal	170000	45000	360000	1226400	2103200	180130	-	4084730
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	58800	382400	-	-	441200
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	10000	5000	-	134400	573600	-	-	723000
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	33600	95600	-	-	129200
28.	Delhi	5000	-	-	100800	286800	-	-	392600
29.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	-	-	50400	382400	-	-	432800
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
31.	Pondicherry	5000	5000	30000	58800	191200	-	-	290008
32.	Mizoram	-	5000	-	50400	286800	-	-	342200
33.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	15000	5000	-	33600	95600	-	-	149200
All State Total		4620000	1270000	5100000	23545200	45696800	6290483		86522483

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1996-97									
1.	Andhra Pradesh	85000	65000	300000	1083600	1183005	70000	50000	2836605
2.	Assam	140000	550000	69000	739200	1131570	-	100000	2855770
3.	Bihar	40000	5000	90000	2108400	2571750	385000	20000	5400150
4.	Gujarat	30000	20000	30000	688800	925830	210000	-	1904630
5.	Haryana	210000	70000	240000	1822800	822900	140000	150000	3455760
6.	Himachal Pradesh	85000	50000	270000	336000	617220	-	150000	1508220
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	30000	20000	60000	394800	720090	-	150000	1374890
8.	Karnataka	205000	80000	150000	705600	977265	105000	50000	2272865
9.	Kerala	130000	65000	600000	588000	720090	70000	50000	2223090
10.	Madhya Pradesh	165000	90000	210000	2116800	2488880	1050000	150000	6250680
11.	Maharashtra	150000	55000	90000	1117200	1543050	105000	200000	3260250
12.	Manipur	70000	20000	330000	201600	462915	-	-	1084515
13.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
14.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
15.	Meghalaya	25000	10000	-	151200	205740	-	50000	441940
16.	Nagaland	25000	10000	30000	201600	360045	-	-	626645
17.	Orissa	90000	-	840000	672000	771525	140000	100000	2613525

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Punjab	85000	55000	30000	520800	720090	70000	100000	1580890
19.	Rajasthan	85000	75000	30000	1209600	1543050	875000	-	3817650
20.	Sikkim	-	-	-	50400	154305	-	-	204705
21.	Tamil Nadu	165000	100000	90000	1159200	1234440	70000	50000	2868640
22.	Tripura	25000	10000	90000	92400	154305	-	50000	421705
23.	Uttar Pradesh	130000	120000	270000	6661200	3240405	1295000	150000	11866605
24.	West Bengal	110000	5000	450000	1268400	1131570	140000	100000	3204970
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	58800	205740	-	-	264540
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	100800	308610	-	-	409410
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	33600	51435	-	-	-
28.	Delhi	10000	5000	-	75600	154305	-	-	244905
29.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	-	-	84000	205740	-	50000	339740
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
31.	Pondicherry	5000	10000	90000	100800	205740	-	50000	461540
32.	Mizoram	25000	-	-	92400	154305	-	-	271705
33.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	10000	5000	-	33600	51435	-	50000	150035
All State Total		2130000	1000000	4980000	24469200	24997410	4725000	2000000	64301610

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1997-98									
1.	Andhra Pradesh	125000	65000	360000	1159200	808933	53500	-	2571633
2.	Assam	315000	90000	660000	882000	773762	-	-	2720762
3.	Bihar	15000	30000	90000	1814400	1758550	278500	-	3986450
4.	Gujarat	105000	45000	-	596400	633078	150000	-	1529478
5.	Haryana	410000	65000	30000	680400	562736	103500	-	1851636
6.	Himachal Pradesh	260000	55000	210000	436800	422052	-	-	1383852
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	25000	15000	30000	411600	492394	-	-	973994
8.	Karnataka	560000	50000	180000	521600	668249	75000	-	2154849
9.	Kerala	390000	60000	660000	512400	492394	57000	-	2171794
10.	Madhya Pradesh	465000	150000	240000	1890000	1688203	767000	-	5200208
11.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
12.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
13.	Maharashtra	30000	105000	240000	974400	1055130	78500	-	2953030
14.	Manipur	160000	35000	270000	193200	316539	-	-	974739
15.	Meghalaya	40000	-	60000	168000	175855	-	-	443855
16.	Nagaland	5000	15000	60000	184800	246197	-	-	510997
17.	Orissa	215000	35000	60000	554400	527565	100000	-	1491965

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Punjab	35000	45000	-	537600	492394	53500	-	1163494
19.	Rajasthan	180000	65000	60000	1251600	1055130	628500	-	3240230
20.	Sikkim	-	50000	-	117600	140684	-	-	263284
21.	Tamil Nadu	240000	45000	17110000	1117200	1019959	50000	-	4182159
22.	Tripura	55000	15000	-	210000	105513	-	-	385513
23.	Uttar Pradesh	470000	160000	300000	6451200	2215773	946000	-	10542973
24.	West Bengal	165000	50000	270000	856800	773762	100000	-	2215562
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	84000	140684	-	-	224684
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	5000	-	-	84000	211026	-	-	300026
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	35171	-	-	35171
28.	Delhi	-	5000	-	58800	105513	-	-	169313
29.	Goa, Daman & Diu	25000	-	-	58800	140684	-	-	224484
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	60000	75600	140684	-	-	276284
32.	Mizoram	5000	10000	-	126000	105513	-	-	246513
33.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	30000	5000	-	25200	35171	-	-	95371
All State Total		4800000	1220000	5550000	22134000	17339303	3441000	-	54484303

FAYC : Financial Assistance to Youth Clubs, AOYC : Awards to Outstanding Youth Clubs, YDC : Youth Development Centre, NSV : National Service Volunteers, Reg. Prg. : It comprises Work Camp, Vocation, Trg, Cultural Prg, Celebration of Days/Week, Sports Promotion, YLTF, HAU : Health Awareness Unit, MSY : Mahila Samridhi Yojana

Statement IV—Contd.

Besides the programmes and projects mentioned earlier NYKS have also provided the funds for the following programmes/projects, only to Zonal Offices for the States under their charge

1.	AIDS awareness campaign for North Eastern States	= Rs. 18,84,000.00
2.	North Eastern School students cultural exchange Programmes	= Rs. 6,73,280.00
3.	Training camps on awareness generation cum Management of Water resource to different Zones	= Rs. 5,10,000.00
4.	Sadbhavana Jyoti Yatra	= Rs. 64,000.00
5.	Workshop on Adolescent, Reproductive health and Gender Sensitization	= Rs. 2,35,000.00
6.	Funds for State level youth awards	= Rs. 22,700.00

Statement-V

Total amount spent by NYK's in different States during 1995-96 to 1997-96 under various Projects

Sl.No.	State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4002953	2406209	1412383
2.	Assam	2874266	3698410	2735221
3.	Bihar	6874015	4771662	3104831
4.	Gujarat	2605100	1730376	1709039
5.	Haryana	2422241	2499100	2595161
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1729003	1458363	1144932
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	937518	669506	543168

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Karnataka	2851891	1582254	1295287
9.	Kerala	2480885	2207462	1064597
10.	Madhya Pradesh	6293476	7140493	4446875
11.	Maharashtra	4903875	3595130	2087910
12.	Manipur	1210827	1401047	1088321
13.	Meghalaya	254531	546800	324743
14.	Nagaland	637306	750694	533410
15.	Orissa	2215340	1535372	1398030
16.	Punjab	1689806	1308738	1032805
17.	Rajasthan	3651239	3026782	3054052
18.	Sikkim	335259	189164	185932
19.	Tamil Nadu	3786655	2682739	2033894
20.	Tripura	413757	604630	563328
21.	Uttar Pradesh	8218699	7362928	10409199
22.	West Bengal	3491343	257880	2082787
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	2525245	209670	165737
24.	A&N Island	566422	369783	318785
25.	Chandigarh	136106	71425	5868

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Delhi	302650	363561	327255
27.	Goa, Daman & Diu	257361	226405	199040
28.	Lakshadweep			
29.	Pondicherry	268620	343383	192517
30.	Mizoram	244182	316740	221640
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	163410	203442	71559
Total		66071381	55750148	46348316

Statement-VI*Annual Action Plan of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for Regular Programmes for the Financial year 1998-99*

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	Budget per Programme in Rs. (Normal Area Distt.)	Budget per Programme- In Rs. (Expensive Area Distt.)	Physical Target Per NYK	Financial Target (Per NYK)		Total Target (All Kendra's)			
					Normal Area	Expensive Area District	Physical	Financial (in Lakh)	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Youth Club Development Programme	4,690	5,470	5	23,450	27,350	2600	92.86	28.44	121.30
2.	Vocational Training	4,000	4,000	8	32,000	32,000	4,000	126.72	33.28	160.00
3.	Awareness Campaign	2,000	2,200	10	20,000	22,000	5,000	79.20	22.88	102.08
4.	Work Camp	4,690	5,470	5	23,450	27,350	2,600	92.86	28.44	121.30
5.	Sports Promotion	3,000	3,000	8	24,000	24,000	4,000	95.04	24.96	120.00
6. & 7	Workshop and Seminars & Celebration of National Days/Weeks	6000	6000	1	6000	6000	500	23.76	6.24	30.00
Total		24,380	25,940	37	1,28,900	1,38,700	18,700	510.44	14.24	654.68

Rs. 6.55 crores for 396 Normal District + 104 Expensive Districts = 500, district NYKs

Statement-VII

Schemes of Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and other agencies to be implemented by NYKS during 1998-99

Schemes of Department of Youth Affairs and Sports

Targets under different schemes of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports for the current financial year are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Target (In Nos.) Physical
1	National Service Volunteers	8500
2.	Youth Development Centre	166
3.	Financial Assistance to Youth Clubs	1000
4.	Award to Outstanding youth Clubs	
	District Level	500
	State Level	26
	National Level	3

Special Programmes and Projects of other Agencies**(i) Health Awareness Units Project:**

For the current financial year, different programmes such as Role of Youth in Health and family welfare, Publicity on three year gap in the birth of children, publicity on equal status of Male and Female child, menace of STD/HIV-AIDS and how to prevent and control the diseases and publicity on Educating Adolescent girls and boys to be undertaken under 'Health Awareness Units Projects' in identified 135 districts of the country. Scheme of awards under this scheme has also been planned for this year on cluster and district level.

(ii) Youth Action Goal-2000 Project in Uttar Pradesh

NYKS in Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with UNICEF has planned to take up the challenge to train and make youth aware of the hazards of Population Explosion, Malnutrition, Illiteracy, Primary School Dropouts, Health and Sanitation, Child Marriage, HIV-AIDS Drug Abuse : Control and Prevention, importance of Pregnancy and Child Care, Balanced Diet, Iodized Salt, Immunization, Small Family Norms, Birth Spacing and Education of Children, etc.

(iii) North-Eastern Students Cultural Exchange Programmes:

This Unique cultural exchange programme has been jointly initiated by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. Of India. Through this initiative, school students from North Eastern parts of India are provided opportunity to visit various places of cultural interest in the country. During this financial year, five such exchange programmes have been planned. Each such contingent will comprise 30 participants (i.e. school going children).

[Translation]

Losses to SEBs

*576. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of losses suffered by the State Electricity Boards during 1995-96, 1996-97 and the current financial year, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have suggested to the State Electricity Boards to hand over the task of power generation and distribution to the private sector; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) A statement indicating the surplus/deficit of the SEBs during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is enclosed at Annexure. The accounts of the State Electricity Boards are required to be forwarded to the Central Electricity Authority within six months of the close of the year to which the accounts relate. As such the accounts for the current year i.e. 1998-99 are not yet due.

(b) The main reasons of the losses of the SEBs, *inter-alia*, include, the widening gap between the average cost of supply and realisation, delay as well as inadequate revision of the tariff, non-realisation of the dues by SEBs for sale of power, low levels of capacity utilisation of existing plants and high transmission and distribution losses.

(c) and (d) The existing policy of the Government permits private sector participation in the generation and distribution of electricity.

Statement

Details of the Surplus/Deficit of the SEBs (without taking into account RE Subsidy as provided in the Accounts) during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97

(Rs. In crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the SEB	1995-96	1996-97	
1	2	3	4	
1.	A.P.	-1128.58	-721.26	(A)
2.	Bihar	-27.52	-27.52	(P)
3.	Gujarat	-1003.39	-1069.68	(A)
4.	Haryana	-536.59	-593.98	(A)
5.	H.P.	35.53	24.80	(A)
6.	Karnataka	-499.41	-646.48	(U)
7.	Kerala	-30.48	-223.12	(U)
8.	M.P.	-458.46	-210.91	(U)
9.	Maharashtra	-280.24	87.87	(A)
10.	Orissa	-230.68	-230.68	(P)

1	2	3	4
11.	Punjab	-325.64	-295.91 (A)
12.	Rajasthan	-343.87	-499.92 (A)
13.	Tamil Nadu	-76.74	-256.88 (A)
14.	Uttar Pradesh	-1495.00	-1385.97 (A)
15.	W.B.	-64.49	-227.27 (A)
16.	Assam	-261.46	-411.05 (U)
17.	Meghalaya	-21.66	-42.02 (A)
Total		-6748.68	-6729.98

- (A) Audited
(U) Unaudited
(P) Provisional

[English]

Misuse of Funds by Lalit Kala Akademi

*577. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Artful goings on at Lalit Kala exposed" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated July 2, 1998;

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

(c) the funds allocated for the celebrations of 50 years of India's Independence;

(d) the details of the programmes organised and the utilization of funds till June 30, 1998;

(e) whether there has been a large scale misuse of funds for the celebration of the 50 years of Independence by the Lalit Kala Akademi;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the outcome of the inquiry, if any, made by the Government to know the factual position in this regard; and

(h) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) A statement is enclosed.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

Statement

During the year 1997-98, Lalit Kala Akademi had a budget of Rs. 103 lakhs for celebrations of 50 years of India's Independence. Out of this a sum of Rs. 41 lakh was allocated for Ninth Triennale India out of which Rs. 28.35 lakh was spent. For Special Exhibitions Rs. 31.77 lakhs was spent out of the allocated sum of Rs. 32.00 lakhs. Against the actual allocation of Rs. 15 lakhs an amount of Rs. 8.22 lakhs only was spent for

the International Artists Seminar. Similarly as against an allocation of 15.00 lakhs an amount of Rs. 14.15 lakhs was spent for the International Artists Workshop (Camp). Thus out of the total budget of Rs. 103 lakhs only Rs. 82.49 lakhs was spent resulting in a saving of Rs. 20.51 lakhs.

The position, as ascertained by the Government on the various allegations contained in the news item appeared in the Hindustan Times is as follows:

Allegations appeared in the News Report	Factual Position
1. Akademi withdrew ten awards and purchase of art works from the exhibits of 9th Triennale India.	Based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Lalit Kala Akademi appointed by the Government of India, the practice of giving awards in Triennale was withdrawn. Purchase of art works from those exhibited was stopped as per the recommendations of the Haksar Committee.
2. There were avoidable expenditure on refreshment, (Rs. 5,62,125/-) honorarium to staff (Rs. 35,000/-) and honorarium to the Honorary Director, 9th Triennale India (Rs. 8,000/-).	It is customary to serve refreshment at the inauguration of Triennale. The actual expenditure was only Rs. 57,000/-.
3. An amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh was spent on catalogue of the exhibition Human Form and Art.	The Honorarium paid to staff was only Rs. 37,050/- against the previous Triennale's (1994) expenditure of Rs. 51,347/-.
4. A miscellaneous expenditure of Rs. 1.00 lakh was incurred during the Human Art and Form Exhibition.	An amount of Rupees 8,000 was paid as honorarium to the Honorary Director, as admissible under the instructions of the Department of Personnel and Training dated 21.12.1993.
5. Expenditure on catalogue for the contemporary Art Trends was Rs. 7.50 lakhs.	The Actual expenditure was only Rs. 2.62 lakhs.
6. Out of the sum of Rs. 7.00 lakhs earmarked for exhibition at Peru, more than 50% was spent on pre-exhibition travel.	No expenditure under miscellaneous head was incurred. The actual expenditure was only Rs. 6.49 lakhs.
7. The Akademi spent an amount of Rs. 1.55 lakhs on catalogue of Peru Exhibition.	The actual expenditure was only Rs. 6.49 lakhs.
	For Special Exhibitions including that in Peru Rs. 32.00 lakhs were allocated. The expenditure incurred on the Peru exhibition was Rs. 12.44 lakhs. Of this, Rs. 5.71 lakhs were spent on travel expenses, and Rs. 5.39 lakhs on freight and insurance of the Art works.
	The actual expenditure on this bilingual catalogue (Spanish and English) was Rs. 1.09 lakhs

Corporation of DoT

*578. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA:
DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have corporatised the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantages likely to accrue by corporation of DoT?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Government have not yet corporatised the Department of Telecommunications. However, the question of restructuring of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in regard, mainly, to distancing the policy-making and licensing functions from operational functions is being examined, keeping in view, inter alia, the need to enhance functional efficiency so as to effectively meet the emerging competition. With the setting up also of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) last year, the distancing of the policy-making and licensing functions from those of operations is being regarded as a logical step.

2. It may be recalled that a Committee headed by Dr. Athreya, a noted management expert, was set up some years back to recommend the most appropriate organisational structure for management of telecom services in the country, taking into account the future operational and development requirements. The Committee (which submitted its report in March, 1991) recognised the need for the 'Policy and Regulation' tier to be separated from the 'Operations' tier in any modified structure but was divided on the form of future organisation for the Department.

3. Subsequently, in 1995, a Committee headed by Shri D.K. Gupta who retired as Member (Services) in the Telecom Commission was constituted to make recommendations in respect of restructuring of DOT Headquarters. In formulating their findings, the Committee met with senior departmental officers and representatives of Employees Associations, amongst others, and recommended that DOT may be split into two clearly defined bodies, namely, a body to deal with policy and

planning and another to handle the operational and maintenance of telecom services which could be called "India Telecom".

4. The D.K. Gupta Committee also recommended that "India Telecom" should function as a corporate body with Circles/Districts as independent cost and profit centres. Its Report was examined further when the consensus emerged that DOT's operating functions should be separated from licensing and Policy functions so as to provide dedicated management inputs to operations and extend a level-playing field to all telecom operators.

5. In recent months, discussions on the various aspects of the subject have been convened with various Unions and Staff Associations. While several views and opinions on the proposed restructuring and in regard to the complex issues involved have been expressed, a broad unanimity is seen in respect of the need to rationally reorganise and strengthen the DOT, including the option of following the corporatisation route. These (and related matters) call for detailed study and evaluation which has been duly initiated.

6. The rationale behind proposed restructuring would be to achieve greater efficiency through extension of autonomy to the operating entity thereby, enabling to compete effectively with other service providers in the changed environment and also make adequate arrangements for training and human resource development.

Equity in BOT Projects for National Highways

*579. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has said that the National Highway Authority of India should pick equity of over 30 percent in build-operate-transfer projects to instil confidence in the private sector;

(b) whether the Chamber has also suggested creation of a highway road fund to be used exclusively for the construction and maintenance of National and State Highways;

(c) whether the Government have considered these suggestions; and

(d) if so, the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has been permitted to pick up equity upto 30% and provide capital subsidy upto 40% of project cost on case to case basis. Highway dedicated fund has not been created but the recent budget provides for a cess of one rupee per litre of petrol and accruals therefrom will be made available to NHAI for development of National Highways.

[Translation]

Literacy among SCs/STs

*580. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the literacy among Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in the country;

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

(c) the steps being taken for increasing the literacy among these Castes?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No specific survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard. However the State-wise percentage of literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country as per 1991 census is annexed.

(c) While the literacy campaigns do not specifically target the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they reach out to areas of the country which are most backward, illiterate and poverty stricken. As such, areas of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe concentration are covered and these groups are invariably accessed.

The three pronged strategy for increasing literacy in the country consists of:

- (i) The Scheme of Universalisation of Elementary Education.
- (ii) Non-Formal Education for School Drop-outs; and
- (iii) Total Literacy Campaigns of the National Literacy Mission for adult learners in the age-group 15-35 years.

The specific steps being taken by the Government to improve literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes include:

Funding of Literacy Projects by Central and State Governments in the ratio of 4:1 for Tribal districts as against 2:1 for other areas; opening of primary schools on priority basis; development of instructional material in tribal languages at the initial stages; establishment of hostels, residential schools & Ashram schools, provision of scholarships and freeships, and opening of Non-Formal & Adult education centres in SC/ST concentration areas on priority basis.

Statement

Literacy rates for total Population, Scheduled Caste Population and Scheduled Tribe Population—1991

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total Population	Scheduled Caste Population	Scheduled Tribe Population
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA*		52.21	37.41	29.60
STATES				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44.09	31.59	17.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41.59	57.27	34.45

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	52.89	53.94	49.16
4.	Bihar	38.48	19.49	26.78
5.	Goa	75.51	58.73	42.91
6.	Gujarat	61.29	61.07	36.45
7.	Haryana	55.85	39.22	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	63.86	53.20	47.09
9.	Karnataka	56.04	38.06	36.01
10.	Kerala	89.81	79.66	57.22
11.	Madhya Pradesh	44.20	35.08	21.54
12.	Maharashtra	64.87	56.46	53.63
13.	Manipur	59.89	56.44	53.63
14.	Meghalaya	49.10	44.27	46.71
15.	Mizoram	82.27	77.92	82.73
16.	Nagaland	61.65	0.00	60.59
17.	Orissa	49.09	36.78	22.31

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Punjab	58.51	41.09	0.00
19.	Rajasthan	38.59	26.29	19.44
20.	Sikkim	56.94	51.03	59.01
21.	Tripura	60.44	56.66	40.37
22.	Tamil Nadu	62.66	46.74	27.89
23.	Uttar Pradesh	41.60	26.85	35.70
24.	West Bengal	57.70	42.21	27.78
UNION TERRITORIES				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	73.02	0.00	56.60
2.	Chandigarh	77.81	55.44	0.00
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	40.71	77.64	28.21
4.	Daman & Diu	71.20	79.18	52.91
5.	Delhi	75.29	57.60	0.00
6.	Lakshadweep	81.78	0.00	80.58
7.	Pondicherry	74.74	56.26	0.00

* Excludes figures of Jammu & Kashmir where 1991 census was not taken.

[English]

New Shape to Judiciary

*581. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Ministers of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study in respect of the present judiciary, criminal codes and legal proceedings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government and the judiciary thereto;

(d) whether there is any proposal to give all these a new shape in order to make judiciary popular and to simplify things for the access of general public; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (e) The Law Commission and various other bodies like Arrears Committee have been conducting studies on various issues relating to judiciary, Criminal Code and legal proceedings from time to time. Recently, the Law Commission undertook a comprehensive review of Code of Criminal Procedure and submitted its 154th Report making several recommendations with regard to speedy disposal of criminal cases. Further, the Bills to amend the Criminal Procedure Code and Civil Procedure Code have been introduced in Rajya Sabha in May, 1994 and August, 1997 respectively which *inter-alia* contain provisions for speedy disposal of cases.

2. Keeping in view the recommendations made by the Commission/Committee, the Government have been taking appropriate measures periodically. These measures include simplification of legal proceedings for speedy disposal of cases, computerization in Courts including listing of cases, appointment of Special Magistrates and review of strength of Judges from time to time. Apart, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary has been in operation since 1993-94 for the purpose of construction of court buildings and residences of the Judges/Judicial Officers.

3. Further, the Government has adopted alternative modes of dispute resolution such as arbitration, mediation

and negotiation. Lok Adalats have been given statutory base with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, w.e.f. 9.11.1995. Lok Adalats have proved to be an effective and successful supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Out of Order Telephones

5633. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone exchanges in Assam Telecom Circle are not working satisfactorily particularly the exchanges under the Diphu district;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) The telephone exchanges in Assam Telecom Circle are generally working satisfactorily. The telex services at Diphu were disrupted in the month of March-April, 98 due to lightning. NEAX exchange at Diphu was replaced by SBM C-DOT exchange in the first week of April, 1998.

[Translation]

Conversion of Forest Land into Revenue Land

5634. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government had sent a proposal to the Union Government that the papers pertaining to the lease of the forest land should be registered in the name of persons who are already cultivating it and are settled there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the date on which the proposal was sent;

(d) whether the Union Government have taken any decision on the proposal of the State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAI

MARANDI): (a) to (e) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had earlier submitted proposal for diversion of approximately 2.73 lakhs hectares of forest land for regularisation of encroachments in different districts of the State vide letter dated 23.5.1989. Formal approval in respect of approximately 1.03 lakh hectares of forest land out of the above has already been accorded by the Ministry in July, 1990. Subsequently, the State Government has submitted proposals for regularisation of encroachments over approximately 1.81 lakh hectares of additional forest area vide letter dated 5th December, 1995. In respect of this proposal, the State Government has been asked to furnish a status report on compliance of the condition stipulated while approving earlier proposal for regularisation of encroachments in July, 1990. This issue has been taken up at the level of Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh recently. In the absence of such details from the State Government it could not be possible for the Ministry to take any final decision on this proposal.

[English]

Education in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

5635. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Compulsory Universal Primary Education is provided in Andaman and Nicobar Island;

(b) if so, the number of new primary schools opened/proposed to be opened during the current Educational Session;

(c) the number of schools running with just one teacher;

(d) the number of Government Primary, Middle, High and Senior Secondary Schools running in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the school-wise sanctioned posts of teachers in different categories, medium of instruction-wise; and

(e) the present number of vacancies, category and medium-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands propose to open 15 Primary Schools during the current educational session.

(c) As per information received from the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, there is no single-teacher school functioning in the Union Territory.

(d) and (e) The number of Government Primary, Middle, High and Senior Secondary Schools running in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is 286. The number of sanctioned and vacant posts of teachers in different categories in Government schools is given as under:

Teaching Post in Govt. Schools	Sanctioned Strength	Vacant Posts
Principal	34	17
Vice Principal	37	03
Head Master(SS)	28	—
Head Master (M)	49	12
Head Master (P)	132	55
P.G.T.	418	14 (ST)
G.T.T.	1251	27 (ST)
P.E.T.	173	02
P.P.T.	08	04
Librarian	82	01
Computer Instructor	01	—
Band Master	02	—
P.S.T.	1715	60

The School-wise and medium-wise position of teaching posts is being collected.

Navigation Facilities in River Ganga

5636. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme has been formulated to make navigation facilities available in the river Ganga; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which this scheme stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the schemes are given below:—

- (i) For deepening the shallow portion of the navigational channel, bandalling and maintenance dredging have been taken up on year to year basis from Calcutta to Kaithy.
- (ii) River training scheme in Patna-Samaria sector at an estimated cost of Rs. 99.85 lakhs will commence during current financial year.
- (iii) Floating terminals have been provided and maintained at Patna, Munghyr, Bhagalpur and Karagola besides existing terminals at Haldia, Calcutta, Pakur, Farakka and Kaithy.
- (iv) Scheme for providing 24 hrs. Navigational aids between Calcutta and Farakka has been approved at a cost of Rs. 4.61 crores. Tendering is in process.
- (v) Scheme for construction of permanent terminal at Gaihat (Patna) has been approved at cost of Rs. 14.45 crores. The work has been awarded to CPWD.
- (vi) Scheme for procurement of Water Injection Dredger has been approved and tendering is in process for award of work of construction and supply of dredger through a public sector shipyard.

MNC's Technology in Local Loop

5637. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to include MNC's technologies in the forthcoming tender for providing Wireless in Local Loop (WILL) by the DOT;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE Minister of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Tender has been invited from Indian Companies registered to manufacture the WLL eqpt. in 800 MHZ spectrum. However, there is no bar for them for getting foreign technology in the manufacture of the eqpt. To be supplied for this tender.

(b) Tender for 56 K lines for 16 cities has been floated.

(c) Not applicable in view of above.

[*Translation*]

Waiting List of Telephone Connections in U.P.

5638. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Uttar Pradesh as on June 30, 1998, district-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) As on 30.6.98 the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections, district-wise is given in the Statements I and II.

(b) It is proposed to provide 2.72 lakhs new telephone connections during 1998-99 to clear the waiting list in the State.

Statement-I*Waiting list in U.P. (East) Circle as on 30.6.98*

Sl. No.	Name of Distt.	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	953
2.	Kaushambi	2092
3.	Kanpur (C)	5824
4.	Kanpur (R)	441
5.	Lucknow	9654
6.	Varanasi	5696
7.	Faizabad	921
8.	Ambedkar Nagar	794
9.	Ballia	1776
10.	Ghazipur	645
11.	Jaunpur	2944
12.	Sultanpur	1371
13.	Pratapgrah	620
14.	Shahjahanpur	1774
15.	Hardoi	1217
16.	Sitapur	796
17.	Gonda	1983
18.	Balrampur	391
19.	Sant Kabir Nagar	179
20.	Lakhimpur	1490
21.	Sidarth Nagar	367
22.	Basti	1183
23.	Banda	760

1	2	3
24.	Mainpuri	1176
25.	Orai	2679
26.	Hamirpur	963
27.	Fatehpur	186
28.	Raibareli	608
29.	Unnao	850
30.	Gorakhpur	2665
31.	Maharajganj	100
32.	Behraich	938
33.	Shavasty	170
34.	Deoria	732
35.	Mau	595
36.	Padrauna	1011
37.	Jhansi	785
38.	Lalitpur	215
39.	Farrukhabad	631
40.	Kannauj	243
41.	Mirzapur	354
42.	Sonbhadra	477
43.	Etawah	1189
44.	Orala	859
45.	Azamgarh	2277
46.	Bhadoi	815
47.	Mahoba	859
48.	Sikohabad	818
49.	Chandauli	116
50.	Barabanku	1299
Total		67,481

Statement-II*Waiting List in U.P. (West) as on 30.6.98.*

Sl.No.	Name of Distt.	District-wise W/L as on 30.6.1998
1	2	3
1.	Agra	5714
2.	Firozabad	1924
3.	Aligarh	4145
4.	Mahamayanagar	511
5.	Almora	295
6.	Pithoragarh	676
7.	Champawat	Nil
8.	Bageshwar	Nil
9.	Badaun	1021
10.	Bareilly	5242
11.	Bijnore	3614
12.	Dehradun	6682
13.	Etah	1510
14.	Ghaziabad	13798
15.	Bulandshahar	3567

1	2	3
16.	Gautambudh Nagar	2266
17.	Mathura	2818
18.	Meerut	3071
19.	Baghpat	898
20.	Moradabad	6198
21.	Jyotibaphulenagar	883
22.	Nainital	3026
23.	Udhamsingh Nagar	1915
24.	Muzzaffar Nagar	3399
25.	Rampur	1132
26.	Pilibhit	619
27.	Saharanpur	7678
28.	Hardwar	4126
29.	Pauri	926
30.	Rudraprayag	67
31.	Chamoli	139
32.	Tehri	347
33.	Uttarkashi	192
Total		88,390

[English]

**Passenger Ship Service from
Bey pore Port to Lakshadweep**

5639. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any passenger ship service from Bey pore Port in Kerala to Lakshadweep daily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is a brisk movement of passengers and freight from Calicut to Lakshadweep;

(d) if so, whether the Government intend to introduce more ship services from Kerala to Lakshadweep; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) One fair weather passenger vessel M.V. Dweep Setu with a capacity to carry 150 passengers sails between Bey pore Port & Lakshadweep. The sailing schedule drawn up by Lakshadweep Administration aims to cover all the islands in a sequence with the shortest period of time. On an average, this vessel makes a round voyage to Bey pore in 3-4 days. Besides this, one Inter-Islands ferry and Cargo barge also operates occasionally on this route.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Govt. have sanctioned acquisition of one 150 passenger-cum-25 MT Cargo vessel for operation on Mainland-Lakshadweep sector.

STD/ISD Facilities in Kerala

5640. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the telephone exchanges in Kerala have been provided with STD/ISD facilities;

(b) if not, the number of telephone exchanges where such facilities are yet to be made available, districts-wise; and

(c) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be provided with these facilities during 1998-99 in the State, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

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

(c) During 1998-99, 56 New Telephone exchanges are planned to be commissioned with STD/ISD facility subject to availability of resources. Location-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

*Location-wise details of New Telephone Exchanges
Planned to be commissioned during 1998-99 in Kerala*

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange
1	2
1.	Veeyapuram
2.	Arikulam
3.	Cheruvadi
4.	Kakkayam
5.	Kakkodi
6.	Mudadi
7.	Omassery
8.	Chengara
9.	Edayar
10.	Elankur
11.	Karingapara
12.	Kizhattoor
13.	Kunnumpuram
14.	Marutha
15.	Tuvvoor

1	2	1	2
16.	Uppada	36.	Iruttukanam
17.	Vallikkapetta	37.	Kanthalloor
18.	Chulliyode	38.	Kuninji
19.	Periya	39.	Mattupetty
20.	Tirunelli	40.	Mullarikudy
21.	Valad	41.	Poomala
22.	Kacherikadavu	42.	Vazhathope
23.	Mangattidam	43.	Thnkkodithanam
24.	Padiyur	44.	Elambulasetty
25.	Pattuvam	45.	Karkidamkunnu
26.	Thiruvattur	46.	Enadimangalam
27.	Kadumeni	47.	Thekkuthode
28.	Kanathur	48.	Chithara
29.	Kayyur	49.	Edakkad
30.	Miyapadavu	50.	Elakkattoor
31.	Kadaliikkad	51.	Nedumoncavu
32.	Mamalakandam	52.	Vaniyampara
33.	Mannathoor	53.	Vettukad
34.	Mookkannur	54.	Kallikad
35.	Bisonvalley	55.	Mannoorkonam
		56.	Vazhayila

Systems of Customary Law of Tribals

5641. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study had been undertaken by his Ministry to know the systems of customary law of the tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposed to take steps to identify the customary laws of the tribals to codify them for the protection of the tribals from multi-legal procedures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had sponsored studies of customary laws of tribal communities in the States of Bihar, Manipur, West Bengal, Assam and Madhya Pradesh and a report on the study of customary law undertaken by the Institute of Social Research and Applied Anthropology was received by the Ministry. It is also reported that the Anthropological Survey of India has also undertaken certain extensive work of customary laws of tribals in respect of various communities.

[Translation]

Development of Forests in MP

5642. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any scheme from the Madhya Pradesh Government for the development of the forest areas of Satna district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by which it will be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Improvement in Working of REC

5643. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Union Government to improve the working of the Regional Engineering Colleges (REC) in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, REC-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

During 1993-94 the Government had taken an important initiative of providing a special grant of Rs. One crore to each Regional Engineering College (REC) annually under Plan grant for the remaining period of the 8th Five Year Plan over and above the general Plan grant so as to develop 17 RECs into institutions of excellence in the fields of engineering education and research by intervention in the following areas:—

1. General Management
2. Good standards of buildings, library and laboratory facilities.
3. An adequate linked computer system for extensive use among researchers, students and in administration/finance.
4. Facilitating teacher upgradation.
5. Beginning programme for the industry and public.

Under the programme a grant of Rs. One crore has been released per year to each of the 17 RECs at Allahabad, Bhopal, Calicut, Durgapur, Hamirpur, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Jamshedpur, Kurukshetra, Nagpur, Rourkela, Silchar, Srinagar, Surat, Surathkal, Tiruchirapalli and

Warangal during the financial years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97.

STEP Scheme from Tripura

5644. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme proposal for Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) has been received from the Government of Tripura;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The Sericulture Project under the Scheme of Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) submitted by Tripura Apex Weavers Cooperative Society, Agartala was approved by the Project Sanctioning Committee for the scheme of STEP in its Meeting held on 25.6.1998. Under this project, 4200 women beneficiaries will be covered in a period of 4 years at a total cost of Rs. 335.96 lakhs for training and employment in mulberry cultivation, cocoon rearing, silk reeling and weaving.

Excess Telephone Bills

5645. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding excess telephone bills during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints pending before the telephone authorities as on April, 1998 particularly in case of Nasik, Pune and Khed districts;

(d) the amount involved in these complaints; and

(e) the time by which these bills are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have received complaints regarding excess telephone bills during the last two years as under:—

Year	No. of complaints
1996-97	155563
1997-98	166088

(c) and (d) Number of complaints pending and amount involved as on April, 1998 are as under:—

	No. of Complaints	Amount involved
Nasik	229	4.59 lakhs
Pune	243	30.24 lakhs
Khed (Ratangiri)	8	0.46 lakhs

(e) Complaints related to Nasik have already been settled. Complaints of Pune and Khed districts are being attended to for prompt settlement.

Abolishing of Court Fees

5646. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal of abolishing the payment of court fee for the purpose of instituting cases/appeals in various courts in the country;

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

(c) the revenue earned by the Government from court fee annually during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) the question of abolition of court fees has been considered even by the High Courts and the Supreme

Court in various Writ Petitions. But the abolition of court fees has not been ordered by any of the Court. A reference in this regard was made by the Supreme Court in the matter of Writ Petition No. 1022 of 1989-All India Judges Association vs. Union of India & Ors. The relevant extract is reproduced below:—

"Under the Civil Code, Court fee is realised under the Courts Fees Act. For some time demand to abolish it has been made but the States have abandoned the idea on account of the demand by the States of compensation from the Centre in case of abolition of court fees."

(c) Under the provisions of Articles 146(3) and 229(3) of the Constitution, any fees or other money taken by the Supreme Court and High Courts shall form part of the Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of the State respectively. The data regarding revenue earned by the Central Government and State Governments from court fee is not readily available in the Department of Justice.

[Translation]

Power Generation

5647. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the increase made in the power generation capacity in each power station in Gujarat during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the power generation capacity of these power stations in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) As per the information available, there is no increase made in the power generation capacity of Thermal Power Stations under Gujarat Electricity Board, during the last three years by way of uprating the thermal power units. However, extension units namely Gandhinagar U-5 (210 MW) and Kadana HEP Units 3 and 4 have been added to the capacity.

(b) and (c) Wanakbori Unit 7 of GSECL is expected to be commissioned during 1998-99. In so far as NTPC is concerned, the capacity of Kawas GPP and Gandhar

GPP is proposed to be increased by 650 MW (nominal) each in Stage-II of the projects, subject to signing of PPAs by beneficiary States.

[English]

Non-Formal Education Centres

5648. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-formal education centres sanctioned by the Government during each of the last three years in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have received requests from the State Governments to increase the Non-formal education centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The number of Non-Formal Education (NFE) centres sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years is as under:

Year	Number of Centres	
	State Sector	Voluntary Sector
1995-96	59,600	5,631
1996-97	59,600	5,581
1997-98	59,600	6,656

(b) and (c) The proposals received from State Governments during last 3 years for additional NFE centres are as under:—

Year	Proposals received from
1995-96	Assam and Madhya Pradesh
1996-97	Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Gujarat, Assam & Uttar Pradesh
1997-98	Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Gujarat

[Translation]

Death of Stags in Dudhawa National Park

5649. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of stags have died due to submersion of large part of protected forest area of Dudhawa National Park; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and same will be laid on the Table of the House.

ASI Survey in U.P. and other States

5650. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India had carried out any excavation in various districts of U.P. and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved in these excavation;

(c) whether some places after being accepted as places of archaeological importance have been reserved;

(d) if so, the details of these places; and

(e) the time by which excavation work is likely to be commenced at these places?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has carried out excavations at 29 sites in U.P. and 160 sites in other states. The details of these excavations have since been published in concerned editions of "Indian Archaeology—A Review" up to 1992-93. Details of the excavations carried out from 1993-94 onwards are given in the statement in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) to (e) A total of 477 sites have been reserved for excavation in the enclosed Statement-II. The priority for excavations are determined by need to establish vital linkages in history, subject to availability of funds. It is not possible to indicate a time-frame in this regard.

Statement-I

Details of Excavations carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India in Uttar Pradesh and other States during the year 1993-94 to 1997-98.

Sl.No.	Name of Site	District	Achievement
1	2	3	4

Abbreviations with time tracks followed in the Statement:

PGW	Painted Grey Ware Culture - Circa 1100 B.C. - 600 B.C. (early Iron age)
B&RW	Black and Red Ware culture - Pre-1100 B.C.
BSW	Black Slipped Ware culture - pre 600 B.C. (early Iron age)
NBP'V	Northern Black Polished Ware culture Circa 600-200

1	2	3	4
			EH Early Historical period (Circa 6th—2nd century B.C.)
			EM Early Medieval period (6th to 13th century A.D.)
			LM Late Medieval period (13th—15 century A.D.)
1.	Uttar Pradesh		
(i)	Aunahan	Kanpur	Yielded remains of EH
(ii)	Sankisa	Farrukhabad	Ancient Sankasya, yielded sequences viz. PGW; NBPW; Sunga (C. 2nd -1st century B.C.) and Kushan (C. 1st-3rd century A.D.).
(iii)	Siwswania	Basti	yielded four-fold culture sequence viz. Pre-NBPW (C. 9th-6th B.C.); and Kushan (C. 1st-3rd century A.D.). The site was reoccupied early 18th or late 19th Century A.D. It is tentatively identified with Setavya of the Buddhist literatures.
(iv)	Bhita	Allahabad	Revealed BSW period (tentatively 8th-7th century B.C.) followed by NBPW period. The uppermost deposits are one of the mounds.
(v)	Sravasti (Saheth-Maheth)	Baharaich	Revealed brick structures i.e. the tank stupa and monastery with a number of antiquities and pottery belonging to Kushan-Gupta, NBPW; Shunga; Gupta; early medieval periods.
(vi)	Mehtab Bagh, Agra	Agra	Revealed ruins of massive octagonal tank with foundains and pavilions of a Mughal garden of the 16th century A.D.
(vii)	Sarha-warha	Fatehabad	Remains of ochre-coloured pottery (mid 2nd millennium B.C. PGW with B&R, NBPW, and medieval periods.
(viii)	Chaukhandi	Varanasi	Yielded a rectangular plinth with three raising sequence terraces above it. An image of Gautam Buddha and two bas relief are in Gupta style and show that the monument existed in Gupta period as a terraced temple.
2.	Andhra Pradesh		
	Jujjuru	Krishna	Yielded limestone stupa railings and carved stones datable to early historical period.
3.	Assam		
	Shri Surjapahar	Goalpara	Late Gupta and post-Gupta brick structures and terracotta figurines, etc.

1	2	3	4
4. Bihar			
(i)	Kolhua	Muzaffarpur	Revealed a brick-lined, tank, Kutagarashala, Monastery and votive stupas, besides a good number of antiquities of pre-and-post Christian era.
(ii)	Sitegarhail	Hazari Bagh	Revealed remains of Early Historical period chiefly associated with Buddhism.
(iii)	Kesariya	East Champaran	Revealed terraces or a huge stupa made of bricks with niches containing stucco images of EM
5. Delhi			
(i)	Lalkot	South Delhi	Revealed levels of occupations of the Rajput period (Circa 10-12 century A.D.) and Sultanate period (late 12th-15 century A.D.) and in addition to above remains of a palace and large tank were found.
(ii)	Salimagarh	Delhi	PGW pottery sherds were found in mixed debris containing late medieval (12th-15th century A.D.) materials underlying the ruins of the Mughal buildings
6. Gujarat			
	Dholavira	Kachchh	Revealed one of the five largest Harappan cities, revealing a monumental and aesthetic water harvesting architecture system consisting of dams, reservoirs and causeways a typical funerary structure, stadia, one unique inscription made of large-size signs besides a large number of antiquities, pottery. In addition it has provided evidence of rise and fall of the civilization vis-a-vis the settlement.
7. Goa			
	St. Augustine Church	Old Goa	Ruins of the Church, built in 1602 by the Augustine friars were partially exposed bringing to light the hall, room, etc.
8. Haryana			
(i)	Anangpur	Faridabad	Late Acheulian assemblage of the early ... (Early stone) period.
(ii)	Muhammadnagar	Gurgaon	Remains of Eh, Sunga, Kushan and Mughal periods.
(iii)	Harnol	Gurgaon	PGW to Kushan period as well as Late medieval periods.
(iv)	Rakhigarhi	Hissar	One of the largest Harappan city has started yielding house structures, pottery and large number of antiquities and pottery and also later graves which are yet to be identified.

1	2	3	4
(v)	Thanesar	Kurukshetra	Ancient Sthanirshavara, the capital of the Varchans (C. 6Th-7th century A.D.) yielded a settlement in continuous occupation from the 1st century B.C. to the 19th century A.D. with some localized deposit of PGW.
9.	Himachal Pradesh		
	Bhim-ka-Tila	Kangra	Yielded antiquarian remains of late Kushan period of about 2nd-3rd century A.D.
(viii)	Khaperkhera	Dhar	Revealed settlement of sun-baked and burnt bricks as well as wattle and-daub houses.
(ix)	Nawarakheri	West Nimar	Large pits believed to be for dwelling purpose were found in association with house hold outfit.
14.	Maharashtra		
(i)	Chachegaon	Satara	Hinayaha caves belonging to 2nd-1st century B.C. have been exposed.
(ii)	Mansar	Nagpur	Revealed large religious structures which flourished from 300. A.D. to 650 A.D.
(iii)	Pauni	Bhandara	Yielded remains of a stupa and fortifications datable to the Satavahana period 1st century B.C. to 3rd century A.D. and also some remains of the medieval times.
(iv)	Paithan	Aurangabad	Yielded sequence from the Satavahana to the medieval times.
(v)	Papamiya Tekdi	Chandrapur	Investigations provided evidence for statistical and micro-analytical studies of the artefacts of the lower Palaeolithic site.
15.	Orissa		
(i)	Barabati Fort	Cuttack	Remains of early medieval habitation with fortification and moat all around remains of palace complex and recently excavated architectural pillars probably of a complex and recently excavated architectural remains of same period (11th century A.D.)
(ii)	Khalkatapatam	Puri	The work which was started to find remains of a part was not confirmed. It appears to be comping site of the medieval period.
(iii)	Ydaygiri	Jaipur	Remains of a Buddhist Monestery with shrines enshrining Buddha image and other sculptures. A brick stupa on a sequare platform. The another monastery is being excavated, the site may date back from 5th century A.D. to 11th century A.D.

1	2	3	4
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16. Rajasthan

- (i) Dhondar Khera Dholpur B&R Ware level to the Gupta periods.
- (ii) Lachhura Bhilwara Has started yielding B&R Ware having affinity with the Ahar Culture of the 2nd millennium B.C. and also Early Historic Gupta relics.

17. Tamilnadu

- (i) Mamallapuram Kanchipuram Revealed Stone flooring with brick structures datable to Narasimhavarmān-II (A.D. 700-728), the Pallava king in addition to ghat-like structure on the northern side of temple assignable to C-4th Century A.D.
- (ii) Gingee Villupuram R Padayachiar Revealed a palace structure datable to 16th-18th century A.D. A medieval town under the Nayaks Sultanate of Bijapur, Marathas etc.
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Statement-II

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of Sites	Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of Sites
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	13.	Kerala	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	14.	Madhya Pradesh	49
3.	Assam	4	15.	Orissa	15
4.	Bihar	40	16.	Punjab	5
5.	Daman	1	17.	Maharashtra	34
6.	Delhi	2	18.	Meghalaya	1
7.	Gujarat	12	19.	Nagaland	2
8.	Goa	2	20.	Rajasthan	43
9.	Haryana	10	21.	Tripura	1
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1	22.	Tamil Nadu	7
11.	Jammu Kashmir	11	23.	Uttar Pradesh	195
12.	Karnataka	6	24.	West Bengal	17

*[English]***Recruitment in IGNCA**

5651. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper recruitment and service rules have been framed in respect of employees of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to hand over recruitment of staff in IGNCA to independent agencies like SSC/UPSC; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by IGNCA recruitment rules were framed for all posts except short term posts relating to the UNDP project. As regards service rules IGNCA follows the service rules of the Central Government.

(c) and (d) IGNCA is trust. According to the IGNCA recruitment to various posts are made in accordance with provisions contained in the Recruitment Rules framed by them. SSC/UPSC are not concerned with recruitment of staff for trusts

Transfer Policy in ASI

5652. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has any definite transfer policy for transferring their officials at all levels at periodic intervals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of officials of ASI posted at Agra who have not been transferred for the last ten years or so;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to transfer the officials of ASI at Agra and other circle offices who have overstayed by a certain period?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Transfers of Archaeological Survey of India are generally made after completion of a tenure of 3-5 years. Completion of specific time-bound projects, if any, exigencies of work and the over-all public interest are also kept in view while effecting changes.

(c) to (e) There is no officer having transfer liability who has had a tenure of ten years at Agra or at any other place.

Allotment of Telephone Connections on priority basis

5653. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide telephone connections on priority basis for the members of district panchayats, president, vice-president and chairman of standing committees of block panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) Sir, as per existing instructions members of Zila Parishads/Zila Panchayats/Distt. Panchayats and Distt. Councils are registered under Non-OYT-SS category on private account for provision of telephones on priority basis. However, inclusion of President, Vice-President, Chairman of Standing Committees of Block Panchayat was not acceded to; so as to avoid the overflow of registrants under this category.

Foreign Tours by the Officials of ICFRE

5654. MAJ. GEN. BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Officers of Indian Council of Forest Research & Education, go abroad frequently on flimsy grounds:

(b) if so, the details of officers who went abroad alongwith the details of the training courses, duration of each course and post training deployment of the personnel of the institution during each of the last three financial years and expenditure incurred on such visits, year-wise;

(c) the guidelines laid down in regard to the age, experience, utility of officers on their return;

(d) the justification for going abroad repeatedly for similar training programmes;

(e) whether officers of the institution are also allowed to proceed abroad on the invitation of private firms providing consultancy to the institution; and

(f) if so, the details of officers who visited abroad in the said manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education is an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Scientists and officers working in the Council and its institutes are deputed for foreign training as per provisions of the projects with which they are working. The details of the officers/Scientists sponsored for training abroad during the

last three financial years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Council functions under the overall, direction and guidance of its Board of Governors (BOG), which is empowered to fix the criteria for deputing Scientists/Officers for foreign training. The training programmes are of long term as well as short term durations. For long term training, upper age limit is 45 years and for short term training it is 57 years in case of IPS Officers. Long term training is generally given only once, while for short term training, an officer can be considered after a gap of three years. However, for scientists working in the ICFRE and its institutes, no upper age limit has been fixed. Scientists/Officer are sponsored in their relevant fields in which they have acquired practical experience. The training programmes are part of capacity building of the institutions and their officers and scientists and are utilised in their respective fields. However, no officer is sponsored for the same training second time.

(e) and (f) Normally, direct invitation from Non-Governmental Organisations, for undertaking foreign visits are not accepted. However, if the visit is being funded by any Non-Governmental Organisation, other than the UN agencies, clearance has to be obtained under the FCRA Act for accepting foreign hospitality.

Statement

International Training Forestry Research Education & Extension Project 1995-96

Field	Name of Trainee	Institutes	Country visited	Post training employment
1	2	3	4	5

Three Months Training

Research Management	1. Shri M.S. Garbyal	ICFRE	UK	Same post from where sent for training.
	2. Shri R.C. Saxena	ICFRE	UK	-do-
	3. Shri Alind Rastogi	ICFRE	UK, USA	-do-
	4. Shri S.K. Singh	IFP, Ranchi	UK	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
Planting Stock Improvement				
1	Shri P.C. Gupta	FRI, D.Dun.	USA	Same post from where sent for training.
2.	Dr. Veena Chandra	-do-	USA	-do-
3.	Shri Paramjeet Singh	-do-	USA	-do-
4.	Shri R.C. Thapliyal	-do-	USA	-do-
5.	Shri J.M.S. Chauhan	-do-	Australia	-do-
6.	Shri S.A. Ansari	TFRI, Jabalpur	UK	-do-
Research System Support				
1.	Shri R.S. Negi	-do-	USA	-do-
2.	Shri K. Sharma	-do-	UK, USA	-do-
3.	Dr. M.N. Jha	-do-	Australia	-do-
4.	Shri P. Khullar	-do-	Australia	-do-
5.	Shri K.G. Prasad	-do-	Australia	-do-
6.	Shri S.V. Singh	-do-	Newzealand	-do-
7.	Shri V.M. Warray	-do-	USA	-do-
8.	Shri S.S. Rajput	-do-	USA	-do-
9.	Shri K.S. Shukla	-do-	USA	-do-
10.	Shri V.K. Wadhwa	-do-	USA	-do-
11.	Shri R.K. Punchani	-do-	USA	-do-
12.	Ms. Luxmi Chauhan	-do-	USA	-do-
13.	Shri A.N. Shukla	-do-	USA	-do-
14.	Shri S.N. Khan	-do-	USA	-do-
15.	Shri A.K. Shah	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-
16.	Shri K.C. Joshi	-do-	USA	-do-
17.	Ms. Anita Srivastava	FRI, D.Dun.	USA	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
Library	1. Shri Anil Oberoi	ICFRE	UK	Same post from where sent for training
	2. Shri D.K. Tiwari	ISF&ER, Allahabad	UK	-do-
	3. Shri Ganga Prasad	-do-	UK	-do-
	4. Shri S.B. Singh	-do-	UK	-do-
	5. Shri V.S. Mishra	-do-	UK	-do-
	6. Shri T. Dhanuskoti	IFGTB, Coimbatore	UK	-do-
Statistical Unit	1. Shri Bipin Bihari	TFRI, Jabalpur	UK	-do-
	2. Ms Sangeeta Singha	ISF&ER, Allahabad	UK	-do-
	3. Shri A.K. Raina	FRI, Dehradun	UK	-do-
Entomology	1. Shri Muktar Ahmed	FRI, D. Dun	USA	-do-
	2. Shri H.R. Khan	-do-	USA	-do-
	3. Shri S.S.R. Pillai	IFGTB, Coimbatore	USA	-do-
	4. Shri A.P. Singh	FRI, D. Dun	USA	-do-
	5. Shri R.S. Bhandari	-do-	Sweden	-do-
Pollution Control	1. Shri S.K. Aggarwal	FRI, D.Dun	Sweden	-do-
Marketing	1. Shri B.K. Sethi	FRI, D.Dun	USA	-do-
	2. Shri Narendra Kumar	AFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-
Tree Improvement	1. Shri S.S. Biswas	FRI, D.Dun	Germany	-do-
	2. Shri T.C. Pokhriyal	-do-	Germany	-do-
	3. Ms. R. Yashodha	IFGTB, Coimbatore	Australia	-do-
	4. Shri S.S.R. Bannel	-do-	Australia	-do-
	5. Shri P. Pugalendi	-do-	USA	-do-
	6. Shri I.D. Arya	TFRI, Jabalpur	Australia	-do-
	7. Shri Palaniswamy	-do-	Australia	-do-
Bio-fertilizer	1. Shri M.D. Mehrotra	FRI, D.Dun	USA	-do-
	2. Shri Y.P. Singh	-do-	USA	-do-
	3. Shri N.S.K. Harsh	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-
	4. Shri V. Nath	-do-	USA	-do-
	5. Shri R.K. Borah	IRMDFR Jorhat	USA	-do-
	6. Shri R.K. Tiwari	-do-	USA	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
Water Management	1. Shri V.S.K. Kumar	IFGTB, Coimbatore	Australia	Same post from where sent for training
	2. Ms. Neelam Verma	AFRI, Jodhpur	Australia	-do-
Seed Technology	1. Shri Ombir Singh	HFRI, Shimla	USA	-do-
Agro-forestry	2. Shri R.P. Singh	HFRI, Shimla	Kenya	-do-
Wood Technology	1. Dr. Inder Dev	FRI, D.Dun	Newzealand	-do-
	2. Shri S.S. Chauhan	IWST, Bangalore	Newzealand	-do-
	3. Shri K.S. Purthi	FRI, D.Dun	Newzealand	-do-
	4. Shri N.K. Upreti	IWST, Bangalore	Newzealand	-do-
Non-wood Forest Products	1. Shri S.S. Bisen	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-
Chemistry of Forest Products	1. Shri A.K. Pandey	IRMDFR, Jorhat	USA	-do-
	2. Shri C.R. Rangaswami	IWST, Bangalore	USA	-do-
Vegetative Propagation	1. Shri Adarsh Kumar	AFRI, Jodhpur	Australia	-do-
Wasteland Development	1. Shri Rajendra Prasad	AFRI, Jodhpur	Australia	-do-
	2. Shri G.R. Kachwaha	-do-	Australia	-do-
Provenance trial	1. Shri M. Yousuf	AFRI, Jodhpur	Australia	-do-
Provenance selection trials	1. Shri D. Kumar	AFRI, Jodhpur	Australia	-do-
Wood Bio-degradation	1. Shri H.S. Ananthapadamnabha	IWST, Bangalore	USA	-do-
Bio-diversity	1. Shri N. Kumar	State	USA	
	2. Shri N. Nanda	State	USA	
Nine Months Training				
Research System Support	1. Shri Sudhir Singh	IRMDFR, Horhat	USA	-do-
Twelve Months Training				
Research Systems Support	1. Ms. Susham Mahajan	FRI, D.Dun	Canada	-do-
	2. Shri P.H. Chawhan	IRMDFR, Jorhat	Germany	-do-
	3. Shri V.P. jwari	AFRI, Jodhpur	Germany	-do-
	4. Shri B.B. Jagrajan	IFGTB, Coimbatore	USA	-do-

Total Expenditure During 1995-96' = US \$ 167586.00

International Training
Forestry Research Education & Extension Project
1996-97

Field	Name of Trainee	Institutes	Country visited	Post training employment
1	2	3	4	5
Three Months Training				
Planting Stock Improvement	1. Shri D.V. Negi	HFRI, Shimla	UK	Same post from where sent for training
	2. Shri A. Upadhaya	State	USA	
	3. Shri S.K. Khanduri	State	USA	
Research System Support	1. Shri S.S. Jattan	ICFRE, D.Dun	USA	-do-
	2. Shri Rameshwar Dayal	-do-	Australia	-do-
	3. Shri C.N. Pandey	-do-	USA	-do-
	4. Shri N. Ravi	IFGTB, Coimbatore	USA	-do-
	5. Shri V.K. Jain	FRI, D.Dun	USA	-do-
Computer Application	1. Shri Amrish Kumar Sharma	ICFRE, D.Dun	USA	-do-
Seed Technology	1. Shri H.B. Naithani	FRI, D.Dun	USA	-do-
	2. Shri M.M.S. Rawat	-do-	USA	-do-
Biofertilizer	1. Shri Ram Kriti Verma	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-
Tree Improvement	1. Shri Subhashi Nautiyal	FRI, D. Dun	USA	-do-
	2. Shri Mohao Varghese	IFGTB, Coimbatore		
Pollution Control	1. Shri K.S. Bhandari	FRI, D.Dun	Sweden	-do-
Forest Seed Production	1. Ms M. Kundu	IRMDFR, Jorhat	USA	-do-
Bio-diversity	1. Shri Anil Joshi	State	USA	
	2. Shri S.K. Guleria	State	USA	

1	2	3	4	5
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Two Months

Forest Policy	1. Shri C.S. Vedant	MOEF	UK	
	2. Shri L.K. Tewari	MOEF	UK	
	3. Shri J.C. Kala	MOEF	UK	
	4. Shri R.S. Sharma	MOEF	UK	

Nine Months Training

Research System Support	1. Shri V.P. Panwar	HFRI, Shimla	USA	Same post from where sent for training
	2. Shri S. Viswanath	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-

Total Expenditure During 1996-97 = US\$ 633373.00

*International Training
Forestry Research Education & Extension Project
1997-98*

Field	Name of Trainee	Institutes	Country visited	Post training employment
1	2	3	4	5

Three Months Training

Planting Stock Improvement	1. Shri N.S. Est	FRI, D. Dun	USA	Same post from where sent for training
	2. Shri R.S.C. Jairaj	IFGTB, Coimbatore	USA	-do-
	3. Shri S. Kumar	State	USA	
	4. Shri Prabin Katoky	State	USA	
	5. Shri Kalyan Chakrabarti	State	USA	
	6. Shri G.K. Ahuja	State	USA	
	7. Shri D.V. Gude	State	USA	
	8. Shri Devendra Kumar	AFRI, Jodhpur	USA	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
Research System Support	1. Shri Shashi Kumar	ICFRE, D.Dun	USA	Same post from where sent for training
	2. Shri M.S. Negi	FRI, D. Dun	USA	-do-
	3. Shri G.S. Rawat	-do-	USA	-do-
	4. Shri P. Srivastava	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-
	5. Shri Rajesh Kumar	ICFRE, D.Dun	USA	-do-
	6. Shri Anoop Kumar	-do-	USA	-do-
	7. Shri R.K. Zutshi	-do-	USA	-do-
	8. Shri R.K. Sharma	-do-	USA	-do-
	9. Shri K.S. Reddy	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-
	10. Shri Onkar Singh	AFRI, Jodhpur	USA	-do-
	11. Dr. Shamila Kaiia	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-
	12. Dr. N.C. Pant	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-
	13. Dr. Sanjay Naithani	ICFRE, D. Dun	USA	-do-
Library	1. Shri Arunesh Kumar	ICFRE, D. Dun	UK	-do-
	2. Shri O. Marripan	IFGTB, Coimbatore	UK	-do-
	3. Ms Purnima Srivastava	TFRI, Jabalpur	UK	-do-
	4. Ms Anuradha Bhati	AFRI, Jodhpur	UK	-do-
	5. Shri C.M. Nagarajamurthy	IWST, Bangalore	UK	-do-
Tree Improvement	1. Shri S.K. Sharma	FRI, D. Dun	USA	-do-
Entomology	1. Dr. R.K. Thakur	FRI, D. Dun	USA	-do-
Non-wood Forest Products	1. Mrs. Alka Bhargava	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	-do-
Provenance Selection	1. Shri K.S. Sethi	AFRI, Jodhpur	USA	-do-
Tissue culture	1. Shri H.C. Sindhuviendra	IWST, Bangalore	USA	-do-
Wood bio-degradation	1. Shri K.S. Rao	IWST, Bangalore	USA	-do-
Agroforestry	1. Shri R. Krishnamurthy	IFP, Ranchi	USA	-do-
	2. Shri R. Peddappaiah	IFGTB, Coimbatore		
Cold Desert Afforestation	1. Shri Nava Bahar	HFRI, Shimla	USA	-do-
	2. Shri Vaneet Jisthu	-do-	USA	-do-
Nutrient Cycling	1. Shri K. Rajendran	IFGTB, Coimbatore	Australia	-do-
Catamarans	1. Shri P. Naryanappa	IWST, Bangalore	USA	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
Two Months				
Forest Policy & Preparation	1. Shri D.D. Sharma	MOEF	UK	
	2. Shri A. Badhwa	MOEF	UK	
	3. Shri R.K. Sinha	MOEF	UK	
	4. Shri V.N. Pandey	MOEF	UK	
	5. Shri Balbir Chand	MOEF	UK	
	6. Ms Archana Singh	MOEF	UK	
Twelve Months Training				
Research System Support	1. Shri Raj Kumar Verma	TFRI, Jabalpur	USA	Same post from where sent for training
	2. Shri H.B. Vasishtha	FRI, D.Dun	USA	

Total Expenditure During 1997-98 = US \$ 770412.00

Sale of Power to Kerala by SEBs

5655. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States Electricity Boards who are selling power to Kerala; and

(b) the details of the dues of Kerala to Power Finance Corporation till date?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Kerala State Electricity Board had entered into power Purchase Agreement with National Thermal Power Corporation for supply of 100 MW of power from NTPC's power stations in Eastern Region. As per this agreement Kerala State Electricity Board has purchased power from National Thermal Power Corporation from 1-2-1998 to 15-7-1998.

(b) Presently there are no dues of Power Finance Corporation against Kerala State Electricity Board.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana

5656. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken final decision in regard to the implementation of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI FABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana (PSSY) was first operated in the States of Orissa, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat during the year 1995-96. During the said year, against a target for opening 509 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras, 497 were opened.

In 1996-97 the scheme was extended to Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan and a target for opening 250 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras was fixed. Against this Target, 173 Kendras were opened. No targets have been fixed for the subsequent years for opening Panchayats Sanchar Sewa Kendras.

(c) No funds have been earmarked for opening Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras during the current Financial year.

Pending Telephone Connections

5657. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases for provision on priority basis of telephone connections to the educational institutions, hospitals, police stations etc. in Karnataka and Maharashtra are pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith period of their tendency; and

(c) the time by which these connections are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) and (b) Sir, telephone connections to educational institutions, hospitals, police stations etc. are registered under N-OYT-Special category for provision on priority.

In Karnataka Telecom Circle, there are only 31 cases pending under N-OYT-Special category; registered during last one year.

In Maharashtra Telecom Circle, there is a waiting list of 1903 as on 30.6.1998 under N-OYT-Special category.

(c) There are plans to provide these telephone connections during the year 1998-99; both in Karnataka and Maharashtra Telecom Circles.

Implementation of Recommendation of DPCs

5658. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are cases in offices of Directorate General of All India Radio and Doordarshan, Delhi where the implementation of the recommendations of DPCs held since 1997 have been held up;

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

(c) the time by which all these pending recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committees are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No recommendations of Departmental Promotion Committees held since 1997 and accepted by the competent authority are pending for implementation in the offices of Directorate General of All India Radio and Doordarshan, Delhi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Allotment of P.C.Os.

5659. SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the irregularities committed in the allotment of P.C.Os in Sonapat (Ambala Circle);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Complaints were received relating to tempering of applications and non-provision of STD PCOs etc. Based on these complaints, the allotments made by earlier committees were held in abeyance. Later on a three member committee investigated the case in April,

98 and suggested to call applications afresh in accordance with revised departmental rules requiring running waiting list, which was accepted. In June, 98, a new Allotment Committee has been formed whose meeting are held up because of a Court Case.

**Special Dispensation Admissions in
Kendriya Vidyalayas**

5660. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the Committee on special dispensation admissions for Kendriya Vidyalayas and its powers and functions;

(b) whether this committee is to be constituted every session or it is a Standing Committee for a certain period, and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) A Committee headed by Additional Secretary (Education); Commissioner, KVS; Chief Welfare Officer, Department of Personnel & Training and a representative of Department of Legal Affairs (Ministry of Law) not below the rank of Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser as Member has been constituted by the Government in accordance with the laid down guidelines commencing with the academic session 1998-99. The Special Dispensation admissions will be finalised by the aforesaid Committee.

LPTs/HPTs in the Country

5661. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPTs/HPTs in the country working satisfactorily;

(b) whether many of the LPTs/HPTs are not functioning due to shortage of staff; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate staff at various LPTs/HPTs?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) While 91 High Power Transmitters (HPTs) and 646 Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) are presently functioning in the country, 2 HPTs and 173 LPTs are not functioning full time due to staff shortage. Prasar Bharati has initiated action for suitably augmenting staff strength at LPTs/HPTs facing staff shortage so that full time transmission is possible by first week of October, 1998.

[Translation]

TV Transmitter at Pakur in Bihar

5662. SHRI SOM MARANDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up a T.V. Relay Centre at Pakur in Bihar is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, whether T.V. Tower is under construction at Pakur; and

(c) if so, the time by which the construction work of the said tower is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

**Uninterrupted Power Supply to Villages/
Areas of Taj Trapezium**

5663. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry are aware of the fact that Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed in its decision that uninterrupted power supply be provided to the villages/ areas of Taj Trapezium Zone to save Taj Mahal from pollution through diesel generators etc.;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Government have been able to supply power and the time by which they would be able to supply uninterrupted power; and

(c) the names of the villages/areas proposed to be covered/have been covered for uninterrupted power supply?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court of India, in its judgement in the case of Shri S.C. Mehta vs. Union of India and others, under Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13381 of 1984, has directed that an additional amount of Rs. 99.54 crores sanctioned by the Planning Commission to be utilised by the State Government for construction of the electricity supply projects to ensure 100% supply of electricity to the Taj Trapezium Zone.

Primarily it is responsibility of the UPSEB to ensure uninterrupted supply of power to villages/areas of Taj Trapezium. UPSEB is executing the scheme as directed by the Supreme Court. UPSEB is also undertaking the construction of the following substations and 400 KV transmission line near Agra:—

- (i) 400 KV Agra-Unnao S/C line
- (ii) 400 KV Agra (Powergrid) - Agra (UPSEB) D/C Line
- (iii) 400 KV Agra - Muradnagar S/C Line
- (iv) 400/220, KV, 3x315 MVA substation at Agra.

The completion of these works would enable an improvement in the power supply position in the Taj Trapezium Area.

Cellular Telephone Subscribers

5664. SHRI VENKATARAMI ANANTA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Cellular telephone subscribers in Metro cities at present, city-wise;

(b) whether the introduction of Cellular telephone resulted in generating an additional revenue to DOT; and

(c) if so, the additional revenue generated by DOT during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As per information provided by the Cellular Operator the number of Cellular subscribers in metro cities, as on 31.5.1998 is 5,47,823. The city-wise break up is given in Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The introduction of Cellular Telephone has generated additional revenues to DOT. Information regarding additional revenue generated by DOT during the last 2 years is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Number of Cellular subscribers as on 31.05.98

Metro Cities	No. of Cellular Subscribers
Delhi	2,12,462
Bombay	2,41,894
Calcutta	50,540
Madras	42,927
	5,47,823

Teak Plantations

5665. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
DR. SAROJA V:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many companies have started teak plantations in the country and getting so many rebates and aid for the protection of environment;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any check/control over them;

(c) whether an expert committee headed by Shri P.B. Gangopadhyay has been appointed to look into the affairs of these companies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the innocent investors so that they may not be cheated by such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir, many companies have started teak plantations in the country, however, no rebate or aid are given to such companies for protection of environment.

(b) to (d) The Ministry had appointed an inter-departmental expert committee headed by Shri P.B. Gangopadhyay to look into affairs of these companies. Government has decided that the schemes for which entities issue instruments such as agro-bonds, plantation bonds etc. would be treated as collective investment schemes and would fall within the regulatory ambit of Security Exchange Board of India.

[Translation]

NTPC in U.P.

5666. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers of Jahanabad area are facing great difficulties in irrigating their land as N.T.P.C. has stopped canal water supply in Divyapur in District Itawa of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the farmers were assured at the time of setting up of N.T.P.C. in Divyapur that in case of non supply of canal water to Jahanabad area, N.T.P.C. will enact tubewells to solve the water problem there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by N.T.P.C. in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) Government had agreed to supply 30 (thirty) cusecs of water to Auraiya Gas based combined cycle power plant (650MW) located in Itawah District of U.P. from Auraiya-Itawah feeder canal of U.P. Government, subject to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) bearing the cost of 20 tubewells to compensate the quantity of water to be supplied to NTPC from the Canal. NTPC deposited Rs. 165.7 lacs towards the total cost of 20 tubewells as demanded by U.P. Nalkoop Nigam Limited and U.P. State Electricity Board (UPSEB). NTPC have informed that the tubewells have since been installed by U.P. Nalkoop Nigam Limited at Fatehpur to replenish 30 (thirty) cusecs of water being drawn by NTPC for its Auraiya power plant in fulfilment of the agreement with the U.P. Government.

NTPC gets water from Mangalpur Distributory of Auraiya-Itawah canal. The water supply from canal is regulated by H.P. Irrigation Department and NTPC do not come into the picture for canal water supply in Divyapur, District Itawah, U.P.

Electrification of Villages in M.P.

5667. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation provide loans on concessional rates under the minimum needs programme especially in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not completing the electrification of villages in the remote areas of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Loans under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) are provided by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) at rates fixed by Government from time to time. The rate of interest for MNP category loans given by REC to SEB, is 12.5% per annum and the period of repayment of loan is 30 years, including moratorium period of 5 years. REC has proposed an outlay of Rs. 20.00 crores for Madhya Pradesh under MNP for the current year 1998-99.

(c) Electrification of the villages in the remote areas of Madhya Pradesh will depend upon the priorities of Madhya Pradesh Government/MPEB, the availability of financial resources, the power supply position, and the infrastructure facilities like transmission and distribution system and other inputs.

[English]

Power Generation from Thermal Power Projects

5668. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) target fixed for the generation of electricity in the Ninth Five year Plan; and

(b) the details of electricity generated so far from the thermal power projects and the electricity being supplied to the gas plants?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The target for generation of electricity during 9th Plan has not been finalised. However, the generation target fixed for the first two years of Ninth Five Year Plan and also actual power

generated for the year 1997-98 and for the period April- June, 1998 are given as under:—

Power Generation (MU)

Category Station	1997-98		1998-99 Target	April '98 to June '99	
	Target	Actual		Target	Actual
ALL INDIA					
Thermal*	343800	336104	362000	89563	86770
(Gas)	(31859)	(35429)	(42580)	(10192)	(10546)
Nuclear	8500	10042	10000	2460	2472
Hydro	76700	74476	78000	17574	20250
Total	429000	420622	450000	109617	111492

* Including Gas.

Completion of Railway Line of MTPS

5669. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway line of Maithon thermal Power Station has been completed for the transportation of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CRZ Plan

5670. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering CRZ Regulations to cover riverine areas beyond 500 mts. from high Tide Line of the sea;

(b) the total length of the riverine areas beyond which CRZ Regulations are applicable in Goa;

(c) the legal sanctity of the sea in view of High Court orders;

(d) whether as per High Court order at Mumbai, Goa Beach, Panajim they observed that an area situated 2 kms. Away from the coast cannot be regarded as a coastal areas;

(e) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Government of India vide Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 declared the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters which are influenced by tidal action (in the landward side) upto 500m from High Tide Line (HTL) and the land between Low Tide Line (LTL) and

HTL as Coastal Regulation Zone. The distance from the HTL to which the regulations will apply in the case of rivers, creeks and backwaters shall not be less than 100m or the width of the creeks, rivers or backwaters whichever is less.

(c) to (e) The High Court at Mumbai in Miscellaneous Civil Application No. 403/94 in Writ Petition No. 333/93 has mentioned in its judgement dated 20th February, 1995 that "At the outset we do not propose to make any observations with regard to the question as to whether the suit construction lies on the Coastal Regulation Zone or not or whether the same is located either on a beach or a sea-front or along the bank of the Mandovi river". Therefore, the Court has not passed any judgement on the validity of the CRZ Notification.

(f) The Government has noted that the High Court has not made any observations on the validity of the CRZ Notification in this case.

Reservation Policy in I.R.C.C.

5671. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether eligible officers in IRCC belonging to SCs/STs were not promoted during 1991, 1992 and 1993 in gross violation of the reservation policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the open market vacancies have been diverted for general employees and DOPT Diversification order has not been implemented for SC/ST during 1991-93;

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

(e) the detailed directives issued by National Commission for SC/ST to IRCC during January, 1998; and

(f) the reasons for not implementing the said directives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. However, during subsequent review DPCs all eligible SCs/STs employees whose promotions were effected during 1991, 1992 and 1993 have been promoted as per presidential directives on reservation policy.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) With the ban to take up any new work, there has been no open recruitment in the Corporation for the last more than 10 years. The 30 open market

vacancies were utilised for promotion of employees during 1991 to 1993. In PSUs Presidential Directives on reservation for SC/ST are followed instead of DOPT diversification order.

(e) and (f) National Commission for SC/ST *vide* their letter of 29th January, 98 had made certain observations regarding SC/ST employees which have been complied with.

Wireless in Local Loop Facility in Bihar

5672. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wireless local loop (WILL) facility has been provided in the telephone exchanges in the rural areas of Bihar;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Two tenders have floated so far to provide WILL technology covering major cities of the country. However, as regards rural areas including Bihar State are concerned, MARR system have been provided which also work on wireless basis.

Scheme of Soil Conservation

5673. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose of implement any scheme pertaining to Soil Conservation in the catchment areas of River Vally Projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The on-going centrally sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects operated by the Ministry of Agriculture is being continued in the Ninth Plan. It is presently being implemented in 17 States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. State-wise physical targets and financial allocations for 1998-99 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*For the Financial Year 1998-99*

Sl.No.	State	Physical Target (ha.)	Financial Allocation (Tentative) (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10300	600
2.	Assam	1300	50
3.	Bihar	2370	500
4.	Gujarat	9688	380
5.	Himachal Pradesh	8000	500
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	7292	550
7.	Karnataka	42000	1000
8.	Kerala	1000	50
9.	Madhya Pradesh	25000	1050
10.	Maharashtra	24000	1000
11.	Orissa	6000	250
12.	Rajasthan	22,000	1100
13.	Sikkim	1000	50
14.	Tamil Nadu	6500	500
15.	Tripura	1000	50
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1900	220
17.	West Bengal	3800	250
Total		194480	8100

Recorded Messages in Kannada for Directory Enquiry

5674. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recorded messages for directory enquiry and trunk booking etc., are available in Hindi in the Telecom. Districts in Karnataka particularly in Dharwad Telecom District; and

(b) if so, whether the Government proposed to replace Hindi messages with Kannada version?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASHTA):

(a) No Sir, except in Dharwad Telecom district where Change Number announcement service is also available in hindi in addition to Kanada and English.

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

Utilisation of Timber

5675. SHRI M. RAJIAH:
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rs. 1,977 Cr. Timber rots in N-E post SC ban" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated June 8, 1998;

(b) the step proposed to transfer the timber to warehouses in Government custody to avoid soil poisoning and epidemic for other natural habitats;

(c) whether the Government proposed to set up industrial zones in each district of North Eastern States for utilization for timber in plywood and veneer factories set up there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 15.1.1998 directed all State Governments for immediate transportation of all inventorised timber including seized timber lying in forests to specified forests depots.

(c) and (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed all North-Eastern states to notify industrial estates for locating the wood-based industries in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forests. State Governments are in process of identification and notification of industrial estates.

[Translation]

LPT into HPT at Kolhapur, Maharashtra

5676. SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about poor telecast from the areas where Low Power TV Transmitters have been installed;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for converting these Low Power Transmitter into High Power Transmitters in the country particularly in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Though the quality of telecast from all the transmitters is reported to be satisfactory, there are complaints regarding many Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) not providing full time transmission mainly due to staff shortage.

(b) Prasar Bharati has initiated action for suitably augmenting staff strength at LPTs facing staff shortage. These are also envisaged to give full time transmission by the first week of October, 1998.

(c) to (e) The scheme for upgradation of 42 LPTs into HPTs are presently under implementation. No LPT is being upgraded to HPT in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. However, a new HPT is proposed to be set up at Mahapatgarh in Kolhapur district subject to sanction of the scheme by the competent authority and availability of adequate resources, other Infrastructural facilities and *inter se* priorities.

UNCCD

5677. SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have signed United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in December, 1996;

(b) if so, whether there is any policy to ensure people's participation in UNCCD;

(c) if so, whether any National Action Plan has been prepared so as to ensure the women's participation in the programme; and

(d) if so, the success achieved so far and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The Government of India signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in October, 1994 and ratified it in December, 1996. The strategy to combat Desertification outlined in the Convention is based on extensive people's participation. The Government of India has several programmes and schemes for plantation and soil conservation, including in the arid areas and deserts. An illustrative list of these schemes is attached as Statement. These schemes are implemented with participation of local communities, including women.

Statement

(a) Ministry of Environment and Forests

- (1) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Projects Scheme.
- (2) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme.
- (3) Non-Timber Forest produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme.
- (4) Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies.
- (5) Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of degraded forests.

(b) Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment

- (1) Desert Development Programme (DDP).
- (2) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP).
- (3) Jawahar Rojgar Yojana.
- (4) Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme.
- (5) Employment Assurance Scheme.

(c) Ministry of Agriculture

- (1) Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects.
- (2) Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers of Indo-Gangetic basin.

Education to Poor Sections of Society

5678. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take any steps to make available employment oriented education particularly technical education to the children belonging to the poor sections of society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Technical Education is mostly job oriented. Under the scheme of Community Polytechnics, training is specially geared to the needs of the unemployed/Under employed youths, school/college drops-outs, the under-privileged and disadvantaged including women, minorities and the weaker sections of the society. At the degree and diploma level, admissions to Technical Education programmes are made generally through Entrance Examination. Several Central Government Institutions also provide merit-cum-means scholarships for the poorer sections of the society. Nationalised Bank also consider loan facilities for students in technical institutions.

[English]

Portrayal of Women on Doordarshan

5679. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to telecast more women oriented programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether guidelines regarding positive portrayal of women have been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Doordarshan telecasts a large number of programmes on women oriented themes on the National Network and also from Regional Networks. If further proposals are received, they will be considered on merit.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan Code and the Code for Commercial Advertising for Doordarshan already contain guidelines on portrayal of women. These guidelines *inter alia* stipulate that women must not be portrayed in a manner that emphasises passive, submissive qualities and encourages them to play a subordinate, secondary role in the family and society. Rather Doordarshan shows women in a positive manner and programmes on empowering women are also telecast on Doordarshan to create healthy environment.

(e) Does not arise.

Exchange of Constituencies

5680. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to exchange the reserved constituencies with the general in the next elections; and

(b) if so, the norms proposed to be adopted for such exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Doordarshan Production Centre

5681. SHRI MANJUNATH AYANUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representation to set up a Doordarshan Production Centre at Shimoga in Karnataka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is no approved scheme, at present, for the establishment of Doordarshan Production Centre at Shimoga. Such matters are now within the purview of Prasar Bharati to decide upon new Production Centres.

Ban on Private Tuitions

5682. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD): Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States where private tuitions by the teachers of colleges and universities have been prohibited;

(b) the respective years from which such restrictions have been imposed in various States and also the details

of relaxations, if any, allowed in this regard in various States; and

(c) the details of the provisions made to ensure strict compliance of the provisions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Scheme for Tribal Children in Sports

5683. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any schemes for the training and participation of Tribal children in sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) whether the Government are continuing the schemes for the development of Siddhis of North Canara in Karnataka in sports?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Sports Authority of India is already implementing Special Area Games Schemes (SAG) under which talented children, mostly from tribal, hilly and coastal areas are trained. Details of the SAG trainees who are being trained at different Sports Authority of India SAG Centres may be seen in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. Talented Children selected from Siddhi community are being provided training facilities in SAI Training Centres in the Southern Region at Medikeri, Dharwad and Bangalore.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Discipline	Strength	Total
1.	Aizawl	Boxing	14	18
		Judo	04	
2.	Imphal	Boxing	21	55
		Judo	12	
		Wrestling	10	
		W. Lifting	12	
3.	Alleppey	Canoeing	12	67
		Kayaking	31	
		Rowing	24	
4.	Tellichery	Gymnastics	13	18
		Athletics	05	
5.	Ranchi	Hockey	15	28
		Athletics	02	
		Archery	11	
6.	Port Blair	Kayaking	15	76
		Canoeing	11	
		Rowing	16	
		Cycling	14	
		Football	20	
7.	Jagatpur	Kayaking	04	12
		Canoeing	03	
		Rowing	05	
8.	Delhi	Archery	30	38
		Fencing	08	
			Total	312

Appointments on Compassionate Grounds

5684. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of employees of Central Telecom. Office Mumbai, expired in service during 1990-91;

(b) whether the request of their family members for appointment on compassionate grounds have been received by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of appointment made so far in this regard during the said period;

(e) the number of cases in which service on compassionate grounds has not been made so far;

(f) the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which such families are likely to be provided jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) 17

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Requests for compassionate appointments from the dependents of 13 deceased employees were received.

(d) 12

(e) 1

(f) The appointment on Compassionate ground could not be considered earlier as the applicant was underage at the time of his first application.

(g) The applicant attained the requisite eligible age in October 1996 and has applied for compassionate ground appointment in 1997.

The case is presently under process and is likely to be decided during this year.

Declaration of National Waterways

5685. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Waterways declared in the country during 1997-98;

(b) the steps taken and progress made so far to develop different waterways separately during the said period;

(c) the allocation of funds made during this period for different waterways and the quantum of funds out of it utilised so far National Waterway-wise; and

(d) the number of river ports developed on those National waterways alongwith their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No new National Waterway has been declared during 1997-98.

(b) National Waterway (NW) No. 1

Navigational channel with 2m depth between Haldia and Patna is maintained by bandalling and dredging. Channel has been marked. Floating terminal has been provided at Karagola in addition to Calcutta, Haldia, Bhagalpur, Munghyr and Patna. Pilotage has been provided. Also, hydrographic surveys have been carried out regularly and river notices have been issued.

Scheme for permanent terminal at Patna, 24 hours navigational aids in Calcutta-Farakka Sector and procurement of hydraulic surface dredger have been approved.

National Waterway (NW) No. 2

Navigational channel with 2m depth between Dhubri and Dibrugarh has been maintained by bandalling. Channel has been marked. Floating terminals have been provided at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Pandu, Tejpur and Neamati. Hydrographic survey has been carried out regularly. Pilotage has been provided. Schemes for 24 hours navigational aids in Dhubri-Guwahati sector, procurement of hydraulic surface dradger, procurement of survey launch and provision of floating terminals at Sadiya and Saiknova are under implementation.

National Waterway (NW) No. 3

Maintenance dredging, channel marking, hydraulic survey, repair and maintenance of navigational locks have been carried out. Champakara canal, Udyogmandal canal and Kochi-Edapallikotta stretch of West Coast Canal are

being used by mechanised cargo vessels. Schemes for land acquisition for construction of terminals at 11 locations, land acquisition and capital dredging for widening of narrow section of the canal and procurement of survey launch have been approved and are under implementation.

(c)

(Rs. In crores)

NW-1

Allocation 6.01

Expenditure 5.54 (P.)

NW-2

Allocation 2.78

Exp. 2.64 (Prov.)

NW-3

Allocation 10.23

Exp. 9.13 (Prov.)

(d) NW-1

Floating terminals are available at Haldia, Calcutta, Karagola, Bhagalpur, Munghyr, and Patna. Permanent terminals are available at Pakur and Farakka.

NW-2

Floating terminals are available at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Pandu, Teipur and Neamati.

NW-3

Terminals are available at Udyogmandal, Ambalamughal, Kochi and Edapallikotta owned and maintained by bulk cargo owners.

ILO Study

5686. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Sunday "Time of

India" dated June 14, 1998 captioned "women own a minuscule of world's property: ILO";

(b) if so, the part of property in India owned by the Indian women Population as per the said study and as per Government's independent assessment;

(c) whether there is any policy and action plan to give them their due part in property; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The International Labour Organisation (ILO), in its issue "World of Work" of March, 1997 has quoted the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to the effect that women earn only 10 percent of the world's income and own less than 10% of the world's property which has been referred to in 'The Sunday Times'. However, the publication has not indicated the part of the property in India owned by Indian women. The ILO's report also does not refer to any study on the basis of which this statement is made. Government has not made any independent assessment in this regard.

(c) and (d) Government is committed to the economic Empowerment of women by ensuring that women get greater access to property rights including land rights. As per the recommendations of the National Perspective Plan (1988-2000) State Governments have been advised to give joint title to husband and wife in all developmental activities involving transfer of assets like pattas for surplus ceiling land, Government and village common land, house sites, houses, tree pattas and beneficiary oriented economic units. State Governments have also been advised to amend Section 6 of Hindu Succession Act, 1956 to provide coparcenary rights in coparcenary property to daughters of a deceased coparcenary in a Joint Hindu Family. Under Schemes for providing income generating assets like IRDP, there is earmarking of 40% of benefits for women. Allotment of houses under Indira Awas Yojana is made in the name of the female member or in the joint name of husband and wife.

Review of Tarkunde and Goswamy Committee Reports

5687. SHRI K.C KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed recently the Tarkunde and Goswami Committee Reports of 1975 and 1990, respectively for bringing the electoral reforms;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government have discussed the matter of electoral reforms with political parties and other concerned organisations in the recent past; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (d) The Government had discussed a set of proposals on electoral reforms with leaders of various political parties in a meeting held on 22nd May, 1998. These proposals *inter alia* included some of the recommendations made by Tarkunde Committee/ Dinesh Goswami Committee. Pursuant to a decision taken in this meeting, a seven member committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Indrajit Gupta, Member of Parliament has been constituted to suggest concrete proposals for providing state funding of elections and also to make recommendations on other related proposals. The Government, however, have not recently conducted any formal review of the aforesaid reports.

[Translation]

Child Marriage System

5688. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ANUPLAL YADAV:
SHRI RAJBANSHI MAHTO:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI ADITYANATH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether child marriage system is still prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to take any special measures to check this system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes,

Sir. Child Marriage is still prevailing in certain parts of the country.

(b) and (c) Government of India had enacted the Child Marriage Restraint Act in 1929 which was amended in 1978 to raise the minimum age for marriage for boys to 21 years and for girls to 18 years. The implementation of this Act is the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations. Government of India has been urging State Governments/UT Administrations regularly to strictly implement the provisions of the Act and to take up awareness generation campaigns and other measures to prevent child marriage.

[English]

Ashram Schools

5689. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ashram schools running in the country State-wise;

(b) the results of these schools at th class examination for the year 1997-98; and

(c) the number of qualified teachers teaching in them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The establishment of Ashram Schools is decided by the concerned State Governments and UTs, as a part of its overall educational Planning and local needs with availability of resources. The concerned Central Ministry is the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment operates a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan areas with an objective to extend educational facilities to Scheduled Tribes Students in pursuit of study from primary to college level. As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment these Ashram Schools are managed and run by State Governments/UT Administration and as such the information about the number of Ashram Schools, the result of a particular class and number of teachers etc. is not available with the Ministry.

[*Translation*]

Earthquake

5690. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether with rock movement weak zone is formed inside the earth which is the cause of earthquake;

(b) if so, whether Bargi Dam in Madhya Pradesh could be the reason for the earthquake; and

(c) if so, the viewpoint of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI):

(a) An earthquake is caused by the accumulation of stress inside the earth. The stress is generated due to geological and geophysical phenomenon like plate movements. The release of stress takes place along some weak zones causing rupture of rocks and movement along fault zones.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The earthquake data in the area around Bargi Dam does not show any sign of reservoir induced seismicity.

[*English*]

Disruption in Power due to Cyclone in Gujarat

5691. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities and villages where power was disrupted due to the recent cyclone in Kutch and other districts of Gujarat;

(b) the details of the damage caused to Gujarat State Electricity Board due to the cyclone; and

(c) the compensation earmarked by the Government to Gujarat State Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The number of villages affected due to recent cyclone in Gujarat district is in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details of damage caused to Gujarat Electricity Board due to cyclone is in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Two instalments of Rs. 29.03 crores each amounting to Rs. 58.06 crores from the Calamities Relief Fund have been released to the Government of Gujarat. The State Government has requested for additional assistance of Rs. 500 crores. Based on the recommendations of the Central team, which recently visited Gujarat, the Government will decide on the quantum of assistance to be provided to the State Government including Gujarat Electricity Board.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	District	No. of Villages affected
1	2	3
<i>South Zone</i>		
1.	Valsad	787
2.	Surat	518
3.	Bharuch	1248
4.	Baroda	1387
5.	Barodac	0
6.	Anand	631
7.	Godhra	155
Z-Total		4726
<i>North Zone</i>		
8.	Sabarmati	438
9.	S' Nagar	650
10.	Mehsana	951
11.	Palanpur	1180
12.	Himatnagar	515
Z-Total		3734

1	2	3	1	2	3
<i>West Zone</i>			17.	Amreli	860
13.	Rajkot	910	18.	Bhuj	894
14.	Bhavnagar	854			
15.	Jamnagar	714	Z-Total		5104
16.	Porbandar	872	Total		13564

Statement-II*Estimate of Damage to T&D System due to Cyclone in Overall Gujarat State*

Sl. No.	Item	Qty.	(Rs. Lakhs) Unit Rate	(Rs. Cr.) Amount
1.	H.T. Line in km.	16,447 km.	1.0	164.47
2.	L.T. Line in km.	14,154 km.	1.0	141.54
3.	Transformer Centres	7052 Nos.	0.75	52.89
4.	Service Connection			
	(a) Three Pahse	100000 Nos.	0.006	6.0
	(b) Single Phase	500000 Nos.	0.003	15.0
5.	P.S.C. Poles	50,000 Nos.	0.01	5.0
6.	Transmission Tower	369 Nos.	1.5	5.53
7.	'H' Frame Structure	762 Nos.	0.5	3.81
8.	Conductors	900 km.	1.1	9.9
9.	Insulator & Hardware's	L.S.	—	4.0
10.	Power Transformers	12 Nos.	100.00	12.0
11.	Sub-station equipment	L.S.	—	4.0
12.	Labour/Civil works	L.S.	—	20.0
			Total	444.14

*[Translation]***Power Projects in the Country**

5692. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries/foreign agencies running power projects in the country with their own financial resources, without seeking any assistance from the Government of India; and

(b) the terms and conditions fixed by the Government to implement and run these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) There are no power generation projects in the country being run by any foreign country/agency. However, some power generation projects have been/are being developed by foreign companies.

Recognition to Degrees

5693. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Graduation (Law) courses are being conducted by various colleges under the various Universities in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Bar Council of India and various Bar Associations which accord recognition to these Degrees have stopped according recognition to these Degrees;

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

(d) whether the Government have taken any measures to provide relief to the affected students;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

B.Ed Admission in Meerut University

5694. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Meerut University had enclosed a separate caste certificate form with B.Ed. admission form which was requested to be submitted by the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students inspite of their having SC/ST caste certificate;

(b) if so, whether the approval of the Ministry or University Grants Commission had been obtained for attaching a separate caste certificate with the form;

(c) if not, the basis on which the concerned authorities of Meerut University imposed this condition; and

(d) whether the Government propose to issue fresh advertisement in order to enable those SC and ST students to fill up form who could not apply in time on account of the new stipulation laid down by the University?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Registration of Companies**

5695. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

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

(a) the criteria adopted for the registration of the new company by the Registrar of Companies;

(b) the details of companies registered by the Registrar of Companies during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of applications pending with the Registrar of Companies for registration, State-wise;

(d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government for early disposal of these pending applications; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) promoters of a company are required to make an application in the prescribed form (Form 1A) for availability of names alongwith a fee of Rs. 500/- to the concerned Registrar of Companies (ROC) before registration of the proposed company. Promoters are, thereafter, required to file the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association and Form 29 duly stamped with prescribed registration fee. The ROC may direct the promoters to make necessary corrections and only after the corrections are carried to his satisfaction, issue a Certificate of Incorporation which

signifies. Completion of the process of registration of a company.

(b) A statement showing State-wise details of companies registered by the Registrar of Companies during the last three years is in the attached (Statement-I.)

(c) A statement showing State-wise details of applications pending with the Registrar of Companies for registration of companies in the Attached Statement-II

(d) and (e) Instructions have been issued to ROCs earlier assign them to indicate the name availability within three days so as to expedite the process of registration of companies.

Statement-I

State/UT	1995-96			1996-97			1997-98		
	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	916	2845	3761	549	2544	3093	287	2053	2340
Assam	28	232	260	18	225	243	11	290	301
Bihar	175	537	712	184	481	665	142	447	589
Gujarat	919	2949	3868	441	2306	2747	159	1702	1861
Haryana	59	350	409	58	409	467	53	304	357
Himachal Pradesh	22	89	111	30	81	111	25	78	103
Jammu & Kashmir	9	85	94	16	99	115	43	132	175
Karnataka	315	2334	2649	155	1585	1740	89	1412	1501
Kerala	137	1232	1369	62	1044	1106	65	768	833
Madhya Pradesh	250	1161	1411	175	932	1107	165	769	934

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Maharashtra	1212	9850	11062	661	7727	8388	471	6727	7198
Manipur	0	8	8	3	4	7	1	4	5
Meghalaya	1	18	19	2	13	15	2	10	12
Nagaland	0	6	6	0	18	18	0	7	7
Orissa	70	369	439	64	400	464	32	352	384
Punjab	233	1027	1260	157	946	1103	153	818	971
Rajasthan	239	1773	2012	130	1406	1536	76	1162	1238
Tamil Nadu	1208	4102	5310	661	2863	3524	295	2580	2875
Tripura	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	5	5
Uttar Pradesh	668	1239	1907	711	1206	1917	529	1093	1622
West Bengal	449	7680	8129	230	4597	4827	180	2905	3085
Arunachal Pradesh	1	16	17	1	13	14	0	18	18
Goa	15	215	230	13	207	220	5	193	198
Chandigarh	112	318	430	154	339	493	149	337	486
Dadra	11	13	24	2	11	13	2	7	9
Delhi	1637	9032	10669	994	7520	8514	754	5933	6687
Daman & Diu	5	7	12	4	8	12	2	5	7
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mizoram	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	5	6
Pondicherry	37	108	145	13	78	91	8	68	76
Total	8728	47598	56326	5488	37063	42551	3699	30185	33884

Statement-II

State	Applications pending for registration on 30.6.1998
1	2
Gujarat	45
Karnataka	16
West Bengal	56
Orissa	Nil
Delhi	339
Haryana	43
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	15
Rajasthan	25
Punjab	Nil
Himachal Pradesh	Nil
UT of Chandigarh	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	16
Tamil Nadu	20
Maharashtra	5274
Bihar	28

1	2
Goa	5
UT of Pondichery	Nil
Assam	Nil
Tripura	Nil
Manipur	Nil
Nagland	Nil
Meghalaya	Nil
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
Mizoram	Nil
Jammu & Kashmir	Nil

World Bank Suggestion to APSEB

5696. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested to Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board the reforms with Power Sector to minimise the transmission and distribution losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance has been assured by the World Bank in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The World Bank have indicated their willingness to provide about 1 billion US Dollars loan to Andhra Pradesh Power Sector towards financing part of investments in Transmission & Distribution System in the next 6-8 years. The loan amount which is expected, to be provided in 5 tranches is under the

Adaptable Programme Lending' (APL) Scheme of the World Bank.

The first loan termed as 'Adaptable Programme Lending-I' (APL-I) is likely to be of the order of 150 million US Dollars. This loan is intended for high priority investments required in Transmission and Distribution System. The works envisaged under APL-I include augmentation of transformer capacity at different voltage levels (220 KV down to 11 KV) strengthening of linkages with the sub-stations, high accuracy and better quality consumer meters, feeder meters for energy audit etc. The loan may be disbursed subject to the Government of Andhra Pradesh fulfilling the conditionalities.

[Translation]

Films taken by Doordarshan from Private Companies

5697. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the films telecast by Doordarshan are taken from the private companies on paying certain amount to them;

(b) if so, the number of films supplied by the private companies which had been telecast by Doordarshan and the details of the films proposed by these companies and telecast by the Doordarshan during the last three years, month-wise;

(c) the total amount paid to the above mentioned companies for the films by the Doordarshan, separately and whether Doordarshan had some outstanding amount against these companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

FM Radio Station & HTV Transmitter at Jamnagar, Gujarat

5698. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to the Union Government for establishment of a FM Radio Station and a HTV Transmitter at Jamnagar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the proposal has been accepted;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the FM Radio Station and HTV is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Autonomy to Media

5699. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken the final decision to privatise and to give full autonomy to Akashvani and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the programmes and activities are likely to be improved due to privatisation and autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatise Akashvani and Doordarshan. However, full autonomy as envisaged in the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, has been granted to Akashvani and Doordarshan with the establishment of the Prasar Bharati with effect from 23.11.97.

(c) The Prasar Bharati Board has been constituted for the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the Corporation and the Board exercises all such powers in this direction and matters as may be considered necessary for improving the programmes and activities of the Corporation.

[Translation]

Payment of Licence Fees

5700. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI C.D. GAMIT:
DR. SANJAY SINH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Finance Ministry refuses moratorium on telecom licence fee payment" appearing in the 'Financial Express', dated June 17, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India was requested to carry out a study on the operational performance of the cellular industry.

Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has been requested to carry out a techno-economic study of Cellular and Radio Paging Services based on representations received from the operators and their Associations regarding the moratorium on payment of licence fees and extension of licence period.

A final decision in the matter will be taken on receipt of BICP report and consideration of all aspects of the matter. Since intricate issues are involved inter ministerial consultation will be needed.

A final view is yet to be taken on next round of tendering for Basic Services.

[English]

Power Projects in Bihar

5701. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY": Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power plants in each category in Bihar at present;

(b) whether there are any proposal under consideration for the up-gradation of these plants to augment the power in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other measures Government propose to take for further generation of power to meet fully the demand of the State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Details of the power plants in each category in Bihar at present are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Plant	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3

State Sector

Hydro

1.	Subamrekha	130
2.	Kosi	20
3.	Sone West Canal	6.60
4.	Sone Eastern Canal	3.30
5.	E. Gandak Canal	15

Thermal

6.	Patna	13.50
7.	Barauni	320
8.	Patratu	840
9.	Muzaffarpur	220
10.	Tenughat	420

Central Sector

Hydro

1.	Panchet Hill (D.V.C.)	80
2.	Tilaiya (D.V.C.)	4

1	2	3
<i>Thermal</i>		
3.	Bokaro (D.V.C.)	877.50
4.	Chandrapur (D.V.C.)	780
5.	Maithon (D.V.C.)	90
6.	Kahalgaoon (N.T.P.C.)	840
Total in Bihar		4659.90

(b) and (c) There is no plan to upgrade these power plants to increase their capacity. However, Renovation and Modernisation schemes are proposed to improve the performance and availability of the following old power stations of Bihar State Electricity Board:

Sl.No.	Name of power stations
1.	Patratu TPS
2.	Barauni TPS
3.	Muzaffarpur TPS
4.	Subarnrekha Hydro Power Station

(d) The Government proposes to take the following measures to increase generation of power to meet the demand of Bihar State:

- (i) Capacity addition
- (ii) Maximisation of generation from the existing facilities
- (iii) Mobilisation of resources through private sector participation.
- (iv) Demand side management and Energy conservation.
- (v) Promotion of inter-state/inter-regional exchanges.
- (vi) Reduction of Transmission & Distribution losses.

Conversion of Reserved Posts into General Ones

5702. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Jaipur region, vacancies earmarked for SC/ST in Navodaya Vidyalayas have been converted into general ones in violation of relevant rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. In all categories of teaching and non-teaching staff, the number of posts filled up by General, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class category are within the prescribed ceiling as per the norms for reservations of vacancies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mumbai Port Trust Scam

5703. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the inquiry being conducted into Mumbai Port Trust Scam;

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the extent of progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Presumably, the reference in the Question is to the investigation by CBI into the allotment of premises on lease to Messrs Kiran Chaudhary and Company by Mumbai Port Trust. After completion of investigation, SP's report has been submitted. It is under consideration.

Telephone Connection

5704. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections allotted in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the State at present, district-wise;

(c) whether due to non-availability of materials, the Department is not releasing new telephone connections in the State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to clear the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The total number of telephone connections provided in Orissa during the last three years is given below:

1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
31014	32505	67178

(b) Total number of persons in the waiting list as on 30.6.98 is 26925 as detailed below, District-wise.

S.No.	District	Waiting List
1.	Balasore	2467
2.	Baripada	410
3.	Berhampur (GM)	2119
4.	Bhawanipatna	271
5.	Bhubaneswar	8105
6.	Bolangir	289
7.	Cuttack	6956
8.	Dhenkanal	753
9.	Koraput	650
10.	Rourkela	3300
11.	Sambalpur	1655
Total		26925

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply (c) as above.

(e) Steps are being taken to expand exchanges and lay sufficient amount of cable to provide connections to the wait listed persons progressively. It is proposed to provide 60,000 new telephone connections during 1998-99.

Shortage of Power in J&K

5705. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent power crisis in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the industrial and rural areas;

(b) the details of financial losses suffered in the power sector during the last three years in the State;

(c) the total demand and supply of power in the State at present and the different sources from which the power is being supplied in the State;

(d) the concrete measures being taken by the Government for additional power generation in the State; and

(e) the time by which the State is likely to become self-reliant in the power generation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) There is no power crisis in the State of Jammu & Kashmir at present.

(b) Commercial loss with subsidy and without subsidy in Jammu & Kashmir during the last three years as per Annual Report of the Planning Commission on the working of State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments is given below:-

	(Rs. in crores)	
	Commercial profit (+)/loss (-)	
	With subsidy	Without Subsidy
1995-96	-376.9	-376.9
1996-97 (Estimated)	-473.9	-473.9
1997-98 (Projected)	-564.0	-564.1

(c) The details of actual power supply position in the State of Jammu & Kashmir during June 1998 and July 1998 (upto 20th) are as under:—

	Energy (MU)		Peak Demand (MW)	
	June '98	July '98 (1st to 20th)	June '98	July '98 (1st to 20th)
Requirement	425	263	929	835
Availability	420	260	839	785
Shortage	5	3	90	50
(%)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(9.7)	(6.0)

Jammu & Kashmir meets its power requirement from its own generating stations, share from the central stations in the Northern Region and assistance from neighbouring States/region.

(d) and (e) A capacity addition of 120 MW capacity (Upper Sindh-II & III, Chanani II, Sewa III and Pahalgaoon) in the State Sector is envisaged in Jammu & Kashmir during Ninth Plan.

In addition, Jammu & Kashmir will get the benefit from Dulhasti hydro electric project (350 MW) under execution in the state and other regional power projects in Northern Region in Central sector under execution during Ninth Plan. Other measures taken to improve the availability of power in Jammu & Kashmir include maximising generation from existing capacity, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, effective demand side management, energy conservation measures and arranging assistance from neighbouring States/region.

Proposal for Sethusamuthram Project

5706. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals under the consideration of the Government to take up the Sethusamuthram project for implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have sought the assistance of the Dutch Government for Technical Assistance for preparing the feasibility report for the Sethusamuthram project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No investment proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government of Netherlands have been requested to undertake Detailed Engineering and Environment Impact Assessment Studies for the Project in question.

Clearance to Kuriyarkutty Karapara Power Projects

5707. SHRI P. SANKARAN:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kuriyarkutty-Karapara Power Projects are pending before the Government for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the time by which these projects were sent to the Government for clearance;

(c) whether environmental/ecological study has been made into the effects of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The project was resubmitted in January, 1997 by the Kerala State Electricity Board. Since the environmental data submitted was not adequate project authorities have been advised to submit a revised report. The Kerala State Electricity Board has been informed that the project stands closed.

SAI Complex in Guwahati

5708. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sports Authority of India Complex in Guwahati is lying incomplete due to lack of funds;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to finish the work at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Complex in Guwahati is complete except the synthetic track. The sub-base work of the synthetic track has recently been completed and the synthetic surface will be laid only after the monsoons are over.

TLC in Scheduled Areas

5709. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Total Literacy Campaign has been launched in the scheduled areas also;

(b) if so, the coverage made in the scheduled areas in different States under the programme; and

(c) the achievements of the campaign in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) yes, Sir. The total literacy campaigns cover the entire illiterate population of age-group 15-35 years in a district, irrespective of their caste, creed or sex. The State-wise

coverage made and persons made literate under the total literacy campaigns launched in districts having scheduled areas is as follows:

State	Coverage	Persons made literate (Figures in lakh)
Andhra Pradesh	43.28	20.91
Bihar	8.04	0.55
Gujarat	13.66	11.97
Himachal Pradesh	1.08	0.41
Madhya Pradesh	73.58	25.99
Maharashtra	34.37	16.31
Orissa	31.26	9.82
Rajasthan	16.78	8.12

Clearance of Power Projects

5710. SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level meeting consisting of Ministers of Finance and Power and various other Government officials was held in New Delhi on 30th June, 1998 to expedite the clearance of Power Projects in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government have approved extension of counter guarantee in the case of the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) in Andhra Pradesh, Bhadravati Thermal Power Project (1082 MW) in Maharashtra and Neyveli single unit lignite based Thermal Power Project (250 MW) in Tamil Nadu through a revised procedure. It has, *inter alia*, been decided that counter guarantee will be given only for the event of termination and will be limited to the outstanding foreign debt only.

Periodic review meetings are held at various levels in Government of India to monitor the progress of the

projects and issues relating to the counter guarantee, and decisions are taken with a view to ensuring that work commences on these projects at the earliest.

Appointments made by CSIR

5711. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CSIR has any cohesive policy for manpower management including planning recruitment, deployment and promotion;

(b) if so, whether the laboratories under CSIR have made unauthorised appointments over and above the sanctioned strength;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any plan has been drawn up by the CSIR to induct non-technical personnel into technical grades; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. Infact out of the total sanctioned strength of 25764 as on date, only about 22000 employees are in position.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Induction of Non-Technical staff into Technical stream is made strictly as per the methodology duly approved by the Governing Body of CSIR. Induction is made on the basis of recommendations of a duly constituted Committee after imparting necessary in-house training which is followed by a technical trade test.

Radio on Demand Service

5712. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Radio has started any "Radio on Demand Service" recently; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. It was launched on 26th January, 1998 on the 2nd FM transmitter of All India Radio, Delhi.

(b) The Radio on Demand Service is an interactive service which has been developed indigenously. It is a computer recording and automatic playback system to process the listener's requests and feed the requested music programme on the transmitter automatically without any kind of human intervention. A huge library of popular film songs has been created on a Computer hard disc and each song has been assigned a code number. These code numbers have been circulated among the public through printed leaflets. The listener can register his request through a telephone call by dialing the telephone No. 7465228, followed by dialing the code number corresponding to his/her choice song. His/her request is automatically registered by the computerised system and the listener is intimated a queue-number accordingly over the telephone by the computerised system. The song is then played automatically at the given queue-number and the listener can listen to the song of his/her choice over FM radio (Frequency 106.4 MHz).

[Translation]

Pay and Pension Cases in Bihar

5713. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of pay and pension anomaly cases are pending in Bihar Telecom Circle;

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

(c) the time by which these are likely to be settled; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government against the officer responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Nil.

(c) N/A

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Sex-Talks on Phone

5714. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the advertisements in Newspapers regarding 'Sex-talks' on telephone;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that advertisements such as "Dial a friend—Enjoy" could pollute the Indian adolescent minds and promote immoral cultural ethos; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ban such advertisements in the print media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter has been referred to the Press Council of India who have appealed to all the owners and editors of newspapers not to accept such advertisements. Some newspapers have already responded positively to this appeal.

Auction of F.M. Slots

5715. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the steps taken by the Prasar Bharati Board in the light of the recent Supreme Court judgement with regard to auction or utilisation of FM-slots in best interest of the nation or catering to entertainment or information needs?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): The Hon'ble Supreme Court has dismissed the special leave petitions filed by three petitioners namely M/s Bennett Coleman & Co., M/s Mid-day Publications and M/s Star Entertainment whereby these petitioners had challenged the decision of High Court of Delhi dated 29.5.98 dismissing their petitions for extension of their licences. Accordingly, Prasar Bharati has decided to operate the F.M. slots through in-house programme till the interim injunctions issued by MRTP Commission and Chennai High Court against opening of the 1998 tenders are

removed and slots are allotted to private operators on the basis of highest bid principle.

Demands of Indian Newspapers Society

5716. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of the Indian Newspaper Society met her recently as regards the difficulties being faced by the industry;

(b) if so, the details of submissions and demands made by them; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) had, *inter alia*, raised demands for higher rates for Government advertisements; clearance of outstanding bills of newspapers on account of Government advertisements; and removal of customs duty on import of newsprint.

(c) The submissions and demands are under consideration of the Government.

Indo-US Forum on Science & Technology

5717. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-US Forum on Science & Technology has been formed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its areas of operation; and

(c) its implications in the field of Science and Technology?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) A joint statement between the Government of India and the Government of USA was signed in December, 1997 to express an intent to establish an Indo-US Science and Technology Forum envisaging *inter alia*, public and private sector partnerships to accomplish mutually

beneficial goals. The Forum has not been formally established.

[Translation]

Pollution in Delhi

5718. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution is continuously increasing in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government with the cooperation of Delhi Government and other State Governments have prepared any scheme to control the pollution in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time fixed by the Government for the completion of this scheme; and

(e) the names of the State Governments and institutions making contribution in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government in consultation with the Government of NCT of Delhi has prepared a whitepaper on the status of pollution in Delhi with an action plan for the prevention and control of pollution, covering the broad areas of vehicular, industrial water and air pollution, noise pollution, solid wastes and hazardous wastes.

(d) A number of steps/measures have been identified under each of the broad areas in the Action Plan. Different time-targets have been fixed for different measures.

(e) Different department/organisations of the Government of NCT of Delhi such as the Transport Department, Environment Department, Public Works Department, New Delhi Municipal Corporation, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking, have been identified as implementing agencies for the Action Plan.

[English]

B.Ed. Training Colleges

5719. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether stringent regulatory measures have been imposed by the National Council for Teacher Education on B.Ed. Training Colleges;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to direct the NCTE to retain the present pattern of teacher-student ratio at least for 3 more years; and

(d) if so, whether any representation from University of Kerala has been received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) According to Section 12 of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993, it shall be the duty of the Council to take such steps as it may think fit for ensuring planned and coordinated development of teacher education and for the determination and maintenance of standards for teacher education. In discharge of its statutory responsibilities, NCTE has evolved norms and standards for different levels of teacher education institutions which, *inter-alia*, prescribe teacher-student ratios for such institutions.

[Translation]

Opening of Telephone Exchange

5720. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY:
SHRI VENKATARAMI ANANTHA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Divisional Headquarters where telephone exchanges could not be set up so far in the country, State-wise;

(b) the time by which the telephone exchanges are likely to be installed in every Divisional Headquarters of the country;

(c) whether the DOT has prepared any master plan for installation of telephone exchanges in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) Nil. All the Divisional Head Quarters are having telephone exchanges in the country.

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

(c) and (d) Installation of telephone exchange and augmentation of net switching capacity is a continuous process. Annual Plans are drawn up every year based on demand and availability of funds/equipment. During 1998-99 it is planned to increase the total net switching capacity by 49.3 lakhs. The circle-wise details placed in the attached Statements.

Department has prepared a perspective plan (1997-2007) which envisages addition of 5.85 crores net switching capacity and 4.7 crores new telephone connections in the country during this period.

Statement

Circle-wise Net Switching Target for 1998-99

S.No.	Circle	New Switching Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	351250
2.	Assam	68000
3.	Bihar	185000
4.	Gujarat	351250
5.	Haryana	125400
6.	Himachal Pradesh	93000
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	41600
8.	Karnataka	266000
9.	Kerala	453100

1	2	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	156000
11.	Maharashtra	408100
12.	North East	45200
13.	Orissa	82300
14.	Punjab	288600
15.	Rajasthan	235500
16.	Tamil Nadu	405000
17.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	188000
18.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	193000
19.	West Bengal	172000
20.	Andaman & Nicobar	7700
21.	Mumbai	270000
22.	Delhi	260000
23.	Calcutta	140000
24.	Chennai	144000
		4930000

Meeting between DOT and Task Force

5721. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting had taken place between the Department of Telecommunications and the Task Force regarding availability of Telecommunications services at lower cost to expand the Internet services and give boost to the use of information technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan chalked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the meeting between the Department of Telecommunications and the National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development, issues concerning the increased availability of telecommunications services at lower costs to expand the Internet Services were discussed and the following tentative agreement was made:

1. Internet access nodes will be opened by DOT and authorised ISPs at all District Headquarters and local charging areas by 26th January, 2000. As an interim measure, and till nodes are provided in all local charging areas, access to nearest Internet access nodes will be on local call rates progressively with effect from 15th August, 1998. However, ISPs will be responsible for ensuring that this facility is not misused for telephone traffic.

2. For setting ISP Operations by companies, there shall be no license fee for first five years and after five years a nominal license fee of one rupee will be charged.

(c) The Action Plan chalked out by the Task Force is exactly as agreed to between the Department of Telecommunications and the Task Force as described in (b) above.

Cellular Telephone Facility

5722. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies engaged in providing cellular telephone facility in the country;

(b) the number of cities in the country where the cellular telephone facility has been provided, State-wise; and

(c) the number of cities where said facility is proposed to be provided during 1998-99, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Licences have been granted to 22 companies for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in the country.

(b) Licenses have been granted for the Telecom Circles/four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai. Barring some exceptions, the boundaries of the former are generally co-terminus with that of States. Details of cities covered by the Cellular operators as furnished by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) in these service areas is enclosed.

(c) As per terms and conditions of the licence agreement, the cellular licensees are required to cover 10% of District Headquarter's within first year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. However, the actual cities that may be covered will be as per business plans of the respective licensees. DOT does not have this information.

Statement

Cellular Coverage in Cities/Towns of India (Position as of 17th May, 1998)

Sl. No.	Circle	Areas covered	Total No. of Cities covered in each Circle
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Rangareddy, Guntur & Vishakhapatnam	

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	Guwahati	1
3.	Bihar	Patna, Gaya, Bihar Sharif, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad	7
4.	Calcutta	Fully covered (Metro)	1
5.	Chennai	Fully covered (Metro)	1
6.	Delhi	Fully covered (Metro)	1
7.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Baruch & Gandhi Nagar	5
8.	Haryana	Ambala, Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Yamuna Nagar, Kurukshetra, Shahbad, Kundli, Rohtak, Hissar	10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	1
10.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Mysore, Mangalore, Tumkur	4
11.	Kerala	Cochin, Thrissur, Calicut, Trivandrum, Kottayam, Kollam, Allapuzha, Kannur, Thiruvalla, Changanassery, Chengannur, Chingavanam, Tripunithura, Aluva, Angamaly, Chavakkad, Ettumanoor, Attingal, Kunnamkulam Telishery, Sherthalai, Shaktikulangara, Pallimukku, Feroke, Mallapuram, Manjeri.	25
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore, Dewas, Ujjain, Ratlam, Bhopal, Shehore.	6
13.	Maharashtra	Pune, Nashik, Ahmed Nagar, Panjim, Margao, Satara, Kolhapur, Nagpur, Aurangabad.	9
14.	Mumbai	Fully covered (Metro)	1
15.	North East	None	0
16.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar, Cuttack, Puri, Pipli	4
17.	Punjab	Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Ludhiana	3

1	2	3	4
18.	Rajasthan	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Kota.	5
19.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Pondicherry, Bhawani.	6
20.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad & Varanasi.	4
21.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	Meerut, Agra, Aligarh, Muradabad, Rampur, Bareilly, Bulandsahar, Dehradun, Mathura, Ferozabad, Hapur, Saharanpur, Muzzafar Nagar, Haldwani, Rudrapur, Bilaspur, Bhojpur, Kashipur, Haridwar, Roorkee, Khatauli, Mussoorie, Khurja, Modinagar.	24
22.	West Bengal	Siliguri, Darjeeling, Durgapur.	3

[English]

Modernisation of SEBs

5723. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered any scheme or formulate to revive and modernise all the State Electricity Boards;

(b) whether any domestic/foreign agency has been entrusted with task of finding ways and means to make the State Electricity Boards more viable; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Government have recently enacted the electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 for the establishment of Central Electricity Commission at the Centre and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. This would help in rationalising tariffs and also provide for transparent subsidies, wherever required. The State Governments have the option of providing subsidies over and above those recommended by the Regulatory Commissions, on condition that the State Governments compensate the SEBs by providing adequate budgetary support.

When tariffs are rationalised and budgetary supports provided, the SEBs will improve their financial health and their capacity to invest.

Orissa is the first State which has introduced reforms in their power sector by enactment of Orissa Electricity Reforms Act, 1995 with the assistance of World Bank. The other States which have initiated action to undertake reform and restructuring in their power sector with the World Bank assistance are Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan & Karnataka. The Government of Haryana have also enacted Haryana Electricity Reforms Act, 1997 recently and has initiated reforms with the World Bank assistance. Similarly, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have also passed the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Reforms Bill, 1998. The World Bank has offered to assist the Andhra Pradesh Government in its reform efforts. Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are seeking assistance from ADB, Kerala from CIDA and Goa from IFC for undertaking reforms and restructuring in their power sector. The State of Punjab, Assam and Tamil Nadu are seeking assistance from Power Finance Corporation for their reform projects.

[Translation]

Cleaning of Major Rivers

5724. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA:
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan of the Government to clean the major rivers of the country;

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

(c) the authority/agency responsible for delay in the implementation of the plan; and

(d) the time by which this plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I and a National River Conservation Plan covering 22 polluted rivers of the country have been approved by the Government. The present approved cost of these Plans is Rs. 2562.44 crore. The schemes cover pollution

abatement works in 156 towns located along polluted stretches of these rivers in 14 States. The river-wise details are given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I has been delayed due to delay in land acquisition, litigations and court cases, contractual problems and diversion of funds. Corrective actions were taken from time to time to minimise delay on these accounts. This scheme is targetted for completion by 31.3.1999. The National River Conservation Plan which also includes the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan was approved in phases between April, 1993 and October, 1996. The Plan is targetted for completion by 2005.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State & River	Town	Approved Cost
1	2	3	4
A. Ganga Action Plan Phase-I			
I. UTTAR PRADESH			
1.	Ganga	01. Haridwar-Rishikesh	1634.35
	Ganga	02. F'bad & Fatehgarh	200.48
	Ganga	03. Kanpur	6670.32
	Ganga	04. Allahabad	3153.05
	Ganga	0.5 Varanasi	4765.68
	Ganga	06. Mirzapur	2059.91
II. BIHAR			
	Ganga	07. Chapra	461.74
	Ganga	08. Bhagalpur	614.66
	Ganga	09. Munger	606.51
	Ganga	10. Patna	3648.50

1	2	3	4
III.	WEST BENGAL		
	Ganga	11. Bahrapore	523.20
	Ganga	12. Nabadwip	437.32
	Ganga	13. Hugli Chinsura	588.31
	Ganga	14. Chandan Nagar	610.87
	Ganga	15. Serampore	607.04
	Ganga	16. Bally	808.55
	Ganga	17. Kalyani	141.34
	Ganga	18. Bhatpara	1683.08
	Ganga	19. Titagarh	667.55
	Ganga	20. Panihati	725.82
	Ganga	21. Howrah	1078.18
	Ganga	22. Calcutta Corpn. Area	7744.81
	Ganga	23. Baranagar	2002.89
	Ganga	24. Kamrahatti	
	Ganga	25. Naihati	19.12
		Other Class II Towns (W. Bank)	267.78
		Other Class II Towns (E. Bank)	283.42
B.	National River Conservation Plan & Gap Phase-II		
IV.	ANDHRA PRADESH		
2.	Godavari	26. Mancharial	478.72
	Godavari	27. Bhadrachalam	308.00
	Godavari	28. Rajamundry	2516.00
	Godavari	29. Ramagundam	2076.00

1	2	3	4
V.	MAHARASHTRA		
	Godavari	30. Nasik	7241.81
	Godavari	31. Nanded	1530.19
		Total:	14150.72
	MAHARASHTRA		
3.	Krishna	32. Karad	1400.87
	Krishna	33. Sangli	1560.52
		Total :	2961.39
	BIHAR		
4.	Subarnarekha	34. Ranchi	1215.06
	Subarnarekha	35. Jamshedpur	1799.17
	Subarnarekha	36. Ghatshila	307.80
		Total :	3222.03
VI.	GUJARAT		
5.	Sabarmati	37. Ahemadabad	9869.89
		Total :	9869.89
VII.	Karnataka		
6.	Tunga	38. Shimoga	747.62
		Total :	747.62
7.	Bhadra	39. Bhadravati	482.80
		Total :	482.80
8.	Tungabhadra	40. Harihara	260.69
	Tungabhadra	41. Davanagere	673.17
		Total :	933.86
9.	Cauvery	42. K. R. Nagar	84.56
	Cauvery	43. Kollegal	74.48
	Cauvery	44. Nanjangud	183.96
	Cauvery	45. Shri Rangapatna	192.71

1	2	3	4
VIII.	TAMIL NADU		
	Cauvery	46. Kumarapalayam	624.00
	Cauvery	47. Bhawani	368.00
	Cauvery	48. Erode	1569.00
	Cauvery	49. Trichy	690.00
	Cauvery	50. Palli Palayam	569.00
		Total :	4355.71
IX.	MADHYA PRADESH		
10.	Khan	51. Indore	4439.76
		Total :	4439.76
11.	Kshipra	52. Ujjain	2629.06
		Total :	2629.36
12.	Tapti	53. Bulhanpur	552.78
		Total :	552.78
13.	Betwa	54. Mandideep	174.42
	Betwa	55. Bhopal	246.14
	Betwa	56. Vidisha	487.92
		Total :	908.48
14.	Narmada	57. Jabalpur	1456.99
		Total :	1456.99
15.	Wainganga	58. Seoni	136.40
	Wainganga	59. Chapara	61.97
	Wainganga	60. Keolari	81.87
		Total :	280.24

1	2	3	4
X.	ORISSA		
16.	Mahanadi	61. Cuttack	1469.00
		Total :	1469.00
17.	Brahmini	62. Talcher	671.50
	Brahmini	63. Chandbali	102.77
	Brahmini	64. Dharmshala	242.00
		Total :	1016.27
XI.	PUNJAB		
18.	Satluj	65. Ludhiana	16422.14
	Satluj	66. Jalandhar	5684.72
	Satluj	67. Phagwara	752.60
	Satluj	68. Phillaur	78.15
		Total :	22937.61
XII.	RAJASTHAN		
19.	Chambal	69. Kota	1313.33
	Chambal	70. Keshoraipatta	80.35
	Chambal	71. Nagda	391.94
		Total :	1785.62
	UTTAR PRADESH		
	Ganga (MS)	* Hardwar-Rishikesh	684.00
	Ganga (MS)	* Kanpur	9029.00
	Ganga (MS)	* Allahabad	3448.90
	Ganga (MS)	* Farrukhabad	53.50

1	2	3	4
	Ganga (MS)	* Varanasi	4752.00
	Ganga (MS)	* Mirzapur	388.80
	Ganga (MS)	72. Moghal-Sarai	421.40
	Ganga (MS)	73. Ghazipur	811.90
	Ganga (MS)	74. Saidpur	64.90
	Ganga (MS)	75. Garmukteshwar	162.50
	Ganga (SC)	76. Bijnor	744.98
	Ganga (SC)	77. Chunar	493.50
	Ganga (SC)	78. Anupshaher	575.78
	Ganga (SC)	79. Ranipur	787.53
	Ganga (SC)	80. Joshimath	45.96
	Ganga (SC)	81. Gopeshwar	102.37
	Ganga (SC)	82. Karan Prayag	30.68
	Ganga (SC)	83. Rudra Prayag	220.72
	Ganga (SC)	84. Badrinath	70.94
	Ganga (SC)	85. Srinagar	740.64
	Ganga (SC)	86. Deo Prayag	400.91
	Ganga (SC)	87. Uttar Kashi	963.25
	BIHAR		
	Ganga (MS)	* Patna	1225.80
	Ganga (MS)	* Bhagalpur	544.80

1	2	3	4
	Ganga (MS)	* Munger	122.80
	Ganga (MS)	* Chapra	176.90
	Ganga (MS)	88. Buxar	80.40
	Ganga (MS)	89. Arrah	269.40
	Ganga (MS)	90. Fatwah	70.20
	Ganga (MS)	91. Barh	72.50
	Ganga (MS)	92. Barahya	43.50
	Ganga (MS)	93. Sultanganj	99.00
	Ganga (MS)	94. Sahebganj	50.00
	Ganga (MS)	95. Mokamah	185.80
	Ganga (MS)	96. Kahelgaon	218.41
	Ganga (MS)	97. Hazipur	308.89
	WEST BENGAL		
	Ganga (MS)	98. Barrackpore	2524.39
	Ganga (MS)	99. Bansberia	2823.92
	Ganga (MS)	100. Rishra	1253.57
	Ganga (MS)	101. Baidyabati	1361.09
	Ganga (MS)	102. Circular Canal	951.92
	Ganga (MS)	103. Tolly's Nallah	3737.07
	Ganga (MS)	104. Budge-Budge	1038.01
	Ganga (MS)	105. Badreshwar-champdani	3558.15
	Ganga (MS)	106. Naihati	2446.86
	Ganga (SC)	107. Kharda (extended)	1038.15

1	2	3	4
	Ganga (SC)	108. Gayespur, Halilshar and Kanchrapara	2723.32
	Ganga (SC)	109. Konnagar	1561.60
	Ganga (SC)	110. Uttarpara-Kotrung	1129.02
	Ganga (SC)	111. North Barrackpore	2026.07
	Ganga (SC)	112. Jijiganj-Azimganj	584.98
	Ganga (SC)	113. Diamond Harbour	360.25
	Ganga (SC)	114. Garulia	1089.87
	Ganga (SC)	115. Katwa	375.00
	Ganga (SC)	116. Dhulian	389.65
	Ganga (SC)	117. Jangipur	352.05
	Ganga (SC)	118. Mahestala	1333.99
	Ganga (SC)	119. Chakdah	247.39
	Ganga (SC)	120. Murshidabad	515.27
		Total (Ganga)	61884.15
XIII.	DELHI		
	20. Yamuna	121. Deihi	2061.00
XIV.	HARYANA		
	Yamuna	122. Yamunanagar & Jagadhri	2697.99
	Yamuna	123. Karnal	2392.01
	Yamuna	124. Panipat	4245.55
	Yamuna	125. Sonapat	2368.98

1	2	3	4
	Yamuna	126. Gurgaon	2248.00
	Yamuna	127. Faridabad	7201.90
	Yamuna	128. Chhchhrauli	107.82
	Yamuna	129. Radaur	190.73
	Yamuna	130. Indri	134.61
	Yamuna	131. Gharaunda	181.67
	Yamuna	132. Palwal	1100.11
	Yamuna	133. Gohana	349.81
	UTTAR PRADESH		
	Yamuna	134. Saharanpur	2447.28
	Yamuna	135. Mujaffarnagar	1221.88
	Yamuna	136. Ghaziabad	8982.49
	Yamuna	137. Noida	2804.83
	Yamuna	138. Vrindaban	649.00
	Yamuna	139. Mathura	2253.70
	Yamuna	140. Agra	6896.46
	Yamuna	141. Etawah	833.56
		Total (Yamuna)	51369.38
21.	Gomati	142. Lucknow	5029.00
	Gomati	143. Sultanpur	491.00
	Gomati	144. Jaunpur	581.00
		Total (Gomati)	6101.00

1	2	3	4
	BIHAR		
22.	Damodar	145. Ramgarh	310.70
	Damodar	146. Dugdha	130.49
	Damodar	147. Jhria	202.69
	Damodar	148. Chirkunda	181.08
	Damodar	149. Sindri	0.90
	Damodar	150. Telumochu	22.46
	Damodar	151. Sudamdih	105.34
	Damodar	152. Bokaro-Kangali	121.68
	WEST BENGAL		
	Damodar	153. Raniganj	160.86
	Damodar	154. Asansol	786.45
	Damodar	155. Andal	147.42
	Damodar	156. Durgapur	167.39
		Total (Damodar)	2337.46
	Sub Total		237890.51
C.	Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), Calcutta		6500.00
D.	Establishment & R&D		11853.22
	Grand Total		256243.73

*Towns common under GAP phase-I and GAP phase-II.

[English]

Supply of Equipments to A.P. Telecom Circle

5725. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests have been received to provide certain equipment to the Andhra Pradesh Telecom circle for the early implementation of the expansion plan in respect of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to supply necessary equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) and (b) No specific requests have been received. However, for implementation of the expansion plan for the year 1998-99 some of the equipments/cables required have already been procured for Andhra Telecom circle. Procurement action has been initiated for the remaining equipments/cables. These are likely to be supplied in time, to fully meet the yearly target (1998-99) of Andhra Telecom Circle.

Foreign Financial Grants for Primary Education

5726. SHRI ADITYANATH:
DR. SAROJA V.:
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIYA:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA MALLICK:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign financial grants/amount extended for the primary education in Government schools to the Union Government, State Governments and Union Territories during the last three years upto the financial year ending March 31, 1998, year-wise;

(b) the criteria fixed for allocation of such grants/amount among the States;

(c) the details of the progress made in this regard, State-wise;

(d) the number of cases in which misutilisation of grants/amount has been noticed, State-wise;

(e) the steps taken to ensure the proper utilisation of foreign grants/amount, and

(f) the time by which the Government will be able to achieve the target of universal primary education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) A statement indicating the total external financial assistance (loan/grant) tied up for the various primary/basic education projects in the various States is given in the Statement-I attached. The amounts actually reimbursed by the external funding agencies against the above projects during the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98) are indicated in the Statement-II enclosed.

(b) and (c) Under the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) about 85% of the project cost is met by the Government of India and the remaining 15% is shared by the concerned State Government. The Government of India share is resourced through external funding. For Shiksha Karmi Project in Rajasthan, cost sharing is 50:50 between Swedish International Development Agencies (SIDA) and the Government of Rajasthan. Similarly, for the Lok Jumbish Project in Rajasthan, the cost sharing is 3:2:1 between SIDA, Government of India and Government of Rajasthan. Actual disbursement is made by the external funding agencies against the expenditures incurred as per the agreed pattern. The allocation/release of funds to the various States is made on the basis of the approved project cost and the Annual Work Plan & Budget Progress in the release of funds to the various State Implementation Societies during the last three years is indicated in the Statement-III attached.

(d) No specific case of misutilisation of funds as such has come to the notice of the Government.

(e) Funds are released to the State Implementation Societies and the expenditure is incurred by them in accordance with the norms stipulated in the project guidelines and on the activities included in their Annual Work Plan & Budget which are approved after appraisal. The State Societies have well defined Memorandum of Association & Rules and the Financial Regulations with a provision of annual audit to ensure proper utilisation of funds. Physical and financial achievements against the project parameters are also monitored periodically through visits of Supervision Missions, Project Management Information System and meetings of the Executive Committees. The Annual Reports alongwith the audited account of the State Societies are also laid in Parliament.

(f) In pursuance of Article 45 of the Directive Principle of the Constitution, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as modified in 1992, provides that free and compulsory elementary education of satisfactory quality shall be provided to all children upto the age of 14 years

before we enter the 21st century. The Central Government is augmenting the efforts of the State Governments towards achieving universalisation of primary education through various Centrally sponsored schemes. However,

in view of the magnitude of the problem and the constraint of resources, it is difficult to specify a firm time schedule for achieving the target of universalisation of primary education in the country.

Statement-I

Funding Agency	Amount	Period	States and No. of Districts Covered
1	2	3	4
World Bank (IDA) (Soft loan)	US\$ 260.3 million (Rs. 806 crores)	1994-95 to 2001-02	<i>DPEP Phase-I</i> Assam (4) Haryana (4) Karnatka (4) Kerala (3) Maharashtra (5) Tamil Nadu (3)
European Commission (EC) (Grant)	ECU 150 million (Rs. 585 crores)	1994-1995 to 1998-99	<i>DPEP-Madhya Pradesh</i> (19)
World Bank (Soft loan) + Co-financing by Govt. Of Netherlands (Grant)	US\$ 425.2 million (Rs. 1480 crores) + US\$ 25.8 million (Rs. 90 crores)	1996-97 to 2001-02	DEP Phase-II Gujarat (3) - Dutch funded Himachal Pradesh (4) Orissa (5) Expansion in DPEP states already covered (43) U.P. (15)
DFID (formerly ODA), UK (Grant)	£42.5 million (Rs. 220 crores) £37.71 million (Rs. 207 crores)	1996-1997 to 2002-03	<i>DPEP Phase-II</i> Andhra Pradesh (5) West Bengal (5)
World Bank (Soft loan) + UNICEF (Grant)	US\$ 152.4 million (Rs. 530 crores) + US\$10 million (Rs. 36 crores)	1997-98 to 2001-02	<i>DPEP Phase-III</i> 27 districts of Bihar
World Bank (Soft loan)	US\$ 165 million (Rs. 577 crores) and Supplemental funding of US\$ 59.4 million (Rs. 220 crores)	1993-94 to 2000-01 1997-98 to 2000-01	12 districts under Uttar Pradesh Basic Education project (State Sector)

1	2	3	4
SIDA, Govt. of Sweden (Grant)	SEK 60 million (Rs. 27 crores)	1994-95 to 1998-99	Shiksha Karmi Project in 31 districts of Rajasthan (Phase-II).
SIDA, Govt. of Sweden (Grant)	SEK 100 million (Rs. 45 crores)	1994-98	Lok Jumbish Project in Rajasthan (Phase-II).

Statement-II

Amounts disbursed by various external funding agencies under primary/basic education projects during the last three year (1995-96 to 1997-98)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Project/Funding Agency	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
<i>DPEP:</i>					
1.	World Bank (Loan)	31.79	133.56	200.68	366.03
2.	European Commission (Grant)	0.00	163.96	172.00	335.96
3.	UNICEF (Grant)	3.40	5.67	0.00	9.07
4.	Netherland (Grant)	0.00	0.00	8.13	8.13
5.	ODA, Uk (Grant)	0.00	0.00	22.49	22.49
Total DPEP		35.19	303.19	403.30	741.68
6.	U.P. Basic Education Project (World Bank Loan)	160.00	148.00	118.00	426.00
7.	Shiksha Karmi Project (SIDA) (Grant)	8.00	9.00	13.85	30.85
8.	Lok Jumbish (SIDA) (Grant)	7.86	12.97	6.53	27.36

Statement-III

Statement indicating the allocation/release of funds funder DPEP, Lok Jumbish Project and Shiksha Karmi Scheme during the last three years

(Rs. In crores)

Sl.No.	State	Funds Released			Total Release upto 31.03.1998
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>DPEP</i>					
1.	Assam	19.29	10.00	30.37	59.66
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0.50	12.00	34.19	46.69
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	18.02	18.02
4.	Gujarat	0.50	4.69	10.56	15.75
5.	Haryana	15.61	13.60	36.67	65.88
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.50	7.29	18.74	26.53
7.	Karnataka	22.15	15.00	60.18	97.33
8.	Kerala	19.02	5.75	30.13	54.90
9.	Madhya Pradesh	67.19	83.86	117.83	268.88
10.	Maharashtra	29.30	6.27	50.00	85.57
11.	Orissa	0.50	8.72	21.15	30.37
12.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50
13.	Tamil Nadu	21.39	11.74	43.40	76.53

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.50	54.50	55.00
15.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	19.00	19.00
16.	National Component	5.00	4.58	14.65	24.23
Total DPEP		200.95	184.00	559.89	944.84
17.	Lok Jumbish Project (Rajasthan)	15.00	22.20	32.66	69.86
18.	Shiksha Karmi Scheme (Rajasthan)	8.00	9.00	13.85	30.85

Accidents on National Highways

5727. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents on National Highways during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct dividers on National Highways to minimise these accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other steps being taken to check such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) A Statement showing State-wise accident statistics during 1995, 1996 and 1997 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal to construct dividers on National Highways. However, when the National Highways are widened from two-lane to four lane, raised medians are generally provided to segregate the opposite stream of traffic.

Taking into account the increasing traffic and high rate of accidents on National Highways, the Government is taking a number of steps for improvement of National Highways. These include widening of two-lane sections to four lane sections, single lane to two-lanes, providing raised shoulders, strengthening weak pavements, reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges and culverts, replacement of level crossing by road over bridges, provision of retro-reflective road signs, thermoplastic road markings, laybys and wayside amenities on high traffic density corridors.

Statement

Statement showing road accidents, persons killed & injured on National Highways

States/UTs	Accidents		
	1995	1996	1997
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	5816	7117	N.A.
Arunachal Pradesh	48	63	54
Assam	1477	1464	1584

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Bihar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	Uttar Pradesh	N.A.	5622	5648
Goa	938	946	886	West Bengal	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Gujarat	3184	4967	N.A.	A & N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
Haryana	2494	2385	N.A.	Chandigarh	35	51	56
Himachal Pradesh	755	704	661	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
Jammu & Kashmir	113	324	567	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
Karnataka	7690	8040	N.A.	Delhi	1012	1057	N.A.
Kerala	8699	7577	N.A.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	6097	6816	N.A.	Pondicherry	255	209	233
Maharashtra	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	Total	52033	69931	18073
Manipur	156	163	161	N.A.—Not Available.			
Meghalaya	221	175	N.A.	Persons Killed			
Mizoram	30	46	N.A.	States/UTs	1995	1996	1997
Nagaland	58	73	22	Andhra Pradesh	2146	2580	N.A.
Orissa	2497	2264	N.A.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	13	13
Punjab	688	876	1229	Assam	774	760	866
Rajasthan	7169	6501	6924	Bihar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Sikkim	74	66	48*	Goa	101	96	111
Tamil Nadu	2426	12300	N.A.	Gujarat	897	1121	N.A.
Tripura	101	125	N.A.	Haryana	1168	1211	N.A.
				Himachal Pradesh	228	216	181

1	2	3	4
Jammu & Kashmir	94	173	131
Karnataka	1898	1974	N.A.
Kerala	968	859	N.A.
Madhya Pradesh	1276	1355	N.A.
Maharashtra	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Manipur	59	32	43
Meghalaya	78	58	N.A.
Mizoram	28	31	N.A.
Nagaland	31	50	15
Orissa	788	763	N.A.
Punjab	591	561	938
Rajasthan	1821	2058	2078
Sikkim	13	11	10
Tamil Nadu	2723	2787	N.A.
Tripura	32	45	N.A.
Uttar Pradesh	N.A.	3098	3165
West Bengal	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
A&N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chandigarh	18	26	25
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4
Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
Delhi	257	261	N.A.
Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	35	27	32
Total	16029	20166	7608
	Persons Injured		
States/UTs	1995	1996	1997
Andhra Pradesh	6720	7982	N.A.
Arunachal Pradesh	71	94	134
Assam	2182	2288	2623
Bihar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Goa	729	782	605
Gujarat	4063	4937	N.A.
Haryana	2808	3089	N.A.
Himachal Pradesh	1256	996	1006
Jammu & Kashmir	432	395	526
Karnataka	10749	11824	N.A.
Kerala	12393	11673	N.A.
Madhya Pradesh	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Maharashtra	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Manipur	253	295	294

1	2	3	4
Meghalaya	265	184	N.A.
Mizoram	121	117	N.A.
Nagaland	130	76	63
Orissa	2785	2727	N.A.
Punjab	560	813	1077
Rajasthan	8285	7961	7664
Sikkim	118	115	69
Tamil Nadu	11731	11159	N.A.
Tripura	169	174	N.A.
Uttar Pradesh	N.A.	4136	4084
West Bengal	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
A & N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chandigarh	24	39	44
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
Delhi	819	787	N.A.
Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	233	188	265
Total	66896	72831	18454

*[Translation]***Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in U.P.**

5728. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for setting up a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh has been cleared;

(b) if so, the date on which the said proposal was cleared and whether the State Government has made land available for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Prosecution of Officials of NTPC**

5729. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some senior executives of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have been chargesheeted and major penalty proceedings have been initiated against them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the charges framed against these officials of the National Thermal Power Corporation; and

(d) the action the Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The charge framed against these executives mainly relate to misconduct, financial impropriety and procedural lapses in the discharge of their duties. The Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules of the Corporation lay down the procedure in accordance with which action is taken against the charged executives.

Upgradation of Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour

5730. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of harbours/ports in the country;
- (b) the present grading thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to upgrade Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour in order to make available sufficient transport facilities there; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE Minister of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) There are 181 identified Minor Ports in the country managed by the State Governments and 11 Major Ports under the jurisdiction of the Central Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) does not arise.

Container Terminal at Vallarpadam, Cochin

5731. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the construction of the container terminal project at Valiarpadam, Cochin so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) Container Transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam, Cochin is proposed to be developed through private funds. Expressions of Interest have been received by Cochin Port Trust from private parties. After the selection of the party, a detailed feasibility study will have to be carried out by the selected party to work out the cost and other details. It is, therefore, too early to indicate the time by which the project is likely to be completed.

[Translation]

Out of Order Telephones, Telephone Exchanges

5732. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges and the telephones installed in rural areas in the country are out of order for the last six months;

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

(c) whether it is causing a loss of crores of rupees;

(d) the details of schemes formulated for the proper maintenance of telephone exchanges before the installation of telephone connections and the reasons for not implementing them;

(e) whether many officials have been found guilty in this regard; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, 105 small exchanges in Andhra Pradesh and 6 in J&K lying damaged/burnt due to militancy/terrorism.

(c) No Sir. However, some loss of revenue will be there because of damaged/burnt exchanges.

(d) The schemes formulated for proper maintenance of telephone connection are mentioned below:

- (i) Overhead lines are being replaced gradually by underground cables.
- (ii) Replacement of old and worn out deopwire, house wiring, telephone instruments, etc.
- (iii) Replacement of old batteries of exchanges.
- (iv) Arranging additional Engine alternators for areas where power supply is not reliable.
- (v) Training of Staff to handle modern equipments.
- (vi) Providing proper tools and testing/measuring instruments for better services.
- (vii) Before commissioning of newly installed exchanges acceptance testing is done as per prescribed standards.
- (viii) Regular inspections of exchanges.
- (ix) Daily testing of village public telephones.

Instructions are issued from time to time to ensure implementation of these schemes.

(e) No, Sir.

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

Felling of Trees in Bihar

5733. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the felling of trees in the forests of tribal areas of southern Bihar is adversely affecting the environment;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government with a view to improve the environment during the last two years; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to check felling of trees and details of the talks held with the Government of Bihar in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Privatisation in Power Sector

5734. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ. Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals have been received by the Government from private companies to generate the power;

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

(c) the number of proposals approved and the proposals on which the action has already been taken?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the inception of the private power policy of the Government of India in 1991 and to date, 126 proposals have been received for setting up off power projects in the private sector. These include 95 proposals on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Letter of Intent (LoI), etc. Route costing above Rs. 100 crores and 31 proposals on the competitive bidding route costing more than Rs. 1000 crores. As on date, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has accorded techno-economic clearance to 44 projects for which complete Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) had been received. As per information available, the following private power projects cleared by CEA have been set up and have commenced generation:

Sl.No.	Name of the project/location	Capacity (MW)
1.	Hazira Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Distt. Surat, Gujarat	515
2.	Baroda Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Distt. Baroda, Gujarat	167
3.	Paguthan Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Distt. Bharn, Gujarat	655*
4.	Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Distt. East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh	216
5.	Godavari Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Distt. East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh	208

*only 414 MW has been commissioned so far.

Setting up of Medical Relief Centres

5735. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to set up Medical Relief Centres for the persons who meet with accidents on the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; *

(c) whether the National Highway Authority has set up such Medical Relief Centres on National Highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government have introduced a National Highway Patrolling Scheme in 1993-94 under which financial assistance is given to State Governments for purchase of crane and ambulance for providing assistance to the road accident victims and removal of damaged vehicles from the National Highways

(c) and (d) The National Highway Authority of India is presently operating one ambulance service on Kotputli-Amer Section of National Highway No. 8. The ambulance is manned by one driver and one attendant with first aid facilities. In case of accident the ambulance would provide immediate medical assistance and carry the victims to the nearest health centres/hospitals.

Telephone Exchanges in Madhubani

5736. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned any 4 K.C. DoT telephone exchange with RLU facilities in Madhubani district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to shift it to Saharsa despite the fact that the building for this exchange has already been constructed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Equipment for 4K C-DOT MAX-XL main for Madhubani & 2 RSUs of 1K each at Sakari & Rajnagar has been received at site.

(c) The building at Madhubani is under construction. It is expected to be ready for installation of the exchange by October, 98. Only 1K equipment out of 4K main received at Madhubani has been diverted to Saharsa temporarily.

(d) At Saharsa 1K additional equipment was urgently required for expansion of C-DOT MBM exchange.

(e) Additional MBM equipment is expected in August/September, 1998. 1K equipment temporarily diverted from Madhubani to Saharsa will be restored back to Madhubani on receipt of this equipment.

[English]

Donation by Technical Institutes

5737. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved any mechanism to check huge donations demanded by Managements of Medical engineering colleges and other professional institutes; and

(b) if so, the number of cases detected which were involved in accepting hefty donations and the punishment meted out to those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The admissions and fee structure in private-unaided professional colleges are regulated under the scheme laid down by the Supreme Court in Unnikrishnan Judgement of 1993 and the Regulations framed accordingly by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Medical Council of India (MCI) respectively. AICTE has constituted Monitoring and Disciplinary Committees in each region to look into complaints in respect of Technical Education Institutions. The Government has not received any complaint with regard to demand for donations by Private-unaided Professional Colleges.

Out of Order Telephones in Delhi

5738. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telephone Department take several weeks to make telephones functional in the Capital particularly in Chanakyapuri Exchange;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) to (c) Generally the faults are attended to promptly. Majority of the faults are cleared within the prescribed norms of 48 hours from the time of bookings.

However, in some typical cable break downs, it may take longer time to restore the faults completely.

As regards Chanakyapuri telephone exchange, at present, on an average 67.5% of the registered complaints are cleared on the same day. 91.5% are cleared on the following day and 95.5% are cleared within 48 hours. The remaining complaints are delayed beyond norms due to cable breakdown and subscribers reasons etc.

Satellite T.V. Network in Maharashtra

5739. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the districts of Maharashtra have been connected with Satellite Television relay network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all the districts of Maharashtra including rural villages are likely to be connected with this network?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan's Satellite Channels are available in the entire country, including all the districts of Maharashtra with the use of appropriate Dish-Antenna system.

(b) Doordarshan's Statellite Channels, available in the country including the districts of Maharashtra, are as under:- DD-1, DD-2, DD-4, DD-5, DD-6, DD-7, DD-8, DD-9, DD-10, DD-11, DD-12, DD-13, DD-14, DD-15, DD-16, DD-17, DD-18, DD-1 (INDIA).

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Reservation in Educational Institutions

5740. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to reserve certain percentage of seats in educational institutions for the children of single parents; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. The Central Government have only advised the States to ensure that the children of single parents are not denied admissions to any educational institution on this ground and not to insist on recording the names of both the parents in the Board/University certificates.

(b) Does not arise.

Instalment Corporation Limited

5741. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1862 dated June 8, 1998 and state:

(a) whether Vice-President/Directors of the Instalment Corporation Limited had issued numerous post-dated cheques from their Company account numbers from various banks in Crores of rupees to various persons during 1992 to 31.3.1997 against the liabilities of the said Company which bounced after deposit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) This Department

has no authentic information in regard to issue of numerous post-dated cheques by the Vice-President/Directors of M/s. Instalment Corporation Limited from their Company accounts numbers from various banks in Crores. of rupees to various persons during 1992 to 31.3.1997 against the liabilities of the said company which bounced after deposit, as the registered office of the company was found locked by the Inspecting Officer and the books of accounts of the Company were not produced before the Inspecting Officer during the course of inspection u/s 209A of the Companies Act, 1956.

For non-production of books of accounts and other records of the Company to the Inspecting Officer, the Regional Director, Kanpur has been advised on 22.7.98 to launch prosecution u/s 209A (2) & (5) of the Companies Act against the directors of the company.

(c) Dishonour of cheque can be proceeded against the issuer of cheque under the Negotiable Instrument Act, by the recipient of the cheque.

Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka

5742. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are going to sanction a telephone exchange if they receive 10 applications in rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of places more than 10 applications have been received for setting up of telephone exchanges in Chamarajnagar region in Karnataka;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Karnataka at present;

(d) the number of telephone exchanges opened during 1997-98, location-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up some new telephone exchanges in the State during 1998-99; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) As per policy of the Department, a new telephone exchange is planned to be opened at a place when the Registered Demand reaches 10 or more and it does not fall within the local area of another exchange.

(b) There are 7 such places in Chamarajanagar region.

(c) As on 30th June, 1998, there are 2178 Telephone exchanges functioning in Karnataka.

(d) 73 numbers of new Telephone Exchanges were opened in Karnataka during 1997-98. Locations are given in attached Statement-I.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. As given in attached Statement-II.

Statement-I

New Exchanges opened during 1997-98 in Karnataka Circle (Location-wise)

Bangalore TD:

1. ITPL
2. Nayional Games
3. HSR
4. Hosakerehalli
5. OCB Tax
6. Varthur
7. Hosakote Industrial Area
8. Volagarapura
9. Peenya
10. Kengeri
11. Kumaraswamy Layout

Chitradurga TD:

12. Rajanahalli
13. Chikkagondanahalli
14. Alur (Hiriyur)

Bellary TD:

15. Contonment, Bellary
 16. T.B. Dam, Hospet
 17. APMC, Bellary

Uttarakannada TD:

18. Hankon
 19. Karwar G. Street
 20. Ananthwadi
 21. Badosgaon
 22. Taddalse
 23. Chigalli
 24. Uppaleshwar
 25. Hodkeshirur
 26. Unchalli

Hassan TD:

27. Mududi

Tumkur TD:

28. Theetha

Dakshina Kannada TD:

29. Car Street, Mangalore
 30. Batla
 31. Belal
 32. Padav

Belgaum TD:

33. Gajapathi
 34. Mutuga
 35. Shivabasavanagar
 36. Bhagyanagar

Kolar TD:

37. Muduvathi
 38. Nayakarahalli
 39. Addagal
 40. Bynapalli
 41. Kodicheruvu

Chickmagalur TD:

42. Mallenahalli
 43. Benur
 44. Belwadi
 45. Bharathiball
 46. Katkere
 47. Kunchebail
 48. Samse
 49. Sutta

Dharwad TD:

50. Sappapur
 51. Yalagivi
 52. Hirenarthi
 53. Chikkabasur
 54. Hirehonnahalli
 55. Kudihal
 56. Shaninagar

Gulbarga TD:

57. Nehruganj -
58. Hebbale (B)
59. Bus stand

Mysore TD:

60. Varuna
61. Doora
62. Bannimantap

Shimoga TD:

63. Devarahalli
64. Shimoga

Mandya TD:

65. North Bank

Bijapur TD:

66. Hullur
67. Dhawalagi
68. Navanagar
69. Thekkalki
70. Aihole
71. Bagalur

Raichur TD:

72. Ginigera
73. Chagabari

Statement-II

*New exchanges proposed in Karnataka Circle
for 1998-99*

(Location-Wise)

Bangalore TD:

Bangalore Urban

1. Chandra L/o
2. OMBP

3. HBR

4. Nagarabhavi

5. I I. So

6. Sanjaynagar

Bangalore Rural

7. Bolare

8. Rajangatta

9. Mandur

10. Narayanagatta

11. Samandur

Bellary

12. Uchhangi

13. Raghavendra Colony

14. Gandhinaagar

Bijapur

15. Masblanal

16. Dhulakhed

17. Golasar

18. Jalwadagi

19. Birur

20. New Bagalkot

Belgaum

21. Mole

22. Nainglaj

23. Eugatealur

24. Kabbur

25. Marikatu

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 26. | Sapatasagar | Mandya |
| 27. | Narasapur | 49. K. Honnelagere |
| 28. | Manjarl | 50. Anegol |
| 29. | Hulagballi | 51. Chandhagalu |
| Chickmagalur | | Dakshina Kannada |
| 30. | Sokke | 52. Kalamakar |
| 31. | Narayanapur | 53. Padukere |
| 32. | Uddeborannahalii | 54. Thekkar |
| Gulbarga | | 55. Ajari |
| 33. | Hallisalgar | 56. Yenekal |
| 34. | Ferozabad | Raichur |
| 35. | Chandraki | 57. Indargi |
| 36. | Sedam Road, Gulbarga | 58. Nagarhal |
| Hassan | | 59. Kunkere |
| 37. | Bylahalli | 60. Chikalparvi |
| 38. | Karle | 61. Yerdona |
| 39. | Volalehalli | 62. Nawali |
| 40. | Agraharagate | 63. Hirevankelakunte |
| Hubli | | Tumkur |
| 41. | Cheeranahalli | 64. K.G. Temple |
| 42. | Koralahalli | 65. Rangapura |
| 43. | Huligol | 66. Echanur |
| 44. | Kanovalli | 67. Alappangudde |
| 45. | Rottigavoda | 68. Honsagere |
| 46. | Madanabhavi | 69. Maruthinagar |
| 47. | Maddelli | 70. Antharasanahalli |
| 48. | Kudepali | Utta: Kannada |
| | | 71. Kumbaravada |
| | | 72. Shirali |
| | | 73. Adugatta |
| | | 74. Ashoti |
| | | 75. Mavinagundi |
| | | 76. Malavalli |
| | | 77. Kerwadi |

Shimoga

Construction of By-Pass in Panipat

78. Heddaripura
79. Arahalolalu
80. New town, Bhadravathi

5743. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct a by-pass in Panipat in order to make the transportation of smooth affair;

(b) if so, the time by which the project likely to be launched; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Mysore

81. Kaveripura
82. Ballakuppe
83. N. Begur
84. Muthur

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The construction of a bypass at Panipat is at the stage of feasibility study.

Davangere

85. Jajur
86. Mahadevapura
87. Konasagara
88. Bagur
89. Jarikatti
90. MCC 'B' Block,
Davangere

Private Sector in Women and Child Welfare Programmes

5744. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recognised the participation of the private sector in the women and child welfare programmes;

(b) if so, the details of the NGOs active in this field, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage these organisations?

Bidar TD

91. Saigaon
92. Warwatti
93. Morambi
94. Sindhol

Madikeri TD

95. Ankanahally
96. Abburkatte
97. Doddapulikote

Kolar TD

98. Hungenahalli
99. Madderi
100. Doddachinahalli
101. Santhekallahalli
102. Sadali
103. Thummanahally
104. Malamachanahalli
105. Nandanahosahalli
106. Nambihalli

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The Private Sector is encouraged to take up Programmes for women and child development on its own and to contribute to funds like National Crèche Fund set up for this purpose. They may also take up Projects under Government Programmes which provide for such participation.

(b) Financial Assistance to voluntary organisations working in the field of Women and Child Development is given by the Government through a number of Ministries/ Departments. Details of such voluntary organisations are not maintained centrally. However, the Annual Reports of various Ministries/Departments generally contain the details of such major voluntary organisations. These Annual Reports are circulated to the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and also placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Financial assistance is given to NGOs under various Schemes for Women and Child Development. They are consulted in the formulation of plans, programmes & policies in this regard. Their services are also utilised for appraisal, monitoring & evaluation of various programmes.

Setting up of NCERT Centres

5745. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up NCERT centres in the country during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Financial Assistance to Rural Girl Students

5746. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any special provisions for the financial assistance to rural girl students in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for providing such assistance; and

(d) the manner in which the Government are going to spend this amount in different States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The Government propose to institute a scheme for free education for girls upto college level including professional courses details of which are being worked out. A provision of Rs. 100 crores has been earmarked for this purpose in the budget for the current financial year. Besides, a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes concern themselves with girls education in rural areas. The District Primary Education Programme, currently operative in 149 districts in 14 States, seeks to address educational problems in areas of low female literacy. The Non-Formal Education Scheme is also concerned with out of school children in backward and remote areas and has therefore a specific focus on girls. The Total Literacy Campaign also has a pronounced edge for promoting literacy amongst women. The Mahila Samakhya Programme is also another intervention in low female literacy areas.

[Translation]

Filling up of Vacancies

5747. SHRI ANUPALAL YADAV:
SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY":

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of EDDA/MC and EL/BPM filed up with the candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Bihar since 1997, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation against the violation of rules and regulations in making these appointments in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from Bihar circle and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Payment of Compensation Charges for Warehousing Containers

5748. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Calcutta Port Trust Authorities are realising 'Payment of compensation charges for warehousing containers' under the receipts of 'Calcutta Dock Labour Board';

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Port charges at the Calcutta Port are irrational and exorbitant as compared to other major Ports in India;

(c) if so, the rationale behind charging higher ground rent for low value product like MDF as compared to other items in Customs Chapter '44'; and

(d) the steps likely to be taken to bring the ground charges at Calcutta Port at par with the ports in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The Calcutta Port Trust do not recover compensation charges from warehousing containers. However, there is a system of recovery of dispensation charges by the Calcutta Dock Labour Board for containers being stuffed or de-stuffed at the warehouse and ultimately passing through the port.

(b) The Port Charges in Calcutta are not irrational or exorbitant compared to the services provided and its direct and indirect costs involved in providing the services.

(c) and (d) The rates of ground rent in Calcutta Port are not higher in most of the cases compared to the ground rent of other parts. However, the Port Trust reviews the rates as and when considered necessary.

Central Assistance to WB for Development of Forests

5749. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals are under consideration of the Government for providing Central assistance to Government of West Bengal for the improvement of depleting forests resources in that State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Central Government have provided assistance to the State of West Bengal for the improvement of forest resources under three schemes for the Ninth Five Year Plan. The schemes and financial outlay for the Ninth Plan are as under:

(Financial Rs. In lakh)

S.No.	Scheme	Outlay for 9th Plan
1.	Area oriented fuelwood and fodder projects.	881.67
2.	Integrated afforestation & eco-development projects.	769.05
3.	Conservation and development of non-timber forest produce including medicinal plants.	303.57

BICP Report

5750. SHRI K.S. RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since received to report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Price (BICP) about the pricing of telecommunication services;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the main recommendations of the report;

(c) the details of the recommendation that have been accepted by the Government and the action taken by the Department of Telecommunications/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited thereon; and

(d) the details of the recommendations not implemented with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) BICP have been requested to carry out a techno-economic study of the Cellular and Paging Service Industry in view of representations received by Government from Private Telecom Service Operators about the poor financial viability of their operations. The report of BICP has not yet been received.

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

Cellular Operation on Verge of Collapse

5751. SHRI VILAS MITTEWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cellular Operation on Verge of Collapse" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 15, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received from the Private Telecom. Companies engaged in Cellular operations and their Association about the poor financial viability of their operations. The private telecom operators have demanded moratorium on the payment of licence fee, extension of the licence period.

(c) Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has been requested to carry out a techno-economic study of Cellular and Paging Service Industry. Pending BICP's study, ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation

of India Limited) were also requested to undertake a quick study of the operational performance of the Cellular Service Industry. A final decision in the matter will be taken after consideration of all aspects of the matter.

Telecast of Poor Quality Films on Doordarshan

5752. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor quality films are being telecast/shown on DD-1 and DD-2 on Saturdays and Sundays:

(b) if so, whether the Government have a policy towards selection of good and new films for telecast on these two channels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Matters relating to telecast of films on Doordarshan are entirely within the purview of Prasar Bharati and are not decided upon by the Government

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Proposal for Major Port in Orissa

5753. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal by the Government of Orissa to have a major port at the mouth of the Dharma River in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including estimated cost and the manner in which it is going to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. However, Orissa Government have entered into an agreement with M/s. International Seaport, Singapore for development of Dharma Port, which is in the category of a minor port, on BOOT basis.

(b) M/s. International Seaport, Singapore is to undertake feasibility study and it is, therefore, too early to indicate estimated cost and other details in respect of the project. Moreover, minor ports fall under the jurisdiction

of respective States and thus the matter relates to Government of Orissa.

Violation of Rules

5754. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a society named Asian Health and Environment Allied Data Base (AHEAD) is registered and functioning at National Institute of Science Communications (NISCOM), a constituent establishment of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research;

(b) if so, the bye-laws and founder members of the said society;

(c) whether prior Government approval has been given for running of this society at NISCOM premises; and

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the Director of NISCOM and others for violating the Government rules?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Asian Health and Allied Data (AHEAD) is a consortium of nine organisations of which eight are Governmental and one is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). These organisations belong to seven Asian countries viz. Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, and Mongolia. AHEAD is registered under the Indian Societies 'Registration Act'. The consortium seeks to bring out and market Asian Health and other related information in modern electronic format based on inputs received from participating members. National Institute of Science Communications (NISCOM) contributes two database to AHEAD i.e. Wealth of India and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Abstracts. The AHEAD is supported by funds from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada and NISCOM as lead organisation member has committed to provide infrastructural and a limited technical manpower support.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Damodar Valley Corporation

5755. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been undertaken for rationalising the manpower and economic policy in the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of officers deployed for review along with category thereof;

(d) the time by which review is likely to be completed;

(e) whether such reviews have also been done earlier also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (f) A review has been undertaken for rationalisation of manpower in Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). As regards the economic policy, DVC follows the policies as framed by the Government from time to time. To assess the optimal manpower requirement and to bring about improvements of the following Committees were formed:

- (i) Committee constituted with the Internal Officers of Accounts & Finance Deptt. to review the manpower strength of Accounts and Finance Department.
- (ii) Committee constituted with the internal officers of DVC to review and rationalise the manpower requirement in DVC Thermal Power Stations.
- (iii) Committee constituted by Military College of Engineering, Hyderabad.
- (iv) Committee constituted by Director (HRD) for further review of the manpower Department/ project-wise.

On the basis of the recommendations made, manpower requirements in DVC were reviewed in the year 1996-97 after due discussion and deliberation at all levels.

This review committee constituted with the internal officers of DVC consisted of six officers of the level of DECE/SE.

Review of manpower is a continuous process. The first phase which is an assessment for rationalisation of manpower has been completed. Further review to bring improvement in the Man:MW ratio compared to National Standard/Norms, is being carried out. This would be a continuous process and as such no time frame could be indicated by which time, the exercise would be completed.

[English]

Technician Education Project

5756. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the World Bank aided Technician Education Project aimed at enhancing women participation in polytechnics;

(b) the name of the States/Union Territories covered under the first phase of the project;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch a project for technical education of women students in Meghalaya; and

(d) if so, whether this is likely to be included in the on-going phase of the Technician Education Project?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The World Bank Assisted Technician Education Project for strengthening polytechnic education in the country is being implemented in 19 States/UTs. The project aims at improving the capacity, quality and efficiency of the technician education system in the country. Under Phase-I of this project, states of Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhy Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are covered. Against the total project provision of about Rs. 1956 crores, Rs. 1461 crores have already been utilized as on 30.6.98. The percentage of enrolment of women students in polytechnics in the 19 States/UTs covered under the project has improved from 11% at the beginning of the project to 28.3%, exceeding the national target of 15% set before the commencement of project.

(c) MHRD has invited proposals from the North-Eastern region including Meghalaya for the upgradation

of Technician Education including Technician Education for women students. The proposal from Government of Meghalaya has not been received in MHRD so far.

(d) No, Sir.

Common Minimum Action Plan for the Power Sector

5757. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up a common minimum action plan for the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said action plan was drawn up at the Chief Ministers conference at New Delhi on December 3, 1996; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Power had organised two conferences of Chief Ministers' on 16.10.1996 and 3.12.1996. Based on the consensus reached therein, a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (COMNPP) for the power sector was drawn up.

The CMNPP provides for establishment of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) by the Union Government at National level and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) in States for rationalisation of tariff, encourage private sector participation in distribution, allow maximum possible autonomy to SEBs, bring improvements in the management practices and physical parameters of the SEBs encourage co-generation/captive power plants, initiate advance action and high priority for hydro projects, allocation of liquid fuels, development of mega power projects at pitheads, giving due emphasis for investment in North Eastern region and setting up of washeries by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries or by private sector.

The CMNPP has been circulated to all State Governments/UTs for its implementation in a time bound manner.

The Government have recently enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 for the establishment

of Central Electricity Commission in the Centre and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Some of the State Governments like Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Karnataka and Goa have initiated steps for setting up SERCs in their respective states. Guidelines have been issued for encouraging captive/co-generation plants. Consultations are being held with states regarding a new hydel policy is being finalized giving higher priority to hydel projects. The liquid fuel policy has been drawn up for encouraging investment in the North Eastern Region. The issue of reform of the distribution sector has been examined in detail and suggestions made to the state Governments in this regard.

EPTRI to Commission study of Chemical Units

5758. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environment Protection and Training Research Institute (EPTRI) is commissioning a study involving a review of off-site contingency plan of the chemical industries in Visakhapatnam to prevent accidents;

(b) if so, whether a two-day training programme on prevention, control and management of chemical accidents was organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

(c) if so, whether the study is being done on the instructions from the State Chief Minister;

(d) if so, whether any complete report in this regard has been submitted to the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A two-day training programme on Prevention and Management of Chemical Accidents was organised by the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry on April, 28-29, 1997 at New Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Telecommunications Facility in Maharashtra

5759. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ASHCK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more Telecommunication facilities in Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether the Government have any plan to construct new buildings for Telephone Exchanges;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The district-wise target proposed for addition of switching capacity, new telephone connections, village public telephones & PCOs during 1998-99 for Maharashtra Telecommunications Circle (including Goa) and MTNL Mumbai are given in attached Statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The information is given in the attached Statement-II.

(e) Not applicable in view of reply at (d) above.

Statement-I

District-wise target proposed for addition of switching capacity, new telephone connections, village public telephones & PCOs during 1998-99.

Sl. No.	Name of Distt.	Switching Capacity	New Tele-phones Conn.	VPTs	PCOs	
					Local	STD
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

I. For Maharashtra Telecom Circle.

1.	Ahmednagar	10300	7500	47	90	295
2.	Akola	11000	8000	130	50	170
3.	Aurangabad	8500	6300	120	80	250
4.	Amravati	8500	6300	156	60	195
5.	Beed	2500	1800	70	20	90
6.	Bhandara	3100	2300	140	30	115
7.	Buldhana	4300	3200	178	30	115
8.	Chandrapur	4000	2900	94	30	115

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Dhule	5500	4000	33	40	135
10.	Gadchiroli	1600	1200	168	5	20
11.	Jalna	2500	1800	80	20	70
12.	Jalgaon	12500	9200	18	70	240
13.	Kolhapur	12500	9200	71	150	480
14.	Latur	8400	6000	0	30	115
15.	Nagpur	25500	18800	156	200	615
16.	Nanded	9500	7000	171	35	135
17.	Nasik	19900	15000	55	145	455
18.	Osmanabad	4500	3000	96	15	55
19.	Parbhani	5000	3700	82	30	90
20.	Pune	113000	83000	24	545	1295
21.	Raigad	10700	7800	0	60	135
22.	Ratnagiri	6100	4600	130	15	130
23.	Sangli	15000	10000	21	80	265
24.	Satara	8000	6000	105	30	250
25.	Sindhudurg	3300	2500	37	20	70
26.	Sholapur	5500	4000	0	80	270
27.	Thane	41400	33700	177	270	615
28.	Wardha	5000	3600	121	25	90
29.	Yeotmal	3500	2600	160	25	90
30.	Goa	37000	25000	30	150	475
II.	For MTNL Mumbai	2,70,000	2,30,000	Nil	1500	4500

Statement-II

Details of New Buildings Planned/Under Construction/Completed for Telephone Exchanges during 1998-99 for Maharashtra Telecom Circle and MTNL Mumbai

Sl.No.	District	Name of Exchange
1	2	3

I. For Maharashtra Telecom Circle:

1.	Ahmednagar	1. Kukana 2. Loni 3. Pamer 4. Srigonda
2.	Akola	1. Amankhan RLU 2. Amankhan Plot Main Exch. 3. Manora ILT
3.	Amravati	1. Amravati MIDC 2. Chandur Bazar 3. Chandur RLU 4. Daryapur 5. Nandgaon (Khurd) 6. Paratwada
4.	Aurangabad	1. Chickalthana 12K
5.	Jalna	1. Ghancavangi OFC 2. Jalna MIDC ILT
6.	Buldhana	1. Sindkhedraja ILT
7.	Jalgaon	1. Bhusawal 2. Changdev ILT 3. Dharangaon ILT 4. Edlabad ILT 5. Erandol ILT 6. Jalgaon Main

1	2	3
		7. Kajgaon ILT
		8. Kasoda ILT
		9. Parola ILT
8.	Beed	1. Ambejogai 2. Parali
9.	Latur	1. Latur MIDC ILT 2. Nilanga ILT
10.	Nanded	1. Deglor MAX-II
11.	Parbhani	1. Banwas OFC 2. Basmath MZX-II 3. Dharasur OFC 4. Hingoli ILT 5. Palam OFC 6. Sengaon OFC 7. Sirsam OFC
12.	Nasik	1. Khedale Zumbe (Niphad) 2. Mansur (Kalwan) 3. Mukthi Dham (Nasik) 4. Shirawade Wani (Niphad) 5. Surgana 6. Wani (Dingori)
13.	Pune	1. Baramati MIDC 2. Bhosari 3. Vertical Expn. of Chakal 4. Viman Nagar
14.	Sangli	1. Deshing (Panhala type) 2. Ashta (Panhala type) 3. Jath ILT 4. Karvthemahakal ILT 5. Khanapur 6. Vita 7. Kupwade RLU

1

2

3

- | | | |
|-----|------------|--|
| 15. | Osmanabad | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jewali OFC 2. Leet OFC 3. Lohara OFC 4. Manakeshwar OFC 5. Shiradhon OFC 6. Sonari OFC 7. Tamalwadi OFC 8. Terkheda OFC 9. Yearmala ILT |
| 16. | Chandrapur | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aromnuri ILT 2. Nagbhir ILT 3. Sindewahi ILT 4. Warora MAX-II |
| 17. | Wardha | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arvi 2. Hinghanghat MAX-I 3. Pulgaon MAX-I |
| 18. | Yeotmal | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ner ILT 2. Ralegaon ILT 3. Khairi OFC |

II. For MTNL Mumbai

1. Bandra-Kurla Complex
2. Jogeshwari
3. Saki Vihar
4. CBD Belapur
5. Charkop
6. Thane
7. Wagle Estate
8. Vashi
9. Juhu Danda
10. Cuffe Parade
11. Kalbadevi
12. Cumbala Hill
13. Gurry Road
14. Varsova
15. Panchpakadi (RLU)
16. Eksar-II (RLU)
17. Dahisar (RLU)

Mahila Vikas Nigam

5760. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahila Vikas Nigam has been set up in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number and names of the districts where said Nigam has been set up; and

(c) the works undertaken by the said Nigam so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal, Mumbai is working in the entire State of Maharashtra.

(c) Running various training programmes for Below Poverty Line women like Mushroom training, agarbati making training, screen printing, beauty parlour, rugnasevika training, computer training.

- Undertaken publicity of Mahila Samridhhi Yojana.
- Construction and running of hostels for working women.
- Supply of foodgrains, nutrition food and other articles under various programmes like ICDS.
- Organising exhibitions for sale of products Produced by women and Mahila Mandals.
- Implementation of Maharashtra Rural Credit project involving support for women's access to credit through Self Help Group.
- Self help Group mobilisation under Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation Project in Latur and Osmanabad districts.

Connection of Cities with National Highways in A.P.

5761. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities connected with National Highways in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to connect more cities with National Highways by extending their length;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some proposals have been received from Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) 16 important cities/towns.

(b) to (e) Proposals for declaration of new National Highways during the 9th Five Year Plan have been received from all the State Governments including the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The same may be considered keeping in view their *inter-se* priority as well as availability of funds in the 9th Five Year Plan which is yet to be finalised.

Setting up of FM Radio Station in Kerala

5762. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up any F.M. Radio Stations in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which those are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two new FM Radio Stations at Manjeri and Kasargod with 3 KW and 10 KW Transmitters respectively are proposed to be set up in Kerala. The Stations are expected to be technically ready for commissioning by the year 2001 and 2002 respectively.

Guidelines for Starting New Universities

5763. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines laid down for starting a new University by the State Government and Central Government;

(b) whether it is mandatory for the State Government to take the prior approval from UGC for starting a new university;

(c) if so, the names of the States whose applications got approved and rejected by the UGC during the past five years;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up a university in the Southern region of Orissa which was under active consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Central Universities are set up by Acts of Parliament and State Universities by Acts of State Legislatures. UGC has framed guidelines for establishment of new Universities, which envisage that before the State Government formulates a proposal for new University, a detailed survey of the availability of facilities for higher education within the proposed jurisdiction of the University concerned should be conducted. The UGC should be associated right from the beginning with the survey. The State Governments are also expected to have sufficient data indicating the existing position and justifying the need for an additional University. The Commission has already circulated these guidelines to all the State Govts. for their consideration and necessary action.

As regards Central Universities, it may be stated that such Universities are set up by Central Government taking into consideration the historical or cultural reasons and Centre-State relations.

(b) No, Sir. However, if the State Government wants to avail the financial assistance from the UGC and Central sources, it is essential that the University should be recognised by the Commission and declared fit to receive financial assistance in terms of the Rules & Regulations framed under Section-2(f) and 12-B of the UGC Act.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Automatic Digital Telephone Exchanges in Assam

5764. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic digital telephone exchanges functioning in Assam as on May 31, 1998, district-wise and capacity-wise; and

(b) the number of said exchanges proposed to be set up during 1998-99 in the State, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The details are given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) 25 new telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up during 1998-99. The locations-wise details are given in the attached Statement-II.

Statement-I

District-wise Number of Automatic Digital Telephone Exchanges and their Capacity Functioning in Assam As on 31st May, 1998

Sl. No.	District	Number of automatic Digital exchanges	Capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	Barpeta	9	3152
2.	Bongaigaon	7	4536
3.	Cachar	27	13520
4.	Darrang	14	4136
5.	Dhemaji	4	1512
6.	Dhubri	11	3932
7.	Dibrugarh	19	8324
8.	Goalpara	7	1776

1	2	3	4
9.	Golaghat	12	5608
10.	Hailakandi	7	5840
11.	Jorhat	12	14176
12.	Kamrup	30	59944
13.	Karbi Anglong	9	1904
14.	Karimganj	12	5272
15.	Kokrajhar	5	1640
16.	Morigaon	6	2072
17.	Lakhimpur	8	3152
18.	N.C. Hills	5	1856
19.	Nagaon	32	13489
20.	Nalbari	8	2824
21.	Sibsagar	12	7320
22.	Sonitpur	22	7512
23.	Tinsukia	20	14112

Statement-II

Location-wise Details of New Exchanges Proposed to be Set Up during 1998-99

Sl. No.	Station
1	2
1.	North Guwahati
2.	Silonijan

1	2
3.	Jhaprajan
4.	Galeky
5.	Dhekial
6.	Chungi
7.	Chinnamara
8.	Chogolia
9.	Balkoocha
10.	Halakura
11.	Baitamari
12.	Bhownaguri
13.	Kuthoti
14.	Batodraba
15.	Pathori
16.	Missa
17.	Kalacherra
18.	Tantoo
19.	Dargakona
20.	Sadinbazar
21.	Bantarapur
22.	Jhangi Bhakatgaon
23.	Charaibhai
24.	Borsola
25.	Mandia

Telecast of Malayalam Programmes in Gulf Countries

5765. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes in regional languages being telecast by the Doordarshan in foreign countries;

(b) whether the Government propose to telecast Malayalam programmes in Gulf countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The programmes in regional languages being telecast by Doordarshan in foreign countries include serials, plays, tele films, feature films, dance and drama etc. The telecast of programmes in regional languages—including Malayalam—is already being done by Doordarshan on DD-India (International Channel). Signals of this Channel can be received in Gulf countries via PAS-4 Satellite.

Territorial Jurisdiction of Agra Bench of ITAT

5766. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis for inclusion of various districts within the territorial jurisdiction of the Agra Bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT);

(b) the reasons for non-inclusion of some districts of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the territorial jurisdiction of ITAT Bench of Agra despite their being nearer to Agra in comparison to Jaipur, Delhi and Allahabad;

(c) whether the Government now propose to enlarge the territorial jurisdiction of ITAT Bench of Agra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The territorial jurisdiction of the newly created Agra Bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal has been carved out by

re-adjustment of jurisdiction of the already existing Benches of the Tribunal at Delhi and Allahabad.

The comparative distances from the location of various Benches of the Tribunal, the work-load of cases from various districts at each of the existing benches at Delhi, Jaipur and Allahabad and the need for maintaining a balance in the work-load at each of the existing and new Benches in the region were taken into consideration before deciding upon the territorial jurisdiction of the Agra Bench. Some districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan could not be included in the territorial jurisdiction of the Agra bench so as to maintain overall balance and administrative convenience.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Policy to Hand Over Forests

5767. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to hand over denuded reserved and protected forest to the private sector for purposes of plantation;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy;

(c) whether any Protected Forest or Reserved Forest areas has been so far entrusted to the private sector in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Permanent Status to Employees of IGNCAs

5768. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether permanent status has not been granted to the employees of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps the Government propose to initiate to grant permanent status to these employees;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce pensionary benefits for these employees as applicable to other Government employees; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) According to information furnished by IGNC, all appointments in the Centre are project-wise and against temporary posts. Therefore, none of the employees have been made permanent in the Centre. Further, the employees in the Centre are governed by Contributory Provident Fund Scheme and therefore, are not covered under CCS Pension Rules, 1962. The IGNC is an autonomous trust set up by Government of India and the Government do not interfere in the day today administration of the trust.

National Highway No. 16

5769. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway No. 16 connecting Jagdalpur (M.P.) to Mencherial via Bhopal patnam-Sironcha (Maharashtra) has been approved recently and budgeted for 1998-99;

(b) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be started and completed;

(c) the total cost of the projects; and

(d) the number of connecting bridges existing on this road along with total length of these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For the development of National Highway-16 in Madhya Pradesh, 5 works are sanctioned. Out of 5 works one is complete and the 2 are in progress. In respect of 2 works, contracts are yet to be awarded. These works are estimated to cost Rs. 2.17 crores.

(d) There are 4 major bridges, 40 minor bridges and 359 culverts falling on NH-16 in Madhya Pradesh.

Qualifying Age for Entrance in Parliament and State Legislatures

5770. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the qualifying age for entrance into the Lower House of Parliament & State Legislatures;

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

(c) whether the Government have also any proposal to reduce the qualifying age for entrance into the Upper House of Parliament and State Legislatures;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have considered implications and the pros and cons of the aforesaid proposals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (f) The recommendation made by Dinesh Goswami Committee that in view of reduction of voting age from 21 to 18 years, age qualification for contesting should be reduced from 25 years to 21 years in the case of election to Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha and from 30 years to 25 years in the case of elections to Legislative Councils and Council of States, was one of the various proposals on electoral reforms that were discussed in the meeting of political parties held on 22nd May, 1998. There was consensus amongst political parties on accepting the aforesaid recommendation of Dinesh Goswami Committee. The Election Commission, however, have opposed the proposal. The Government has not yet taken any decision in the matter.

ICFRE

5771. MAJ. GEN. BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines/criteria for selection of the Director-General of Indian Council of Forest Research and Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give extension to the present incumbent; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As per the ICFRE rules, the appointment to the post of Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) should be made by the President of the ICFRE Society (Minister of Environment & Forests) with the concurrence of the Government of India from a panel to be drawn up by the ICFRE Board of Governors from amongst eminent Scientists/Foresters with a minimum of 25 years of service having background in Forestry Research.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Telecast of Kannada and Marathi Programmes on Doordarshan

5772. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether Marathi & Kannada programmes are being telecast on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether historical events and programmes of Maharashtra & Karnataka are also being telecast;

(d) if so, the hours fixed to relay the Kannada and Marathi programmes on Doordarshan; and

(e) the steps proposed to earmark more time for telecast of Kannada & Marathi programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Marathi & Kannada programmes are being

telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Mumbai and Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore respectively under their regional service programmes. Besides, both the Kendras are also provided with Regional Language Satellite Service (RLSS) channels known as DD-9 (Kannada) and DD-10 (Marathi)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Both Kendras telecast programmes in their regional languages during the hours of regional service/Regional Language Satellite Service.

(e) Very recently, the Kendras have been instructed to mount programmes in their regional service for additional two hours i.e. from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Entrance Test for Diploma in Business Administration

5773. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of management institutes receiving no grants from Union Government in Uttar Pradesh is awarding Post-graduation diploma in Business Administration;

(b) whether their autonomy of entrance test for admission has been regulated by the All India Council for Technical Education;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Union Government propose to withdraw the related order of AICTE?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Number of Institutes offering Post Graduation Diploma in Business Administration in Uttar Pradesh receiving no grant from Union Government is 40 as on March 31, 1998.

(b) to (d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have issued a Government order for organising a Common Admission Test for admissions to Management Institutions in Uttar Pradesh which has been endorsed by the AICTE.

Internet Facility

5774. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities connected with the internet in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to connect Belgaum city in Karnataka with the internet;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of cities proposed to be connected with internet during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The following cities are connected to Internet on local dialup basis:

Andhra Pradesh-Hyderabad.

Assam-Guwahati.

Bihar-Patna.

Gujarat-Ahmedabad & Surat.

Himachal Pradesh-Shimla.

Karnataka-Bangalore, Hubli & Mysore.

Kerala-Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam & Kottayam.

Madhya Pradesh-Gwalior & Indore.

Maharashtra-Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad & Nagpur.

Punjab-Chandigarh.

Rajasthan-Jaipur.

Tamil Nadu-Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai & Trichirapalli

U.P. (E)-Lucknow, Kanpur & Allahabad.

U.P. (W)-Dehradun & Agra.

West Bengal-Calcutta.

New Delhi, Goa & Pondicherry.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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

(d) Internet Nodes in Zomore cities are proposed to be established in 1998-99 by DoT.

Renewal of Licences to Photographers

5775. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any advertisement has been issued in the news-papers by the Archaeological Survey of India calling for applications for the issue of fresh licences for doing photography of the protected monuments at Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any provision for renewal of licences of existing photographers for photographing protected monuments at Agra has been made in the advertisement;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for not making specific provision for renewal of licences of the existing photographers in the advertisement despite interim Court order dated October, 1997 of the High Court of Allahabad in the matter; and

(f) the steps proposed to be undertaken by the Government for revising the advertisement by inviting applications as per the interim order of the Courts?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An advertisement inviting fresh applications for considering grant of licences, as directed by the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad, in its order dated 21.7.1993, was published in two local dailies of Agra viz. "Dainik Jagran" and "Amar Ujala" dated 6th and 7th July, 1997 respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Archaeological Survey issued public notice in local dailies on 6th and 7th July, 1997 in pursuance of the Judgement of the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad dated 21.7.1993.

(f) No application forms have been submitted by the petitioners in compliance with the interim orders of the High Court of Allahabad dated 29.10.1997.

Private Sector Power Projects

5776. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of private sector power projects sanctioned by the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any prescribed time framed for the completion of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether there is provision for any penalty clause if the project is not completed as per the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) State-wise number of proposals for setting up of power projects in the private sector techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) during the last three years (April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1998) are given below:

Sl.No.	State	No.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Karnataka	2
3.	Tamil Nadu	6
4.	Madhya Pradesh	12
5.	Gujarat	3
6.	Uttar Pradesh	2
7.	Bihar	1
8.	Maharashtra	1
9.	Rajasthan	1

(b) and (c) CEA, while according techno-economic clearance, prescribes commissioning schedules in respect of each power project from the date of financial closure.

(d) Usually, there are specific clauses in the Power Purchase Agreements for penalties on account of the failure of the Independent Power Producers to adhere to the agreed time-schedule for completion of the project.

Corruption in Judiciary

5777. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news about corruption in Judiciary appearing in Indian Express dated January 22, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the former Chief Justice of India has pointed out that time has come to enact a law to hold judges accountable;

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

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check corruption in the judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) One of the items of the National Agenda for Governance is to set up a National Judicial Commission to make recommendations for Judicial appointments in the Supreme Court and the High Courts and draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary.

[Translation]

Lucknow - Lhasa Highway

5778. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lucknow-Lipulekh motor road upto Indo-China Border, which was between Lucknow-Lhasa earlier, has the status of Highway;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have provided the facility for transportation of high speed heavy vehicles by giving special care to this Highway upto China Border;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to allocate special Central fund for the construction/maintenance of this highway and other hilly motor roads connected to it keeping in view the existing Indo-China relations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (e) Central Govt. is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways only. Responsibility for development and maintenance of all other roads fall within the purview of the respective State Government. The stretch between Lucknow-Lhasa Highway being a State road falls within the purview of the State Government.

Telex Machines

5779. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecommunication Department has provided telex machines to various organisation on lease basis;

(b) if so, the number of machines out of them having keyboard in Devangari script and Roman script separately alongwith the number of machines on which work in both scripts can be taken;

(c) the number of cases wherein the subscribers have demanded bilingual telex machines;

(d) whether the said demand has been acceded to and the machines dispatched; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Telex Machines can be subscriber owned or on rental basis.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

AIR Station in Tribal Districts of Bihar and M.P.

5780. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) wheter the Government propose to set up radio stations in the tribal districts of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Three radio stations are presently under implementation in the tribal Districts of Madhya Pradesh and one radio station is proposed to be set up at Bailadiala in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh. No new radio station is proposed to be set up in the tribal districts of Bihar as the present radio coverage in the state is to the extent of 99% both by area and population while the coverage in Madhya Pradesh is to the extent of 96% by area and 98% by population.

Transfer of Telephone Connections

5781. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a long time is taken to transfer the telephone connections from one telephone exchange to another telephone exchange;

(b) whether the rule and time limit for transferring telephone are not being followed;

(c) if so, the number of cases of violation of rules and time limit detected by the Government in Delhi during the last two years; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the persons found responsible for such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Sir, 60 to 70% shift cases from one telephone exchange to another are executed within the prescribed norms of 15 days from the date of issue of shift OB. Some of the inter-exchange shift cases are delayed in MTNL, Delhi due to—

(i) Subscribers reasons.

(ii) Some pockets/areas being technically not-feasible due to non-availability of underground cable pairs.

(c) Subject to above constraints, shift cases are implemented within prescribed norms. 13 cases of violation of rules have been detected in MTNL, Delhi during last two years.

(d) Disciplinary action under Rule 16 of CCS (CCA) Rules 1965 have been recommended against one gazetted Officer and five non-gazetted officers.

[English]

**Allotment of Less Money by Southern
Doordarshan Kendras**

5782. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan Kendras in South are allotting less money for sponsored programmes in regional languages as compared to the Hindi; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Doordarshan does not pay any funds for the sponsored programmes and these programmes are produced by outside producers out of their own funds and they pay telecast fee to Doordarshan in accordance

with the rates prescribed in the Rate Card for telecast of their programmes.

(b) Does not arise.

Under-utilisation of Budgetary Allocation

5783. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of the projects, schemes and programmes under the Ministry where the budgetary allocations provided during the last financial year were not fully utilised;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have initiated any steps to ensure full and proper utilisation of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The details of projects/schemes/programmes of the Ministry where the budgetary allocation provided during the year 1997-98 were not fully utilised are given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) The progress of expenditure is reviewed/monitored regularly as per the targets contained in the Annual Action Plan of the Ministry and necessary course corrections implemented with a view to ensure full and proper utilisation of the budgetary allocations during the year.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Funds Unutilised	Reason
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education	66.00	57.00	53.49	12.51	The saving was mainly due to the reason that the construction work in various institutes could not be taken up due to non-allotment of land for this purpose. Further, the study on Joint Forest Management and Forest Industries also could not be awarded due to administrative reasons.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Association of ST & Rural Poor in regeneration of Degraded Forests	2.10	1.00	0.87	1.23	The saving was mainly due to delay in receipt of approval for continuation of the Scheme from Planning Commission. Besides, due to non-receipt of utilisation certificates from the State Govts. Further releases could not be made.
3.	Eco-development around Important protected areas	26.00	21.00	19.33	6.67	The procurement of consultancies and goods could not be finalised due to late approval of the Scheme "India Eco-development Project" by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
4.	National Afforestation and Eco-development Board	92.00	73.20	68.19	23.81	<p>The saving is mainly due to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The work relating to purchase of personal computers and setting up of network could not be completed in time. 2. Certain components of the scheme were recast for implementation in the 9th Plan 'Joint Forest Management has now been made an integral component of the scheme. The revised guidelines were sent to State Govts. In July 1997. Concurrence of the Ministry of Finance for approval of new projects and release of funds pending CCEA approval, was accorded late. Also no projects were received from institutions etc. 3. Non-receipt of sufficient proposals from State Governments.
5.	National Museum of Natural History	2.55	1.76	1.69	0.86	The saving was mainly due to non-filling up of vacant posts and certain posts could not be created due to pending approval of Ministry Finance.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	India Environment Management Capacity Building Technical Asst. Project	26.00	10.75	9.08	16.92	The saving was mainly due to delay in obtaining approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. As a result hiring of consultants, engagement of procurement agents, preparation of Project Implementation Plan, and setting up of the Project Implementation Cell in the Ministry could not be done.
7.	Urban Employment Projects	2.00	0.25	0.00	2.00	The saving was mainly due to revision in the terms of reference by the World Bank. The revised terms of reference remained under consideration for nearly six months before finalisation. This rendered the entire administrative exercise done up till September 1997 redundant.
8.	Mission	50.00	0.00	0.45	49.55	The saving was mainly due to pending approval of Expenditure Finance Committee/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and non-receipt of necessary documents (Concept papers on the scheme) from the Govt. of U.P.
9.	National Natural Resource Management	1.00	0.60	0.37	0.63	The saving was mainly due to non-receipt of proposals delay in meeting of Standing Committee on Bio-resources for recommending new proposals in priority areas.
10.	Environment Commission & Tribunals	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.50	The National Tribunal Act is yet to be enforced. The setting up of Tribunals will be done after completion of all the administrative formalities installation of infrastructure and other components.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Hazardous Substance Management	3.30	4.00	2.74	4.56	The saving has occurred mainly due to the fact that the Hazardous Wastes Management project could not be negotiated and launched as the World Bank has desired certain modifications in the proposed project. The modification proposed by World Bank are till under consideration.
12.	Industrial Pollution Control Project	0.00	27.00	25.05	4.35	The saving was mainly due to the delay in complying with procurement procedure formalities by National Thermal Power Corporation and Central Pollution Control Board i.e. the procurement agencies for the Ministry.
13.	National River conservation Directorate	109.0	106.9	99.44	9.56	Due to delays in according Cabinet Clearance to the decisions of NRCA to convert the GAP-II and NCRIP schemes into 100% centrally funded & the revised cost estimates of UP component of YAP necessitated reappropriation proposals were however, not approved by the Finance Ministry. Other reasons included delays in filling up vacant posts and slow progress of in formulation and implementation of NRCP schemes by the States.
14.	Prevention and Control of Pollution (Cess)	50.00	14.28	30.88	3.12	Under the scheme a fixed percentage of the Cess collected has to be reimbursed to the Water Pollution Control Boards. The saving was mainly due to less collection of Cess by various State Pollution Control Boards resulting less reimbursement.

BE—Budget Estimates

RE—Revised Estimates

CAP—Ganga Action Plan

NRCP—National River Conservation Plan

YAP—Yamuna Action Plan

Wage Panel for Dock and Port Workers

5784. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wage panel for dock and port workers has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the panel is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. A Bipartite Wage Negotiations Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, Indian Ports Association to go into wage revision of port and dock workers has been constituted.

(b) The Committee will have representatives both from management/employers and employees' sides. The representatives from the management side include Chairmen/Deputy Chairmen from some of the Major Ports and Dock Labour Boards. Employers are represented by the Federation of Associations of Stevedores. On the employees' side the Committee will have 12 representatives from the Major Federations of port and dock workers.

(c) The Committee is expected to complete its deliberations not later than a period of six months after receipt of Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines.

[Translation]

Published Works in Hindi

5785. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the publication institutions functioning under the Ministry;

(b) the number of publications brought out by these institutions in Hindi and English during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the fewer number of Hindi publications and the higher number of English publications;

(d) whether the language magazine of this Department has never been published in time;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to bring out more publications in Hindi and also to publish the magazine in time?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

New Anganwadi Centres

5786. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from State Governments for starting of new Anganwadi Centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Additional Anganwadi Centres Demanded by State Government
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50
2.	Gujarat	445
3.	Himachal Pradesh	892
4.	Karnataka	6647

1	2	3
5.	Madhya Pradesh	158
6.	Maharashtra	1095
7.	Orissa	133
8.	Uttar Pradesh	4500
9.	West Bengal	488
Total		14408

Power Generation

5787. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power worth about Rs. 250 crores would be generated annually after the completion of head work of Ban Sagar Dam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The annual energy generation after completion of head works of Bansagar Dam would be around 1757 million units. As per the average realisation rate of Rs. 1.82 for the year 1996-97 the annual generation would be worth about Rs. 320 crores.

Opening of Library

5788. SHRI R.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hampi University has sought Central assistance for the Opening of Central Library - Janapada Sangrahalaya;

(b) if so, the amount of Central assistance sought for; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Assistance for Setting up Primary Schools

5789. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance sought by the Uttar Pradesh Government from time to time for setting up primary and upper primary schools during 1997-98 and 1998-99, alongwith the dates on which the said amount was released;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide more amount to the State in view of its backwardness; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Opening of primary and upper primary schools is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Assistance for additional posts of teachers and teaching learning materials is, however, provided to existing primary and upper primary schools under the Scheme of Operation Black Board on the basis of proposals submitted by State Governments. Rs. 2280.66 lakhs was released to Uttar Pradesh in 1997-98 under the Scheme of Operation Black Board. No release has been made in 1998-99.

A request has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh for extending the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) to 18 additional districts and also for funding the upper primary levels. Expansion of the programme will depend upon the availability of resources.

[English]

STD Facility in Rajasthan

5790. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the exchanges in Rajasthan particularly in western Rajasthan have been provided with STD facility;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of exchanges yet to be provided with such facility, district-wise; and

(d) the number of exchanges proposed to be provided with STD facility in the State during 1998-99, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The STD facility could not be made available to all exchanges so far due to technical and resource constraints. However, it is planned to provide STD facility to all exchanges progressively during the 9th Plan subject to availability of resources.

(c) 633 exchanges are yet to be provided with STD facility. District-wise details are given in attached Statement-I.

(d) 150 exchanges are planned to be provided with STD facility during 1998-99, subject to availability of resources. District-wise details are given in the attached Statement-II.

Statement-I

District-wise number of Exchanges yet to be provided with S.T.D. facility in Rajasthan

Sl.No.	District	Number of Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	24
2.	Alwar	40
3.	Banswara	25
4.	Baran	7
5.	Barmer	26
6.	Bhilwara	27
7.	Bharatpur	11
8.	Bikaner	33
9.	Bundi	5
10.	Chittorgarh	22

1	2	3
11.	Churu	17
12.	Dausa	11
13.	Dholpur	4
14.	Dungarpur	12
15.	Hanumangarh	0
16.	Jaipur	28
17.	Jaisalmer	10
18.	Jalore	29
19.	Jhalawar	19
20.	Jhunjhunu	0
21.	Jodhpur	31
22.	Karauli	6
23.	Kota	19
24.	Nagaur	48
25.	Pali	51
26.	Rajsamand	19
27.	Sawai Madhopur	6
28.	Sikar	37
29.	Sirohi	15
30.	Sri Ganganagar	0
31.	Tonk	14
32.	Udaipur	37
	Total	633

Statement-II

District-wise number of exchanges planned to be provided with STD facility during 1998-99 in Rajasthan

Sl.No.	District	Number of Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	4
2.	Alwar	11
3.	Banswara	3
4.	Baran	0
5.	Barmer	6
6.	Bharatpur	5
7.	Bhilwara	9
8.	Bikaner	4
9.	Bundi	2
10.	Chittorgarh	9
11.	Churu	7
12.	Dausa	4
13.	Dholpur	1
14.	Dungarpur	2
15.	Hanumangarh	0
16.	Jaipur	13
17.	Jaisalmer	1
18.	Jalore	3
19.	Jhalawar	2
20.	Jhunjhunu	0

1	2	3
21.	Jodhpur	9
22.	Karauli	3
23.	Kota	5
24.	Nagaur	10
25.	Pali	10
26.	Rajsamand	3
27.	Sawai Madhopur	4
28.	Sikar	8
29.	Sirohi	2
30.	Sri Ganganagar	2
31.	Tonk	6
32.	Udaipur	2
Total		150

Construction of New Bridges on NH-52 in Assam

5791. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for the construction of new bridges on National Highway No. 52 in Assam have been approved; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Construction of 2 bridges on National Highway 52 viz. Bridge across river Bega at K. 35 (West of Tezpur) and across river Potte at km. 350 (East of Tezpur) have been approved. Physical progress of construction of these bridges including approaches is nearly 70% and 10% respectively.

Payment of Satellite Charges

5792. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has refused to pay arrears of Rs. 36.12 crores to the Department of Telecommunications for satellite charges;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear all outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. While no such satellite charges are pending, there are certain other dues, payable to Department of Telecommunications, by Doordarshan of approximately a similar amount. Doordarshan has paid approximately Rs. 8 crores in April, 1997 and for the payment of the rest of the amount, the matter is under discussion between the two Departments.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Population of Black Bucks and Great Indian Bustards

5793. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the population of black bucks and Great Indian Bustards in 1987 and 1997 in the country, sanctuary-wise;

(b) whether the number of black bucks, registered as second most endangered species in Orissa under Wild Life (Protection), Act 1972, has come down substantially during the last three years;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Black Bucks and Great Indian Bustard are inhabitants of open areas and therefore found both inside the forest and agricultural lands. No regular estimation of Black Bucks population is undertaken in the country. The estimated Black Buck population in the country is 43,500. The population of the Great Indian

Bustard in the country is reported to be as follows:

	No.	Year
(i) Rollapadu Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh	50-60	1994
(ii) Bustard Wildlife Sanctuary - Gujarat	4-5	1994
(iii) Ranebennur Sanctuary - Karnataka	7	1987
(iv) Karera Wildlife Sanctuary - Madhya Pradesh	22	1986
	6	1994
(v) Ghatigaon Sanctuary - Madhya Pradesh	35	1986
	3-6	1994
(vi) Shivpuri Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh	4-5	1994
(vii) Nannaj area Maharashtra (outside PA)	45	reported
(viii) Solapur District, Maharashtra (outside PA)	4-5	reported
(ix) Rajasthan (18 sites)	500	1994

(b) and (c) There are only two areas in Orissa where Black Bucks are seen i.e. Balipadar-Bhetnoi Game/Wild Life Reserve in Ganjam District and Balukhand-Konark Wild Life Sanctuary in Puri District. In the former areas there has been marginal increase in the Black Buck population in the last 3 years and in the case of later, no States survey has been done.

(d) The Government have taken the following steps to protect Black Bucks and Great Indian Bustards in the country:

1. Hunting of wild animals included in Schedule-I to IV of the Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law. The Black Bucks and Great Indian Bustard have been placed in Schedule-I, thereby giving them maximum protection.

2. Separate sanctuaries have been set up for conservation and protection of Black Bucks and Great Indian Bustards. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the state Governments including those of Black Bucks and Great Indian Bustards.
3. Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.
4. International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).
5. Regional and Sub-regional offices of wildlife preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
6. Inter-departmental co-ordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards, etc. Training programme on wildlife enforcement and implementation are also regularly conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun.

[Translation]

Environment Projects by NGOs

5794. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the environment projects likely to be implemented in the country by Non-Government Organisations with the assistance of the government during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the details of the grant given to these Non-Government Organisations by the Government?'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

STD/ISD/PCO Booths in U.P.

5795. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD and public telephones booths working in Uttar Pradesh at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for allocation of new public telephones booths in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The information is given in the attached Statement.

(b) 6833 applications are lying pending for allotment of new Public Telephones booths in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) the STD/PCO Allotment Committee has been reconstituted and pending applications will be cleared progressively subject to technical feasibility.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of SSA	No. of STD/ISD/PCOs working
1	2	3

U.P. (EAST)

1.	Lucknow	2953
2.	Kanpur	1797
3.	Allahabad	1231
4.	Varanasi	1656
5.	Basti	205
6.	Gonda	366
7.	Lakhimpur	199
8.	Sitapur	236

1	2	3
9.	Sahjhanpur	190
10.	Ballia	196
11.	Ghazipur	204
12.	Jaunpur	300
13.	Pratapgarh	280
14.	Sultanpur	340
15.	Bandi	126
16.	Orai	190
17.	Hamirpur	171
18.	Unnao	146
19.	Mainpuri	238
20.	Raibareli	293
21.	Fatehpur	165
22.	Barabanki	279
23.	Bahraich	196
24.	Farrukhabad	162
25.	Gorakhpur	905
26.	Jhansi	676
27.	Mau	549
28.	Faizabad	529
29.	Azamgarh	508
30.	Etawah	218
31.	Mirzapur	162
32.	Hardoi	73

1	2	3
UP (WEST)		
1.	Agra	1007
2.	Aligarh	463
3.	Almora	125
4.	Badaun	130
5.	Bareilly	585
6.	Bijnor	404
7.	Dehradun	1039
8.	Etah	211
9.	Ghaziabad	1885
10.	Mathura	385
11.	Meerut	1373
12.	Moradabad	697
13.	Muzaffarnagar	740
14.	Nainital	747
15.	Rampur	276
16.	Saharanpur	1276
17.	Srinagar	159
18.	Uttarkashi	78

Power Projects In Goa

5796. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal to set up power projects in Goa:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) No proposal for setting up of power projects from Goa Government has been received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of techno-economic clearance.

Newspapers Registered by RNI

5797. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

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

(a) the criteria adopted by the Registrar of Newspapers for India for registration of a Newspaper;

(b) the number of applications pending with Registrar of Newspapers for India for registration of Newspapers, State-wise;

(c) the number of applications cleared during the last three years, State wise;

(d) the steps taken for early disposal of the pending applications for registration; and

(e) the time by which the remaining applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Newspapers/periodicals are registered in terms of various provisions of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, as amended from time to time.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Registration of newspapers/periodicals is a continuous process. It is not possible to indicate a definitive timeframe as in cases where applications are not complete, issue of registration certificate depends on the rectification of the discrepancies by the applicants.

Statement

State/UT	No. of applications pending with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (As on 15.07.1998)	Number of applications cleared during the last three years (i.e. from 1.1.1995 to 31.12.1997)
1	2	3
1. A & N Islands	—	12
2. Andhra Pradesh	—	771
3. Arunachal Pradesh	—	38
4. Assam	—	205
5. Bihar	14	254
6. Chandigarh	2	66
7. Delhi	13	1722
8. Goa	—	16

1	2	3
9. Gujarat	—	860
10. Haryana	12	400
11. Himachal Pradesh	4	43
12. Jammu & Kashmir	13	118
13. Karnataka	21	880
14. Kerala	5	538
15. Lakshdweep Islands	—	1
16. Madhya Pradesh	—	1604
17. Maharashtra	12	2689
18. Manipur	—	38
19. Meghalaya	—	8
20. Mizoram	—	36
21. Nagaland	—	4
22. Orissa	—	353
23. Pondicherry	—	24
24. Punjab	6	253
25. Rajasthan	5	916
26. Sikkim	—	15
27. Tamil Nadu	—	558
28. Tripura	—	24
29. Uttar Pradesh	65	3348
30. West Bengal	1	458

Pooyamkutty Hydel Power Project

5798. SHRI P. SANKARAN:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental clearance has been given for setting up of the Pooyamkutty Hydel Power Project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of terms/conditions under which such clearance has been granted;

(c) whether Government are aware that large areas of forests will be submerged due to this project;

(d) whether any study group/expert team had visited Pooyamkutty to assess the impact of the project on the ecology and environment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the likely time by which clearance will be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conditions of environmental clearance includes, supply of fuel to labours, protection of forests and wildlife, compensatory afforestation, undertaking of studies of flora and fauna, soil & moisture conservation, rehabilitation and resettlement, reclamation of borrow area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A study group was constituted under the chairmanship of Prof. M.V. Nadkarni, Institute of Social & Economic Change, Bangalore. It has recommended environmental impact assessment, social impact assessment & social cost benefit analysis studies to be made by state Government.

Grant for Sports Activities in Assam

5799. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the grants sanctioned for sports for the State of Assam last year;

(b) whether there is any proposal for Assam Government to increase the grant for sports activities in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) During 1997-98, total grant of Rs. 42.06 lakh was released to the State of Assam for sports activities/creation of sports infrastructure.

(b) and (c) In the revised scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure, which is expected to be finalised shortly, enhanced assistance up to 75% of the estimate cost subject to certain ceilings, has been proposed for the State of Assam along with some other Tribal/Hilly/Special category States.

Operation Black Board Programme

5800. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Operation Black Board" Programme being implemented in the States is funded by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the mode of fund allocation by the Centre and the States under the programme;

(c) the amount allocated to Orissa for implementing Operation Black Board programme during the last three years. till date; and

(d) the coverage made in that State under the programme so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Operation Blackboard is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which funds for appointment of additional teachers and teaching learning equipment in primary and upper primary schools are provided by this Department. Resources for construction of school buildings are provided by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme on a sharing basis between the Centre and States.

(c) The amount released to Government of Orissa for implementing the scheme of Operation Blackboard during last three financial years is Rs. 10434.40 lakhs. No releases have been made during the current financial year.

(d) 19,370 posts of additional teachers have been provided in primary schools, while teaching learning equipments have been sanctioned in all eligible 34,178 primary schools and 996 upper primary schools in Orissa.

According to information furnished by the State Government, 5430 class rooms have been constructed under operation Blackboard.

Delay in Distribution of Mails

5801. SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of delay in the distribution, non delivery and wrong delivery of mails have been noticed by the Government;

(b) if so, the number of instances noticed during 1997-98;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the timely distribution of post particularly in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The instances noticed during the year 1997-98 of delay in delivery of ordinary, registered and insured mail were 67,567, those of non-delivery 6,894 and wrong delivery 347.

(c) The reasons for delay, non-delivery or wrong delivery are manifold. Delay in delivery occurs due to late running/cancellation of mail carrying trains/airflights/buses or due to natural calamities, like, flood, land-slides etc. Wrong delivery of mails is caused because of human failure or due to impersonation of the addresses. In the metro cities another contributory factor is the newly developed colonies without proper numbering of houses.

Non-delivery is also caused because of loss of articles in transit i.e. before the articles reach the post office of delivery.

(d) Delivery of mail is constantly monitored both at the field and headquarters levels and corrective steps are taken wherever deficiencies are noticed. Instances of delay, non-delivery and wrong delivery of mail due to human failure are investigated and action taken against the erring officials.

[Translation]

Theft of Parcels

5802. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether parcels are stolen many times from the head post Offices of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the number of parcels out of them received from foreign countries;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) In view of (a) above, answer to all the parts may be taken as NIL.

Central Assistance for Construction of Stadium

5803. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide any Central assistance to the State Governments for construction of Stadia;

(b) if so, the amount provided to different states for this purpose during the last three years state-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide any Central assistance in this regard to the State of Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Details indicating grant released to various States/UTs towards construction of stadia during the last three years are given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) Under the scheme for construction of stadia, cases of Bihar will be considered upon receipt of specific proposals from the State Government.

Statement

Statement showing the grants released to various States/UTs towards construction of Stadia during the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98)

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	12.50	—	45.00
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Assam	46.20	8.00	33.00
Bihar	3.92	—	—
Goa	—	—	—
Gujrat	—	—	5.50
Haryana	30.00	98.33	—
Himachal Pradesh	1.86	87.98	20.00
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	33.75
Karnataka	62.54	36.27	70.01
Kerala	3.68	27.74	—

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	25.00	—	21.60
Maharashtra	116.88	18.00	1.00
Manipur	—	43.50	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—
Mizoram	107.74	86.19	—
Nagaland	25.00	—	30.00
Orissa	4.50	90.00	—
Punjab	—	2.50	—
Rajasthan	7.50	13.30	0.55
Sikkim	—	7.20	8.10
Tamil Nadu	20.00	25.00	22.25
Tripura	—	14.50	66.30
Uttar Pradesh	45.00	—	—
West Bengal	5.43	—	—
UTs.			
ATdaman & Nicobar	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	—	17.50
Daman & Diu	—	—	2.82
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
Delhi	—	10.00	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—

[English]

Increase in Transmission Range of Trivandrum Doordarshan

5804. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the transmission range of Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra to enable viewers to see DD-2 and DD-4 beyond the existing limit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) DD 4 service is available throughout the country including Kerala through satellite dish antenna system. There is no scheme to increase the power of transmitter at Trivandrum which relays DD-4 *i.e.* regional service as well as national (DDI) service. The scheme to upgrade

existing DD-2 Low Power Transmitter to High Power Transmitter is presently under implementation.

Hydro-Electric Power Policy

5805. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of hydro-electric power policy; and

(b) the details of forthcoming hydel power generation programme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The National Policy on Hydro Development has been circulated to Ministries on 21.7.1998 for obtaining comments/suggestions. The policy will be finalised after taking into consideration the suggestions received from various Ministries.

At present, there are 61 sanctioned hydro-electric projects with a generation capacity of 15633.47 MW. The region-wise details are as under:—

Region			Central Sector (No. of Projects)	State Sector (No. of Projects)	Private Sector (No. of Projects)	Total (No. of Projects)
Northern	Installed Capacity	(MW)	3170.00	2173.00	1030.00	6373.00
		(No.)	(4)	(13)	(3)	(20)
Western	Installed Capacity	(MW)	NIL	3679.00	490.00	4369.00
		(No.)		(8)	(2)	(10)
Southern	Installed Capacity	(MW)	NIL	1724.75	NIL	1724.75
		(No.)		(14)		(14)
Eastern	Installed Capacity	(MW)	770.00	1772.70	NIL	2542.70
		(No.)	(2)	(10)		(12)
North-Eastern	Installed Capacity	(MW)	480.00	144.00	NIL	624.00
		(No.)	(2)	(3)		(5)
Total		(MW)	4420.00	9693.45	1520.00	15633.45
		(No.)	(8)	(48)	(5)	(61)

(b) During the year 1998-99, a target of 78,000 MU has been fixed for hydel generation. The region-wise targets are given below:—

Region	Generation Targets (MU)
Northern	31,225
Western	8,900
Southern	30,725
Eastern	4,930
North-Eastern	2,220
All India Total	78,000

Entertainment Tax

5806. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to implement uniform entertainment tax;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have agreed over the issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to bring transparency in the finances of the film industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) As the subject of 'Cinema' including entertainment tax is in the State list, the Centre has written to the State Governments to review the entertainment tax structure for the overall benefit of the film industry.

(d) Consequent upon the decision of the Government to confer industry status on the film sector, proposals have been initiated with the objective of making film production and other related activities eligible for institutional and bank finances.

Multiplicity of Agencies in the Road Sector

5807. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps are being taken to avoid multiplicity of agencies in the road sector; and

(b) the likely time by which single agency namely Highway Board will come into existence and start its work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Rakesh Mohan Committee recommended the constitution of a Road Board to streamline the work of the Highway Sector. However, the proposals are at conceptual stage.

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities in Bihar

5808. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any review in regard to functioning of telephone service in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the telephones and STD services have been out of order in Bihar;

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

(e) whether due to installation of substandard equipments, telephone services do not work smoothly in most of the areas of Bihar; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government for providing regular telephone service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The functioning of telephone services in the Country is periodically reviewed and monitored.

(b) Periodical technical and administrative inspections are being carried out at Circle and TCHQ levels besides daily prescribed schedule tests being conducted by the maintenance staff in regard to equipments. Battery, power plant and working telephone lines etc. To maintain functioning of the telecom services to the best satisfaction of the subscribers.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) No, Sir.

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

National Sports Policy

5809. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new national sports policy to promote and encourage the sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have invited suggestions from the people in the formulation of Sports Policy;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to encourage sports in the rural areas to extract vast sports spirits among the rural people; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The New Sports Policy is in the draft stage and is likely to be finalised very shortly. The main features on which the Policy touches are (i) Broadbasing of sports; (ii) Integrational with education; (iii) Infrastructure Development; (iv) Achieving excellence in Sports; (v) National Sports Federations; (vi) Scientific Back-up to Sportspersons; (vii) Sports equipment; (viii) Training and Development of coaches; sports scientists, Judges, Referees and Umpires; (ix) Incentives to Sportspersons; (x) Resources Mobilisation for sports; and Mass Media.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In the new National Sports Policy the very high priority will be given to the development of sports in the rural areas to harness the immense talent and potential that exists there. In this context, the village Panchayats, Gaon Sabha as well as the rural youth and sports clubs

will be suitably mobilised to develop the necessary infrastructure as well as in the identification of talent through the development of an appropriate competition structure in rural areas. Specific efforts will be made for tapping indigenous potential available for swimming in coastal areas, archery in tribal areas etc. which are part of life pattern in some areas. Such talent will be nourished and actively supported by the Government. Geographically disadvantaged region as well as tribal sub-plan areas will be given additional support in promotion of sports.

[English]

Private Participation in Inland Waterways

5810. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have private sector participation in the development of inland waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines in this regard have been finalised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Private Sector participation is possible for infrastructural development and vessel operation. A comprehensive policy is under consideration.

Poor Internet Service In Hyderabad

5811. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are frequent complaints from the public about the poor quality of Internet service being provided by the VSNL in Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) and (b) Sir, in Hyderabad, Internet Services are provided by DoT and there are no frequent complaints regarding the quality of service.

Expansion of Internet node is taken up on top priority to clear the waiting list.

[Translation]

Losses Suffered by Postal Department

5812. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department is running in losses;

(b) if so, the loss suffered by the Postal Department during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make good the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The Department of Posts is not running in losses as such, but has been in deficit.

(b) The deficit of the Department of Posts during the last three years is as under:—

1994-95	Rs. 351.81 crores.
1995-96	Rs. 659.41 crores.
1996-97	Rs. 703.26 crores.

(c) Since the cost of most of the Postal Services is much more than the tariff being charged for these services, the revision of rates in respect of eight Postal Services has been included in the Finance Bill 1998. Besides this measure, steps have also been taken to closely monitor the expenditure on a monthly basis and to improve revenue generation through aggressive marketing of premium postal products and recoveries from other Departments for agency functions performed.

[English]

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

5813. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the states where facility of mid-day meal is being provided in the schools;

(b) whether the Union Government provide financial assistance to such schools every year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Introduced in August 1995, National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE), popularly known as the Mid-day meal scheme, covers primary school children in the entire country. Under the programme cooked meals are being provided in the States of Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Delhi and Chandigarh are providing processed food. All other States and UTs have opted for distribution of foodgrains under the scheme.

(b) Under the scheme, the Central Government provides financial assistance to meet the cost of foodgrains and transportation charges for movement of foodgrains from FCI depots to schools.

(c) Does not arise.

Zonal Cultural Centres

5814. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee was set up to review the functioning of Zonal Cultural Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the salient features of the recommendations/suggestions made by the Committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition of the committee was as follows:—

- (i) Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy
- (ii) Shri Komal Kothari
- (iii) Shri V.K. Kitchlu
- (iv) Shri Manjeet Bawa

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Committee among other things recommended structural changes, greater outreach, more emphasis on tribal/folk art, documentation of rare & vanishing art forms, better co-ordination with National and State Akademies and patronage to young and upcoming Artists.

(e) The recommendations/Suggestions of the High Powered Committee have been considered in the Government and follow-up action is being taken to implement the recommendations.

Scheme for Development of Sports and Games

5815. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have obtained views of State Governments and National Sports Federation on the proposal relating to transfer of the subject 'sports' to the Concurrent List;

(b) if so, the details of views of State Governments;

(c) whether Government are considering to formulate any Central scheme/legislation for the development of sports and games in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allocated by the Government to each State during the last three years for the development of sports?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Government have obtained views of the State Governments only with regard to transfer of the subject 'sports' from the State List to the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India. As on date the States which have agreed to the proposal are:

- (1) Arunachal Pradesh
- (2) Bihar
- (3) Goa
- (4) Haryana
- (5) Himachal Pradesh

- (6) Kerala
- (7) Maharashtra
- (8) Madhya Pradesh
- (9) Meghalaya
- (10) Manipur
- (11) Mizoram
- (12) Nagaland
- (13) Orissa
- (14) Sikkim
- (15) Tripura
- (16) Uttar Pradesh

The Governments who have not agreed to the proposal are:

- (1) Andhra Pradesh
- (2) Assam
- (3) Delhi
- (4) Gujarat
- (5) Jammu and Kashmir
- (6) Karnataka
- (7) Punjab
- (8) Rajasthan
- (9) Tamil Nadu
- (10) West Bengal

(c) and (d) There are a number of existing schemes for development of sports, some of which are being revised. As far as legislation is concerned, that can only be thought of when the subject of sports is brought on the Concurrent List.

(c) The details of funds allocated by the Government to each State during the last three years for the development of sports are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*Statement showing State-wise details of grants released during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98**(All amounts in Rupees)*

Sl.No.	State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12,50,000	21,50,000	45,00,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20,65,000	NIL	NIL
3.	Assam	46,20,000	8,00,000	33,00,000
4.	Bihar	25,92,400	NIL	NIL
5.	Goa	NIL	NIL	NIL
6.	Gujarat	5,17,242	2,16,613	7,12,000
7.	Haryana	38,88,000	98,33,400	51,94,500
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1,86,000	89,10,400	95,05,275
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	NIL	NIL	38,90,000
10.	Karnataka	64,34,300	837,94,558	73,24,850
11.	Kerala	6,00,100	31,26,132	40,99,170
12.	Madhya Pradesh	70,00,000	NIL	21,60,000
13.	Maharashtra	1,17,90,500	18,00,000	15,80,000
14.	Manipur	NIL	43,50,000	10,00,000
15.	Meghalaya	NIL	NIL	NIL
16.	Mizoram	1,07,74,500	86,19,600	NIL
17.	Nagaland	25,00,000	NIL	30,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Orissa	4,95,000	90,00,000	NIL
19.	Punjab	NIL	2,50,000	NIL
20.	Rajasthan	8,25,000	13,30,000	8,21,200
21.	Sikkim	NIL	9,68,454	8,10,000
22.	Tamil Nadu	3,32,925	35,15,575	25,52,400
23.	Tripura	NIL	14,50,000	123,67,500
24.	Uttar Pradesh	54,39,488	8,00,000	21,50,000
25.	West Bengal	5,86,490	35,00,00	NIL
Union Territories				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.	Chandigarh	1,75,500	1,75,500	17,50,000
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.	Daman & Diu	NIL	NIL	2,82,000
5.	Delhi	NIL	12,50,000	NIL
6.	Pondicherry	NIL	NIL	NIL
7.	Lakshadweep	NIL	NIL	NIL

Outstanding dues of MTNL

5816. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of outstanding dues to MTNL for Delhi and Mumbai as on June 30, 1998 separately and the manner in which it compare with the position during the last two years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a)

(Figures in lakhs of rupees)

	Outstanding Dues as on		
	30.6.96	30.6.97	30.6.98
MTNL, DELHI	44261	51694	55765
MTNL, MUMBAI	30171	35591	41786

(b) Telephone bills are payable within 15 days from the date of issue of bills. In case of non-payment by the pay-by-date, i.e., 15+6-day grace period, a surcharge at prescribed rates is levied.

Telephonic reminders are issued to the defaulting subscribers. Registered Notices are also issued to the subscribers of non-electronic and FETEX exchanges. In case of non-payment even after this, the telephones of defaulters are disconnected. In the case of electronic exchanges, however, the facility of incoming calls is allowed for another 15 days before full disconnection.

Pursuit of outstanding dues is also made with subscribers through correspondence, visits by the field staff and legal action.

Permission for Setting up Professional Institutions

5817. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to prevent lopsided growth of medical and engineering colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints that some states are being discriminated against in getting permission for starting new professional institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the Medical Council of India are statutory authorities for coordinated development of Technical and Medical Education respectively in the country. Growth of engineering and medical colleges is regulated by these Authorities through their guidelines and Regulations. As far as the Government is aware, there is no discrimination against any State in the application of the provisions of these Regulations.

Multicore Scam in SAI

5818. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multicore scam in the Sports Authority of India's Netaji Subhash Western Centre, Gandhinagar has been detected recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the inquiry conducted by the Government into the matter; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Internal Auditors, while conducting the routine Internal Audit of the SAI Regional Centre, Gandhinagar for the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, made certain observations. Most of the Audit observations have since been complied with. The Government will watch the compliance of the outstanding paras.

Allotment of STD/SD Booths to Physically Handicapped

5819. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD telephone booths allotted to physically handicapped persons during the last two years; and

(b) the criteria being followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) According to the present Policy of the Department, allotment of STD/ISD telephone booths is a continuous process and those are allotted strictly in the order of seniority of registration of the applicants giving preference to various categories including Physically Handicapped persons. However, no separate records are maintained for each category of applicants.

Non-Formal Education Centres in Karnataka

5820. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Non-Formal Education Centres taken up in Karnataka;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the same as first instalment;

(c) whether the second instalment for these centres has not been released;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to release the second instalment for these centres; and

(f) if so, the amount proposed to be released?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Non-Formal Education (NFE), this Ministry is presently funding 1427 NFE centres run by Voluntary Agencies in Karnataka.

(b) to (f) Instalments are released on receipt of Quarterly Progress Reports, Annual Progress Reports, details of Accounts, audited statements and requests from the concerned Voluntary Agency for continuation of NFE project. Due funds have been released to those Voluntary Agencies in Karnataka which have completed the above formalities.

Computer Education in Government Schools

5821. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce computer education in all the Government schools on the basis of 50:50 share between the State and Centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Department of Education, under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) provides 100% Central assistance to States and Union Territories for purchase of computer hardware and for implementing the Computer Literacy Project in Government/Government aided secondary and senior secondary schools. Under this Scheme hands on experience is provided to the students studying in Government Schools.

2. The State/Union Territory Governments do not share any cost of the Computer Literacy Project under the existing Scheme.

Tiwari Committee

5822. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented the recommendations of Tiwari Committee set up in 1980 on the environmental legislation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Government have implemented the following recommendations of the Tiwari Committee set up in 1980 on environmental legislation:

I. *Recommendation:* A National Environmental Policy Resolution be adopted.

Action taken: The Government policy on the environment has been enunciated in the National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on

Environment and Development (1992), the Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution (1992), and the National Forest Policy (1988). The policy is also in consonance with the socio-economic development of the country. The policy is given effect through a well-established statutory framework and various programmes implemented by the Central and State Governments, Pollution Control Boards/Committees, governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Recommendation: Existing legislation be reviewed and strengthened and new legislation be enacted in areas of relevance.

Action taken: The following existing/new legislations have been reviewed, strengthened or enacted:

1. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
3. The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
4. The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977.
5. The Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
6. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
7. The Public Liability (Insurance) Act, 1991.
8. The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995.
9. The National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997.

iii. *Recommendation:* Environmental Protection be included in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Action taken: The matter was examined in consultation with the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs. The Ministry of Environment & Forests was advised that the Constitution contains a flexible structure for taking meaningful measures in the field of environment and there may be no insurmountable difficulties in enacting Parliamentary legislation in the field of environment protection. Accordingly, a decision was taken by the Government not to include "Environment Protection" in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule.

Government to File Affidavit against Kerala High Court Judgement

5823. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to file counter affidavit in Supreme Court of India against the Kerala High Court Judgement staying the out of turn allotment of LPG connection and Telephones to the MPs of Lok Sabha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The High Court of Kerala in O.P. No. 11507/1998-T and CMP No. 19939/98 (Varghese George V. Union of India) has stayed the implementation of the decision for distribution of LPG/Telephone connections to the Members of Parliament. The Judgement of the Court is under examination to formulate appropriate stand to be taken in the matter.

New Industrial Zone

5824. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3030 on July 6, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the State Level Expert Committees have made recommendations to declare existing locations of wood based industry in N.E. region as industrial zone;

(b) if so, whether the existing locations of mills were within the knowledge of the court while making directions for shifting of such locations to new industrial zone;

(c) if so, whether the Government intend to enact a suitable legislation to override the ruling of the Supreme Court to allow for declaration of existing locations as 'New Industrial Zone'; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Government of Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam have submitted proposals for declaring industrial zones/industrial estates for consultation with the Government of India pursuant to the order of Supreme Court dated 15.1.1998.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposal of Government of Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam are under examination of this Ministry.

[Translation]

MRTPC

5825. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices business Houses in the country as on March 31, 1991 State-wise;

(b) the number of multinational companies functioning in the country as on March 31, 1997;

(c) the increase registered in the number of said business houses and multinational companies up to March 31, 1998; and

(d) the details regarding the profit earning multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) The number of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Houses as on March 31, 1991, each with assets of not less than Rs. 100 crores, was 95. There is no state-wise categorisation of these business houses.

(b) to (d) Consequent upon deletion of Part A of Chapter-III of the MRTP Act, 1969 with effect from 27.09.1991 the large industrial Houses are no longer required to be registered with the Central Government under the MRTP Act. As such data on industrial houses are not compiled separately by the Department of Company Affairs. Also there is no generally acceptable definition of a multinational company and Government do not maintain any statistics on companies operating in the country based on the so called classification of multinational companies.

[English]

Global Tender for Building Ships

5826. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Administration had floated global tender for building ships during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the said global tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir,

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

Computerisation of Post Offices in J&K

5827. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce computerisation in some major Post Offices in the Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the number of Post Offices at present computerised;

(c) the extent to which these computerised Post Offices would help in reducing the work load and also cut down delays; and

(d) the number of Post Offices proposed to be computerised in the State during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir. J&K Postal Circle has introduced computerisation in major Post Offices in the State as a part of plan activity of the Department.

(b) 10 Post Offices.

(c) The computerisation of certain Post Offices operations has resulted in speedy disposal of public transactions across the counter. It has also resulted in faster and more accurate handling of Saving Bank Operation including generation of interest statements. As a result this has resulted in reducing delays and in giving more customized services.

(d) 5 Post Offices.

Fees to be Charged for Registration of Inland Vessels

5828. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Kerala for approval for prescribing the fees to be charged for registration of Inland Vessels after framing the Inland Vessels Survey Rules and Inland Vessels Registration Rules; and

(h) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal received from the Govt. of Kerala is under process.

Computerisation of Post Offices

5829. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA DHONSLE:
SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to computerise some post offices in the country;

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

(c) the extent to which these computerised post offices would help in reducing the work load and cut down delays;

(d) the number and value of computer purchased by Maharashtra Postal Circle during the last three years till date;

(e) whether all the computers are working properly;

(f) if not, the number of computers not functioning properly and reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 500 Computer based multi-purpose counter machines and 100 SB Local Area Net Work are being procured during 1998-99. Details are attached.

(c) With the introduction of Computer based Multi-purpose counter machines, the waiting period of the public has been reduced and the customer need not to move from one counter to another for booking of different types of transactions. He can use any one counter in such a Post Office for all types of transactions.

(d) 189 computers valued at Rs. 1,30,78,104 have been purchased during the last 3 years in Maharashtra Circle.

(e) Yes, Sir. An Annual Maintenance Contract has been made for upkeep of these computers.

(f) As the Department of Posts has an Annual Maintenance Contract, the companies are bound to repair these computers within 24 hours at their service centres and at stations where their service centre does not exist, the down time is 24 Hrs. plus journey period.

(g) Not applicable.

Tentative allocation of total number of MPCMs and LANs for each Postal Circle

Sl. No.	Name of Circles	Total No. of MPCMs	Total No. of LANs
1	2	3	4
1.	Kerala	30	5
2.	Orissa	30	4
3.	Delhi	35	7

1	2	3	4
4.	Maharashtra	25	8
5.	Andhra Pradesh	20	6
6.	Tamil Nadu	20	8
7.	Karnataka	20	5
8.	Uttar Pradesh	30	7
9.	J&K	10	1
10.	Rajasthan	35	4
11.	Punjab	35	6
12.	Himachal Pradesh	20	2
13.	Haryana	25	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	30	6
15.	Assam	25	2
16.	North East	25	2
17.	West Bengal	35	8
18.	Bihar	25	5
19.	Gujarat	25	8
Total:		500	100

New Technologies in Telecom Services

5830. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new technologies in the field of telecom services with the collaboration of multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the association of the equipment manufacturing companies and the Telecom Equipment Manufacturing Associations have been intensely lobbying for this purpose with the Department of Telecommunications;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) and (b) The introduction of new technologies is a continuous and on-going process in the field of telecommunication. It is achieved through indigenous development as well as import of technologies after field trial under Indian and Tropical conditions.

The procurement process is on for introduction of wireless in local loop, Internet and ATM.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) NIL.

(e) Not applicable in view of 'A' & 'B' above.

Universal Elementary Education

5831. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of universal elementary education is satisfactory;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action plan being formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education, as envisaged in Article 45 of the constitution, has remained elusive despite the massive quantitative expansion of the elementary education system and appreciable progress in a few States and UTs. The high growth rate of our population, prevalence of widespread poverty and illiteracy, lack of adequate resources, social and cultural barriers as well as the enormity of the problem, especially in educationally backward States, have constrained our efforts in this regard.

(c) National Policy on Education, 1986 as revised in 1992, envisages that free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality is provided to all children upto 14 years of age before we enter the Twenty First Century. The Central Government is supplementing the efforts of State Governments towards this goal through several centrally sponsored schemes and internationally assisted projects.

NBCs Plan to Uplink from Taj

5832. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned: "NBCs plan to uplink from Taj: They were promised the moon" appearing in 'Economic Times', dated April 22, 1998; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s NBC had been granted permission for uplinking under usual specific terms and conditions such as being accredited Agency of Press Information Bureau, that the broadcast was meant for International News Network and global audience, that the uplinking may be done under overall supervision of VSNL etc.

Tiger and Wild Cats Population

5833. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a census of tiger and lion reserves, including that in Sunderbans Tiger Reserve has been conducted in 1997;

(b) if so, the population of tigers, lions and other wild cats indentified in 1997-census, as against the previous censuses since 1980, Reserve-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to further promote tiger and wild cats population and protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The estimation of wild animals has been conducted in Tiger Reserves including Sunderbans Tiger Reserve in 1997. There is no Lion Reserve in the country however lions do exist in Gir National Park, Gujarat.

(b) The estimated population of tigers and leopards in Tiger Reserves as per the past successive estimations are given in Statement-I and II. However, the population figures of 1997 reported by the States are yet to be reviewed by the Steering Committee of Project Tiger.

According to the last three estimations the comparative figures of lions population in Gir National Park are as under:

Year	1985	1990	1995
Lion Population	239	284	304

(c) The steps taken/being taken to protect tigers and other wild cats population are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

Population of Tigers in the Tiger Reserve Areas

S.No.	Name of Reserve	1979	1984	1989	1993	1996	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Bandipur (Karnataka)	39	63	60	66	74	75
2.	Corbett (Uttar Pradesh)	84	90	91	123	128	138
3.	Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)	71	109	97	100	97	114
4.	Manas (Assam)	69	123	92	81	94	125
5.	Melghat (Maharashtra)	63	80	77	72	71	73
6.	Palamau (Bihar)	37	62	66	44	47	44
7.	Ranthambhore (Rajasthan)	25	38	44	36	38	32
8.	Simlipal (Orissa)	65	71	93	95	97	98
9.	Sunderbans (West Bengal)	205	264	269	261	242	263

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Periyar (Kerala)	34	44	45	30	39	N.R.*
11.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	19	26	19	24	25	24
12.	Buxa (West Bengal)	—	15	33	29	31	32
13.	Indravati (Madhya Pradesh)	—	38	28	18	15	15
14.	Nagarjunasagar (A.P.)	—	65	94	44	34	39
15.	Namdhapra (Arunachal Pradesh)	—	43	47	47	62	57
16.	Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)	—	—	90	94	98	104
17.	Kalakad (Tamil Nadu)	—	—	22	17	16	28
18.	Valmiki (Bihar)	—	—	81	49	N.R.*	53
19.	Pench (Madhya Pradesh)	—	—	—	39	27	29
20.	Tadoba (Maharashtra)	—	—	—	34	36	42
21.	Bandhaygarh (H.P.)	—	—	—	41	46	46
22.	Panna (M.P.)—	—	—	—	25	22	22
23.	Dampha (Mizoram)	—	—	—	07	04	05
Total		711	1121	1327	1366	1333	1458

*Not Reported.

Statement-II*Population of Leopards in the Tiger Reserve Areas*

S.No.	Name of Reserve	1984	1989	1993	1995	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Bandipur (Karnataka)	25	40	81	86	N.R.
2.	Corbett (Uttar Pradesh)	73	89	100	102	109
3.	Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)	49	62	72	62	86
4.	Manas (Assam)	16	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
5.	Melghat (Maharashtra)	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	72	79
6.	Palamau (Bihar)	29	48	60	58	N.R.
7.	Ranthambhore (Rajasthan)	40	41	65	83	79
8.	Simlipal (Orissa)	67	70	99	100	114
9.	Sunderbans (West Bengal)	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
10.	Periyar (Kerala)	N.R.	N.R.	3	6	N.R.
11.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	32	28	39	46	49
12.	Buxa (West Bengal)	50	N.R.	54	70	N.R.
13.	Indravati (Madhya Pradesh)	11	25	21	23	26
14.	Nagarjunasagar (A.P.)	N.R.	N.R.	44	54	62
15.	Namdhapa (Arunachal Pradesh)	15	20	32	35	20
16.	Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)		2	3	1	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Kalakad M. (Tamil Nadu)	-	36	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
18.	Valmiki (Bihar)	-	32	37	N.R.	N.R.
19.	Pench (Madhya Pradesh)	-	-	15	11	21
20.	Tadoba (Maharashtra)	-	-	N.R.	29	24
21.	Bandhavgarh (M.P.)	-	-	24	26	27
22.	Panna (M.P.)	-	-	13	26	31
23.	Dampha (Mizoram)	-	-	7	9	3
Total		407	493	769	899	735

(N.R.) stands for — Not Reported.

Statement-III

Steps taken by the Government to protect Tiger and Wild Cats

- (i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.
- (ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, leopard and their habitat are being implement.
- (iii) A network of 441 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 80 National Parks covering 1,48,000 sq. Km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna.
- (iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.
- (v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The trade in ivory is totally banned.

- (vi) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
- (vii) Interdepartmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995.
- (viii) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry to suggest improvement in the management of tiger bearing areas of the country.
- (ix) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

- (x) Steps are being initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas;
- (xi) A Protocol has been signed with the Govt. of Peoples Republic of China to coordinate bilateral issues concerning tiger conservation and to check smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body; and
- (xii) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the 'Global Tiger Forum' for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the tiger range countries.

AIDS Awareness

5834. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce AIDS awareness material in the Secondary level curriculum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) A National Seminar on Adolescence Education was organised by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in April 1993 which recommended AIDS Education to be one of the three major components of the general framework of Adolescence Education.

The recommendations of the National Seminar have been accepted by the NCERT for developing general framework of Adolescence Education.

[*Translation*]

Assistance to H.P. under NLM

5835. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance provided to Himachal Pradesh under the National Literacy Mission during the last three years;

(b) the number of people made literate in the State during the said period;

(c) whether the Union Government have reviewed this scheme during the above period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The financial assistance provided under all schemes of National Literacy Mission to the State of Himachal Pradesh during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Amount
1995-96	26.43
1996-97	49.17
1997-98	115.55

(b) Since launching of the scheme of Total Literacy Campaigns in the State, approximately 4.12 lakh persons have been made literate so far.

(c) and (d) The literacy campaign projects are reviewed every month by the State Directorate of Adult Education on behalf of the National Literacy Mission, and wherever required, suggestions are made by the NLM/ State representatives for effective implementation of the projects.

[*English*]

CSIR Laboratories

5836. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the indictment of the activities of CSIR's laboratories by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India the situation in CSIR laboratories has changed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The observations in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on India (CAG) *inter-alia* refer to lapses in evolving standard manpower policies/practices and failure to follow prescribed administrative and financial procedure. CSIR has examined the observations and issued appropriate instructions for strict compliance.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Radio Station at Dhanbad

5837. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to setup a radio station at Dhanbad in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any obstacles exist in setting up the radio station at Dhanbad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to remove those obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Thermal Power Project in Visakhapatnam in A.P.

5838. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hinduja group has started negotiations with foreign lending agencies for credit of over \$800 million to part finance its \$1.2 billion thermal power project in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the counter-guarantee for the project has been already cleared;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be commenced and completed; and

(e) the total power likely to be generated from this project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (e) M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited, who are implementing the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project in Andhra Pradesh have informed that they have started negotiations with foreign lenders for financing the project. The Government has recently approved extension of counter-guarantee to this project through a revised procedure. It has, *inter-alia*, been decided that counter-guarantee will be given only for the event of termination and will be limited to the outstanding foreign debt only. The project has a total installed capacity of 1040 MW. The first unit of 520 MW is envisaged to be commissioned in 38 months and the second unit in 44 months after financial closure.

Auditing of Amount

5839. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2942 dated July 6, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the amount released by the National Open School Organisation to Kendriya Vidyalayas of Delhi is auditable;

(b) if so, the details of the audit report of preceding three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The audit reports for the last three years have not raised any objection regarding *pro-rata* payment made to Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

Hydel Project in Garhwal

5840. MAJ. GEN. BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Hydel Project is being constructed in U.P.;

(b) if so, whether the said project has been handed over to a private firm;

(c) if so, the terms of agreement with regard to employment of people in the project;

(d) whether the Government have made any arrangements to monitor the implementation of agreement;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (e) Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) have informed that four major hydro-electric power projects, viz. Lakhwar Vyasi (420 MW), Maneri Bhali Stage-II (304 MW), Vishnuprayag (400 MW) and Srinagar (330 MW) are being constructed in the Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh. The latter two projects are being implemented in the private sector and the Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) entered into with the promoters of these projects do not contain any provision regarding employment of people for the projects. UPSEB proposes to monitor implementation of these PPAs both at the field level and Board level. In addition, Tehri Hydel Project Stage-I (1000 MW) is being implemented as a joint-Venture of Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh at Tehri, District Garhwal. The project is scheduled for commissioning by March, 2002.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) to (e) above.

Foreign Assistance for Surface Transport

5841. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the money received from the World Bank and other foreign agencies for Surface Transport during the last three years;

(b) the details for Surface Transport projects financed by the foreign agencies;

(c) whether the projects have started as per the schedule;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the mode of repayment and its rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a)	1995-96	Rs. 378.36 crores
	1996-97	Rs. 407.33 crores
	1997-98	Rs. 568.21 crores

(b) 19 projects covering about 968 Kms. of section of National Highways; 3 projects covering about 552 Kms. of State Highways; and 5 projects covering 4 Ports are under implementation with loan assistance from World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan.

(c) and (d) Starting of some of the projects has been delayed because of delay in completion of land acquisition, shifting of utilities, environmental clearance, cutting of trees, project preparation, engagement of Consultants, Court stay order, etc.

(e) The repayments of loan and rates of interests are in accordance with guidelines of the respective funding agencies and the loan agreements.

Special Fund for Road Developments Projects

5842. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish special fund for the implementation of road development projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the resources for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount proposed to be deposited initially for undertaking this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) to (e) The current budget provides for a cess of one rupee per litre of petrol, which would constitute a perpetual accrual which may be about Rs. 790 crores per year for development of National Highways.

Model Concession Agreement for Roads and Highways Projects

5843. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a model concession agreement is being evolved for privately funded roads and highways projects;

(b) if so, the details of such agreements;

(c) whether a conference on financing India's infrastructure was held at New Delhi recently;

(d) if so, the details of discussions held in the conference and outcome thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the private sector involvement in the development of roads have been further strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Model Agreement is in preliminary stage and therefore no details can be indicated.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Discussions were held during the Seminar regarding international experiences in financing infrastructure projects. It was concluded that the foreign models can not be applied directly to India. However, private participation in development of infrastructure projects is a continuous process and experiences gained on already signed agreements will go a long way in improving the privatisation policy.

Registration of Advocate in Supreme Court

5844. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several unregistered advocates from District Courts, High Courts and other tribunals appear and argue the cases in Courts and tribunals; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to have a check on the practice of such unregistered advocates?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pollution at Taj Mahal

5845. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the level of pollution caused by the vehicular traffic in Agra;

(b) whether any monitoring is being regularly done at Agra to find level of pollution from such traffic so as to avoid damage to Taj Mahal;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to control pollution from traffic and maintain original whiteness of Taj Mahal; and

(e) the details of the extent of pollution by the traffic *vis-a-vis* damage caused to white marble monuments like Itmad-ud-Daula, Taj Mahal, white mosque at Red Fort etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The levels of pollution from vehicular traffic have not been measured separately. However, the ambient air quality monitoring is regularly done at a number of locations in Agra.

(d) and (e) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is also monitoring the ambient air quality around the Taj Mahal to assess the level of pollution in order to take such remedial measures as may be required. Besides, periodical chemical treatment and clay pack technique are applied by ASI for conservation and preservation of the monuments.

There appears to be no appreciable damage to white marble monuments like Taj Mahal, Itmad-ud-Daula, and mosque at Red Fort due to gaseous emissions.

The Government have also taken steps for reducing vehicular pollution in Agra which include the following:

- (i) Steps have been taken for providing battery operated buses in an area around the Taj Mahal. 10 battery buses are already in operation.

- (ii) Stringent emission checking is done for vehicles in Agra. An action plan has also been prepared for checking of vehicular emission in the Taj Trapezium.
- (iii) Directions have been issued to Regional Transport Authority not to issue permits to any petrol/diesel driven commercial vehicles to enter into a 500 meter radius of the Taj Mahal.
- (iv) Unleaded petrol and low sulphur diesel has been introduced in the Trapezium.
- (v) A scheme on development of green belt around the Taj and in Trapezium area is under implementation.

Loss of Power due to Transmission and Distribution

5846. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the losses of electricity in its distribution by the various State Electricity Boards in the country is more than that of other countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of losses in transmission and distribution of each Electricity Board; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check such losses?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The transmission and distribution losses in India are higher than that of developed countries and lower than few developing countries like Bangladesh, Columbia, Dominican Republic Myanmar and Nepal. The percentage of transmission and distribution losses in developing countries (public utilities) is given in Statement-I attached.

(c) The percentage of losses in transmission and distribution of each Electricity Board for the year 1991-92 to 1995-96 is given in Statement-II attached.

(d) The responsibility for distribution of electricity vests with the State Governments/State Electricity Boards. In order to reduce the Transmission & Distribution losses, the Central Electricity Authority has issued guidelines

which, *inter alia*, provides for the following:—

- Upgradation of operating voltages;
- reduction of length of LT lines;
- location of transformers near load centres;
- adoption of low capacity transformers at consumers premises;
- installation of shunt capacitors;
- improvement in construction & operation techniques; and
- systematic and methodological approach for planning and design of distribution system on the long term basis.

The Central Electricity Authority has also issued guidelines for conducting energy audit. These guidelines lays down the procedure for conducting energy audit studies and provide a methodology for segregating technical and commercial losses.

Necessary amendments have also been enacted to the Indian electricity Act, 1910 to make the theft of electricity a cognizable offence.

In the Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power announced in December, 1996, after consultation with the State Governments, the following measures have been suggested for reduction of transmission & Distribution losses;

- (i) Compulsory metering at substations on all major feeders.
- (ii) Compulsory metering of all new electricity connections. Also connections to agricultural sector exceeding 10 HP should be completed within a period of two years.
- (iii) all electric supplies to be metered by 2002 A.D.
- (iv) Compulsory annual energy audit to be ensured in respect of large consumers of more than 100 KVA load.
- (v) Time of the day metering would be introduced for big power consumers for better load management.

Statement-I**Percentage Transmission and Distribution Losses in Developing Countries (Public Utilities)**

Country	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Algeria	18.51	15.07	16.32	13.31	17.10	17.50
Bangladesh	30.10	35.57	38.95	39.10	33.98	33.30
Barbados	9.73	9.55	7.86	7.27	8.56	8.24
Belize	11.11	9.80	9.80	9.35	9.35	9.35
Bolivia	14.83	16.71	15.91	15.91	14.00	13.67
Brazil	13.70	13.62	14.67	14.13	14.43	15.26
Bulgaria	11.79	11.41	15.78	15.67	15.47	15.31
Chile	15.41	12.38	12.87	11.93	—	—
China	7.54	7.44	7.68	7.75	7.16	6.44
Colombia	24.25	23.70	22.94	20.48	22.74	23.29
Costarica	11.03	14.33	11.45	11.46	11.02	8.00
Cuba	18.05	18.44	16.82	15.99	16.10	16.10
Dominican Republic	34.01	41.01	42.87	42.48	38.81	38.80
El Salvador	18.05	19.02	16.10	16.42	13.75	13.75
Fiji	9.76	9.88	12.32	13.58	14.63	14.94
French Guiana	12.37	12.17	11.87	12.41	12.67	14.98
Guatemala	16.08	16.67	15.65	15.36	18.01	16.43
Honduras	24.83	25.48	26.53	27.56	28.25	28.14
Indonesia	21.93	22.47	20.95	17.97	17.18	16.75
Jamaica	19.35	17.90	18.71	20.66	25.17	24.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jordan	10.99	10.07	10.51	11.00	10.43	9.94
Kenya	15.46	15.45	15.41	15.07	15.73	15.01
Rep. of Korea	5.93	5.49	5.50	5.66	5.48	5.51
Kuwait (Incl. Part of Neutral Zone)	9.02	8.40	NA	NA	NA	NA
Malaysia	11.05	8.71	12.13	7.89	—	9.55
Myanmar	35.20	—	37.39	38.44	37.71	36.13
Nepal	28.39	28.28	28.38	24.46	24.94	25.83
Nicaragua	21.62	19.38	24.06	24.04	25.88	25.22
Pakistan	20.64	21.35	20.55	22.94	22.89	23.60
Peru	—	—	2.75	2.58	3.25	5.81
Philippines	16.10	13.79	13.54	17.23	17.70	17.29
Sri Lanka	17.26	16.78	18.25	17.89	17.28	17.82
Thailand	10.20	10.85	11.08	10.67	8.41	9.90
Trinidad & Tobago	11.77	9.09	13.43	9.55	8.87	9.31
Tunisia	13.40	12.77	12.40	11.76	11.32	11.26
Uruguay	19.12	21.64	19.96	22.37	19.80	20.44
Venezuela	17.80	21.73	17.70	17.10	NA	NA
Zimbabwe	6.76	9.74	12.81	9.87	14.57	15.49
India @	23.28	22.89	22.83	21.80	21.41	21.13

Note/Source:

1. Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles.
2. Revised Based on latest Data.
3. General Review - Published by CEA.
4. '—'/NA — Data Not Available/Not Applicable.
5. ●—For Financial Years.

Statement-II

*Percentage Transformation, Transmission & Distribution Losses
(Including Commercial Losses such as Pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs.*

State Elec. Board/ Elec. Deptt.	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5	7
Northern Region					
1. Haryana	26.79	26.78	25.00	30.80	32.39
2. Himachal Pradesh	20.37	19.51	18.31	18.21	16.09
3. Jammu & Kashmir	49.21	48.28	45.69	48.74	47.52
4. Punjab	21.52	19.24	19.37	16.70	18.49
5. Rajasthan	23.11	22.74	25.00	24.78	29.27
6. Uttar Pradesh	26.06	24.43	24.08	21.69	21.84
7. Chandigarh	29.64	26.21	27.27	28.44	33.72
8. D.E.S.U.	24.35	23.56	31.79	34.56	48.57
Western Region					
1. Gujarat	23.56	22.03	20.34	20.02	20.08
2. Madhya Pradesh	25.08	21.35	20.26	19.61	17.84
3. Maharashtra	18.40	17.83	16.22	16.33	16.95
4. D. & N. Haveli	19.66	17.98	12.64	11.35	9.31
5. Goa	23.78	21.85	24.50	26.87	26.07
6. Daman & Diu	15.90	15.67	22.34	16.30	12.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Southern Region						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19.70	19.88	19.19	17.95	19.34
2.	Karnataka	19.88	19.55	19.55	19.41	19.06
3.	Kerala	21.67	21.95	20.00	20.05	21.12
4.	Tamil Nadu	18.63	17.50	17.18	17.11	16.19
5.	Lakshadweep Islands	17.43	18.72	16.99	17.84	17.23
6.	Pondicherry	18.00	15.31	15.80	15.00	16.54
Eastern Region						
1.	Bihar	23.19	22.00	20.35	19.76	15.91
2.	Orissa	24.65	25.25	22.43	23.03	24.17
3.	Sikkim	25.89	22.55	22.60	21.22	16.47
4.	West Bengal	22.26	24.87	20.82	21.51	19.26
5.	A&N Islands	21.66	23.62	23.71	22.38	19.25
North Eastern Region						
1.	Assam	21.76	21.41	22.44	24.18	26.91
2.	Manipur	24.43	22.35	23.92	25.30	24.85
3.	Meghalaya	11.49	11.79	18.03	18.47	12.55
4.	Nagaland	23.14	27.26	33.45	36.12	35.17
5.	Tripura	31.96	30.64	30.53	31.96	30.86
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	28.20	32.32	42.04	45.30	37.12
7.	Mizoram	34.95	29.04	31.89	29.76	25.18
All India (Utilities)		22.83	21.80	21.41	21.13	22.27

Weather Forecast

5847. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives and achievements of the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and Development of Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services;

(b) whether the Government have been able to develop suitable technologies to assess and communicate upto the area specific block level weather forecast and crop-weather relationships and the impact of weather and climate on pests and diseases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of the efforts being undertaken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The basic objectives of National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) are:—

- Medium range weather forecasting (3-10 days in advance)
- Development of operational global and regional numerical models for weather forecasting with emphasis on medium range.
- Development of long-range weather forecasts of rainfall (upto a season in advance)
- Establishment of a Network of Agrometeorological Field Units (AMFUs) spread all over the country with a view to issuing agromet advisories to agriculturists for their proper agricultural planning to help augmenting agricultural production.

A global circulation model (T-80-150 X 150 Km resolution) for issuing medium range weather forecasting has been operationalised since June, 1994. Till date 80 AMFUs have been established all over the country and efforts are on to cover all the 127 agroclimatic zones (clusters of 3-4 districts). Out of 80 AMFUs, medium range weather forecast is being issued to 64 field units out of which 54 units are preparing agromet advisory bulletins disseminated through various media to the farming community.

At present weather forecast is being done only upto agroclimatic zones which are clusters of 3 to 4 districts. Studies on crop weather relationships such as variability of soil moisture, soil temperature and contribution of dew as also fluctuations in weather with regard to factors like leaf area index, stomatal resistance, crop co-efficient and dry matter production including the impact of weather on outbreaks of crop pests and disease like paddy stem borer, jawar shootfly, cotton bolloworm, sugarcane borers, groundnut tikka, and wheat rusts etc. are being carried out at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes under a project on "All India Coordinated Research Project on Agrometeorology".

Scheme for Youth

5848. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Science and Technology Department has proposed any scheme to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the benefit of youth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the role of Science and Technology Department in encouraging entrepreneurs; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) Though Department of Science the Technology (DST) had not proposed any scheme to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the benefit of Youth, in some of the existing schemes of DST namely the Science and Technology Application for Rural Development, Science and Technology for Women and Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and Natural Resources Data Management System and National Council for Science and Technology Communication, youth are also benefitted in terms of skill development and training. Depending on the location specific requirements of the programme, specific target groups are identified and S&T development projects are implemented both through NGOs and other S&T institutions. Here youth are also benefitted as part of the community.

Project to Increase the Depth**Statement**

5849. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project is underway at Tuticorin Port in Tamil Nadu to increase the depth of bay to 10.70 meter; and

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work is likely to be completed by May, 2000.

[*Translation*]

Water Transport Facility in Rivers

5850. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the rivers in India in which the water transport exists and the extent to which these are successful and progressive; and

(b) whether there is any scheme to bring about improvement therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) List of navigable waterways statewide in the country identified by the Bhagawati Committee (1970) is given in Annexure-I. Out of these, the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and the West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam alongwith Udyogmandal and Champakara canal have been declared as National Waterways No. 1,2 and 3 respectively and are being developed for shipping and navigation. Techno-economic feasibility studies have been taken up/completed on some other waterways namely Sunderban Waterways, Narmada, East Coast Canal, Mahanadi/Brahmani rivers, Godavari river, Krishna river, Barak, Kakinada, Mercaunaum, DVC canal, Extension of NW-3 etc.

List of Identified Navigable Waterways in the Country by Bhagwati Committee (1970)

Name of State

Name of Waterway

1. **Andhra Pradesh**

a) River Godavari

b) River Krishna

c) River Sabari

d) Buckingham Canal

2. **Assam**

a) River Brahmaputra

b) River Subansiri

c) River Jia Bharali

d) Dihing

e) Durhi Dihing

f) Disang

g) Dhansiri

h) Kopili-Kolong

i) Dikhow

j) Barak

3. **Bihar**

a) River Ganga

b) Gandak

c) Ghagra

d) Son

e) Kosi

4. **Goa**
- Mandovi
 - Zuari
 - Mapusa
 - Camberjua Canal
5. **Gujarat**
- Narmada
 - Tapi
 - Purna
 - Sabarmati
6. **Kerala**
- West Coast Canal from Kasargode to Kovalam with feeder links of many rivers intereseecting before joint sea.
7. **Karnataka**
- Kalinadi
 - Gurpur
 - Sharavati
 - Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal
8. **Maharashtra**
- Thane & Bassain Creecks linked by Ulhas river Dharamatar Creek.
9. **Orissa**
- Mahanadi
 - Brahmani
 - Baitarani
 - Matai
 - Burha Balang
 - Subarn:arekha
 - Taladanada Canal
 - Kendrapara Canal

10. **Tamil Nadu**
- Cooum River
 - North & South Buckingham Canal
 - Vedaranyam Canal
11. **Uttar Pradesh**
- River Ganga
 - Ghagra
 - Yamuna
 - Gomati
12. **West Bengal**
- Hooghly-Bhagirathi
 - Sunderbans
 - Teesta
 - Rupnarayan
 - D.V.C. Canal
 - Orissa Coast Canal
 - Hijili Tidal Canal
 - Krishtopur Canal

Setting up of AIR/Doordarshan Kendras

5851. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) the details of the new Doordarshan/All India Radio Kendras/Stations set up during the last one year and between the period from January 1998 to June, 1998; and

(b) the telecast/broadcasting capacity of each of those new Doordarshan/All India Radio Kendras/Stations and the total amount spent on their installation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The details of new All India Radio/Doordarshan projects set up during 1997 and between 1.1.1998 to 30.6.1998 are given in Statement attached.

The amount spent for setting up of All India Radio projects during this period is Rs. 2242.40 lakhs. Insofar

as Doordarshan is concerned, Studio Mau costed Rs. 165.45 lakhs, whereas cost was Rs. 2 to 3 crore for each High Power Transmitter (HPT) of 1 KW capacity, Rs. 8 to 10 crores for each HPT of 10 KW capacity, about Rs. 1.00 crore for each Low Power Transmitter and about Rs. 85 lakhs for each Very Low Power Transmitter. The total cost of TV Transmitters installed during the period from 1.1.97 to 30.6.98 worked out roughly to Rs. 175 crores.

Statement

Details of All India Radio/Doordarshan Projects set up during 1997 and from 1.1.1998 to 30.6.1998

Name of the State/UT	Location	Capacity
1	2	3
All India Radio:		
(From 1.1.1997—31.12.1997)		
Himachal Pradesh	Kullu	2x3 KW FM
	Kalpa	1 KW MW
Rajasthan	Mount Abu	2x3 KW MW
Uttar Pradesh	Pithoragarh	1 KW MW
	Uttar Kashi	1 KW MW
J & K	Kargil	1 KW MW
West Bengal	Asansol	2x5 KW FM
Karnataka	Bijapur	2x3 KW FM
(From 1.1.1998—30.6.1998)		
Maharashtra	Farbhani	20 KW MW (Conversion of Auxiliary station to full-fledged station)
Doordarshan:		
(From 1.1.1997—31.12.1997)		
A & N Islands	Port Blair (DD II)	LPT
	Great Nicobar	VLPT
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad (DD II)	HPT (1 KW)
	Kurnool	HPT (10 KW)
	Rajamundry (Int.)	HPT (1 KW)
	Achampet	LPT
	Belampally	LPT

1	2	3	
	Jadcheria	LPT	
	Kadiri	LPT	
	Markapur	LPT	
	Pedanandipadu	LPT	
	Tamblapally	LPT	
	Tirupati	LPT	
Arunachal Pradesh	Vomcha	VLPT	
Bihar	Lakhisarai	LPT	
	Noamundy	LPT	
	Phoolparas	LPT	
	Saraikela	LPT	
	Sikandra	LPT	
	Simdega	VLPT	
D & N Haveli	Silvassa	LPT	
Daman & Diu	Diu	LPT	
Goa	Panaji (DD II)	LPT	
Gujarat	Amod	LPT	
	Deesa	LPT	
	Mangrol (Surat)	LPT	
	Morvi	LPT	
Haryana	Rohtak	LPT	
Himachal Pradesh	Rampur	LPT	
	Bharmour	VLPT	
	Holi	VLPT	
	Jahalma	VLPT	
	Kotkhai	VLPT	
	Rohru	VLPT	
Karnataka	Bangalore (DD II)	HPT	(1 KW)
	Basava Kalyan	LPT	
	Gokak	LPT	
	Harpanhalli	LPT	
	Puttur	LPT	
	Sagar	LPT	
	Madhugiri	VLPT	

1	2	3
Kerala	Adoor	LPT
	Attappadi	LPT
Maharashtra	Aheri	LPT
	Chandur	LPT
	Navapur	LPT
	Shirpur	LPT
	Sironcha	LPT
	Badlapur	VLPT
	Bhokar	VLPT
Mizoram	Champhai	VLPT
Madhya Pradesh	Gadarwara	LPT
	Kelaras	LPT
	Narayanpur	LPT
	Sakti	LPT
	Diamond Mining Proj.	VLPT
	Koylibeda	VLPT
	Singrauli	VLPT
Nagaland	Mokokchung	HPT (1 KW)
	Pheck	VLPT
Orissa	Kabisuryanagar	LPT
	Kotpad	LPT
	Sohela	LPT
	Sonepur	LPT
	Umarkot	LPT
Rajasthan	Barmer (Int.)	HPT (1 KW)
	Jaisalmer	HPT (10 KW)
	Bari Sadri	LPT
	Karauli	LPT
	Kesriaji	LPT

1	2	3
	Mt. Abu	LPT
	Nimaj	LPT
	Nohar	LPT
	Phalodi	LPT
	Pratapgarh	LPT
	Rajgarh	LPT
	Shahpura	LPT
	Gangapur	VLPT
	Neem ka Thana	VLPT
Tamil Nadu	Attur	LPT
	Pattukottai	LPT
	Shankaran Kovil	LPT
	Thiruvaiyaru	LPT
Tripura	Kailasahar	LPT
	Dharmanagar	VLPT
Uttar Pradesh	Mau	Studio
	Aithdama	LPT
	Auraiya	LPT
	Ganj Dundwara	LPT
	Mahoba	LPT
	Mau (DD II)	LPT
	Naini Danda	LPT
	Nan Para	LPT
	Naugarh	LPT
	New Tehri	LPT
	Basot	VLPT
	Chaukhatia	VLPT
	Karan Prayag	VLPT
	Pratapnagar	VLPT
	Saabiya	VLPT

1	2	3
West Bengal	Easanti	LPT
	Bishnupur	LPT
	Farakka	LPT
	Murshidabad (DD II)	LPT
	Rayna	LPT
(From 01.01.1998—30.06.1998):		
Andhra Pradesh	Tuni	LPT
	Seetampetta	VLPT
Arunachal Pradesh	Baririjo	VLPT
	Boleng	VLPT
	Geku	VLPT
	Gensi	VLPT
	Inkyong	VLPT
	Keying	VLPT
	Liromoba	VLPT
	Mariyang	VLPT
	Nampong	VLPT
	Palin	VLPT
	Rupa	VLPT
	Seijosa	VLPT
	Taliha	VLPT
	Tirbin	VLPT
Assam	Dibrugarh (DD II)	LPT
	Gohpur	LPT
	Silchar (DD II)	LPT
Gujarat	Sagwara	VLPT
Haryana	Charkhi Dadri	LPT
J & K	Rajauri	LPT
	Khalsi	LPT
	Naushera	LPT
	Tangtse	LPT

1	2	3
Karnataka	Gulbarga	HPT (10 KW)
Maharashtra	Koregaon	VLPT
	Maikapur	VLPT
	Malwan	VLPT
Madhya Pradesh	Bijapur	VLPT
	Sarangarh	VLPT
Orissa	Aul	VLPT
	Barpalli	VLPT
	Chitrakonda	VLPT
	Kalampur	VLPT
	Koksara	VLPT
Pondicherry	Nagchi	VLPT
	Pondicherry (DD II)	LPT
Punjab	Fazilka (Int.)	HPT (1 KW)
	Singtam	VLPT
Sikkim	Rangpo	VLPT
	Singtam	VLPT
Uttar Pradesh	Manikapur	VLPT
	Tharali	VLPT

**Plan Allocation for Environment and Forests
Development**

5852. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plan allocation to Maharashtra for environment and forests development purposes during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of funds utilised out of the said allocation?

THE Minister of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The details of the Ministry's plan allocation to Maharashtra for Environmental and Forests development purposes during the last three years and the details of funds utilised out of the said allocation are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Broad Objectives	Status	Funds allocated during the last three years			Funds utilised		
				1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Assistance to Botanic Garden	To augment conservation and propagation of rare and endemic plant genetic resources	Ongoing			4.60			NA
2.	Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP)-World Bank Project on Industrial	Setting up of CETP	Ongoing		198.93*			- 198.93#	
3.	Abatement of Industrial Pollution	Assistance for strengthening State Pollution Control Boards/ Departments of Environment	Ongoing	1.00			1.00		
4.	National River Conservation Plan	Abatement of river water Pollution	Ongoing	140.01	12.79	100.0	Nil	34.00	117.01
5.	Project Tiger	To ensure viable population of Tigers	Ongoing	64.97	54.05	60.53	59.02	46.92	54.00
6.	Eco-development around Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves	To provide alternative sustenance to communities living on fringes of forests.	Ongoing	22.57	14.35	15.11	18.02	9.68	15.06
7.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	To develop National Parks & Sanctuaries	Ongoing	35.43	13.81	48.84	17.71	13.81	NA
8.	Integrated afforestation and eco-development project scheme	Promote afforestation and Eco-development	Ongoing	86.55	6.62	71.46	89.79	41.15	NA
9.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder scheme	Augmenting supply of fuelwood & Fodder in identified fuelwood deficit district.	Ongoing	72.20	78.67	75.00	69.71	76.68	NA
10.	Non-Timber Produce including Medicinal plants	Raising Non-Timber Produce including Medicinal plants	Ongoing	36.55	20.00	38.51	33.68	30.03	NA
11.	Central Zoo Authority	Upgradation of Zoos	Ongoing	13.66	27.67		NA	NA	-
12.	Association of ST & Rural Poor in regeneration of Degraded Forests	Provide gainful employment to ST and Rural Poor in the process of improving biomass resources in degraded forests	Ongoing	51.47	45.32		51.47	45.32	-

NA — UC awaited from the State.

* — Total funds allotted during the last three year. Break ups of the fund not available.

— Total funds utilised during the last three years. Break ups of the funds utilised not available.

*[English]***Performance of NGOs in Literacy Drive**

5853. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of literacy projects sanctioned by the National Literacy Mission to NGOs in Assam;

(b) whether the performance of these NGOs have been reviewed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any action has been taken against NGOs for poor performance;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The details of the Central projects sanctioned to the NGOs in Assam State under the Central Scheme of financial assistance to VAs for TLC/PLC programme during the last three years is given below:—

District	Years		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Guwahati	1	1	2
Naogaon	1	—	1
Morigaon	—	—	2
Nalbari	—	—	1
Total :	2	1	6

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Foreign Post Offices

5854. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign post offices functioning at present in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to open such post offices in the country during 1998-99; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Four (4)

(i) Maharashtra (Mumbai)

(ii) West Bengal (Calcutta)

(iii) Delhi (Delhi)

(iv) Tamil Nadu (Chennai)

(b) No, there is at-present no proposal to open such Foreign Post Offices in the country during the year 1998-99. However, in addition to the above mentioned four Foreign Post offices, there are five Sub-Foreign Post Offices also.

(c) Does not arise.

Hike in Tuition Fee

5855. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the tuition fee structure in the Central Universities and the colleges affiliated thereto at present;

(b) the academic year in which, the same was last revised;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the fees in Central Universities; and

(d) if so, the factors to be taken into account to revise the fee structure?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Companies Defaulting Payment

5856. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI A.C. JOS:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati Board has recently issued notices to certain companies for defaulting in making payment;

(b) if so, the names of the companies;

(c) the reasons for delay in getting payments;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to recover dues from the defaulting companies; and

(e) criteria adopted to take action against the erring companies?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The names of the Companies are as under:—

- (i) M/s ABCL
- (ii) M/s Drishti India Limited
- (iii) M/s Plus Channel
- (iv) M/s Multichannel

(c) The policy of accreditation and resultant credit facility occasionally results in non-payment of charges by the stipulated date.

(d) and (e) Prasar Bharati takes recourse to all contractual provisions, including encashment of bank guarantee and deaccreditation of errant agencies etc. To recover the outstanding dues. Recourse to arbitration proceedings and filing cases in the courts of law is also taken wherever warranted. Prasar Bharati has initiated legal action against major defaulting companies having outstanding dues of Rs. 3 Crores or more.

[Translation]

Air Station in Satna District, Madhya Pradesh

5857. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the A.I.R. Station at Mehar Sagar in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh is ready for commissioning; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) At present, there is no approved scheme for setting up of a Radio Station at Mehar Sagar in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

CRZ Rule in Functioning of Ports

5858. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government had brought to the notice of Union Government that the Central Regulation Zone Rule is giving problem even for erecting essential facilities to carry out functioning of ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the dredging an essential activity in port basin is not a permissible activity as per the said rule; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government to relax the said rule in case of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala have suggested certain modifications in Coastal Regulation Zone Notification dated 19th February, 1991, which, *inter alia*, include issues pertaining to ports and related activities.

(c) and (d) The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification dated 19th February, 1991 was amended *vide* S.O.No. 494(E) on 9th July, 1997, *inter alia*, permitting bundling for essential activities permissible under the Notification, control of coastal erosion, and maintenance or clearing of waterways, channels and ports.

Clearance under CRZ

5859. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL:
SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:
SHRI C.D. GAMIT:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are prescribed norms for clearance under CRZ and approval for the forest conservation by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of approvals and clearance given so far in Kutch District for setting up industries;

(c) whether the Government have rejected the applications of Sanghi Industries Ltd. in violation of such norms;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to review their earlier decision for giving approval to the said company; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, dated 19th February, 1991 (as amended from time to time) regulates a number of activities to ensure sustainable development in the coastal areas. While setting up of new industries and expansion of existing industries except those directly related to waterfront or directly needing foreshore facilities are prohibited, operational construction for ports, harbours and jetties, laying of pipelines for oil, gas and sea water for cooling purposes and construction of beach resorts in certain designated areas, etc., are activities permissible with prior approval from the competent authority. While approving the permissible activities, their impact on environment is taken into consideration.

For diversion of forest land for any non-forestry purpose, prior approval of the Government of India is required. Approval is accorded to the proposal after detailed scrutiny as per guidelines framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 including ascertaining that the requirement of forest area is site specific and bare minimum.

(b) No clearance for diversion of forest land has been approved in District Kutch to set up industries. However, environmental clearance has been given to set up LPG storage facilities and Diammonium Phosphate Plant. Exemption under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification was granted to M/s. Sanghi Industries Limited for setting up their 2.6 million tonne per annum cement plant in Kutch District since work on the project had already commenced before the date of Notification.

(c) and (d) The proposal of M/s. Sanghi Industries Limited for constructing a Captive Jetty for their cement plant was not accorded environmental clearance because it was concluded that it would not be correct to grant environmental clearance until the Government of Gujarat determines the carrying capacity of the region, evolves an appropriate system of monitoring and other safeguards suggested by experts are taken.

(e) and (f) The application for environmental clearance for the Captive Jetty is being reconsidered since the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat has directed the Government to do so.

Appointments in ICHR

5860. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently appointments in ICHR have been made largely of persons/experts of one school of thought;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to review the appointments made; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) On expiry of the term of the previous Council on 3rd November, 1997, ICHR was re-constituted on June 01, 1998, with the nomination, INTER-ALIA, of 18 historians by the Government of India as required under Rule 3 of the ICHR. The details of the eminent historians nominated on the Council are annexed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Government is empowered to make nominations under Rule 3 of ICHR Rules.

Statement*Details of the Council of ICHR reconstituted
on June 01, 1998*

1. Prof. S. Settar, Chairman with effect from 2nd September, 1996.
2. Prof. Amitabh Mukherjee, Director, Institute of Historical Studies, Calcutta.
3. Prof. Chandrasekhar, Former Professor and Head of Department of History, Bangalore University, Bangalore-560056.
4. Prof. Dharpal, 17, South Mada Street, Triplicane, Chennai-600005.
5. Prof. M.G.S. Narayanan, Former Professor and Head of Department of History, University of Calicut, Kozhikode-673635, Kerala.
6. Prof. B.B. Lal, Former Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi-110001.
7. Prof. K.S. Lal, Former Professor and Head of Department of History, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad-500046.
8. Prof. B.P. Sinha, Former Professor and Head of Department of AIHC & Archaeology, Patna University, Patna.
9. Prof. A.R. Khan, Professor of History, Himachal University, Shimla.
10. Prof. B.R. Grover, Former Professor and Head of Department of History, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.
11. Prof. Satish Mittal, Former Professor and Head of Department of History, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Haryana.
12. Prof. (Mrs.) Mani Kamerkar, Former Principal and Head of History, SNDT University, Mumbai.
13. Dr. M.L.K. Murthy, Department of Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad-500046.
14. Prof. S.S.Hans, Former Professor and Head of Department of History, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab.
15. Prof. Hari Om, Professor and Head of Department of History, Jammu University, Jammu.
16. Prof. H.K. Barpujari, Professor Emeritus of History in Guwahati University, Guwahati, Assam.
17. Prof. Pritpal Bhatia, Delhi University, Delhi.
18. Prof. D.N. Tripathi, 20, Hirapuri, University Campus, Gorakhpur-273009, Uttar Pradesh.
19. Prof. B.R. Kamble, Professor and Head of Department of History, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
20. Representative of the University Grants Commission.
21. Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi-110 001.
22. Director-General, National Archives of India, New Delhi-110 001.
23. Four persons to represent Government of India:
 - (i) Secretary, Deptt. of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development or his/her nominee not below the level of Joint Secretary.
 - (ii) Secretary, Deptt. of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development or his/her nominee not below the level of Joint Secretary.
 - (iii) Financial Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development.
 - (iv) Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Indian Museum, 27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Calcutta.
24. Prof. T.K. Venkatasubramanian, Member-Secretary, Indian Council of Historical Research, 35, Ferozeshan Road, New Delhi-110 001 with effect from 19th January, 1998.

**Filling up of OBC Category Posts in
Delhi Public Library**

5861. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether direct recruitment cases for filling up Group 'D' posts (Library Attendants) in the reserved category of OBC have been lingering on for a quite long period in Delhi Public Library;

(b) if so, whether the nominees of the Employment Exchanges who were asked to appear before the Selection Board on November 4, 1997 were further asked not to attend the interview on the said date without intimating any valid reasons; and

(c) if so, the reasons for deferring the interviews/selection formalities and the time by which the selection process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from Delhi Public Library.

Satellite Charges

5862. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount due from the Doordarshan as satellite charges;

(b) the reasons for not sending final bills on time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) While no such satellite charges are due from Doordarshan, an amount of approximately Rs. 1.75 crores is due towards the difference of maintenance charges for the hardware uplinks set up by the Department of Telecommunications for use by Doordarshan.

(b) The final bills have been released after completion of entire project work and reconciliation of expenditure from the field units.

(c) Doordarshan has so far released an amount approximately of Rs. 8 crores and for payment of rest of the amount the matter is being perused with Doordarshan.

**STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER TO
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2874 DATED
6TH JULY, 1998 REGARDING CLEARANCE
TO POWER PROJECTS**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): In the reply to Unstarred Question No. 2874 by Dr. Suguna Kumari, Shri Bhim Dahal and Shri T. Govindan regarding 'Clearance to Power Projects' answered in the Lok Sabha on 6th July, 1998, inadvertently, the names of the Hon'ble Members who had put the Question were omitted in the English version.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Statement correcting USQ No. 2914 to which reply
was given on 6th July 98**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement (Hindi and English Versions (i) correcting the reply given on the 6th July, 1998 to Unstarred Question No. 2914 by Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, M.P. regarding Kendriya Vidyalayas in U.P. and (ii) the reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1354/98]

[English]

**Audited Accounts, Annual Reports and Review
of the working of Institute of Constitutional
and parliamentary studies, N. Delhi
for the year 1996-97.**

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (2) Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1354/98]

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Uma Bharati.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of propriety. Last week also, Kumari Uma Bharati's papers were laid by Dr. Joshi. We have seen her in the House about 15 minutes back. There was a report in the newspaper that she is very unhappy because of the distribution of work to her and so, she is not attending Parliament and also her office. So, the Minister should state what is the factual position.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, she is attending the office and she has attended the House also. She has to attend some urgent business now and that is why, she has left. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is authorized to lay the papers on her behalf. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is authorized to lay the papers. Please take your seat.

**Notifications regarding ordinance
on convocations, etc.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, on behalf of Kumari Uma Bharati, I beg to lay on the Table —

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 40 of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, Act, 1985:—

- (i) G.S.R. 370 published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 1996 making certain amendments/additions to the Ordinance on convocations published in Notification No. G.S.R. 329 dated the 6th May, 1989.
- (ii) G.S.R. 387 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 1996 making

certain amendments to statute 19 regarding removal of employees of the University.

- (iii) The Ordinance on Emoluments, Terms and Conditions of Service of Directors (other than Directors of Schools) and their powers and functions published in Notification No. G.S.R. 19 in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 1997.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1355/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Chennai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Chennai, for the year 1996-97.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above..

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1356/98]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1357/98]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1358/98]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1359/98]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1360/98]

Audited Accounts, Annual Report and review of the working of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd., Port Blair for the year 1996-97

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest

and Plantation Development Corporation, Limited Port Blair, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of Comptroller and Auditor general thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1361/98]

Action taken by Govt. on Assurance promises and undertakings given by Ministers during 8th, 10th, 11th and 12th Lok Sabha.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during various sessions of Eighth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabha:—

EIGHTH LOK SABHA

- (1) Statement No. XLIII Tenth Session, 1988

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1362/98]

TENTH LOK SABHA

- (2) Statement No. XXXIX First Session, 1991

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1363/98]

- (3) Statement No. XXXVI Third Session, 1992

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1364/98]

- (4) Statement No. XXXI Sixth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1365/98]

- (5) Statement No. XXVI Eighth Session, 1993
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1366/98]
- (6) Statement No. XIX Eleventh Session, 1994
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1367/98]
- (7) Statement No. XVII Twelfth Session, 1994
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1368/98]
- (8) Statement No. XV Thirteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1369/98]
- (9) Statement No. XII Fourteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1370/98]
- (10) Statement No. X Fifteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1371/98]
- (11) Statement No. IX Sixteenth Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1372/98]
ELEVENTH LOK SABHA
- (12) Statement No. VII Second Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1373/98]
- (13) Statement No. VI Third Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1374/98]
- (14) Statement No. V Fourth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1375/98]
- (15) Statement No. III Fifth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1376/98]
- (16) Statement No. III Sixth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1377/98]
TWELFTH LOK SABHA
- (17) Statement No. I First Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1378/98]
- (18) Statement No. I Second Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1379/98]

Notifications under Major Ports Trust Act 1963*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
Sir, 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 124 of the Major Ports Trust Act, 1963:—
- (i) G.S.R. 431(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th July, 1997 approving the Mormugao Port Employees' (Allotment of Residences) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (ii) G.S.R. 595(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 1997 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Contributory Outdoor and Indoor Medical benefits after Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (iii) G.S.R. 283(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 1998 approving the Mumbai Port Trust, Employees Digest of pay and Allowances, Leave and Pension (Amendment) Rules, 1998.
- (iv) G.S.R. 284(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 1998 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Superannuation and Age of Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 1998.
- (v) G.S.R. 333(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 1998 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Supplementary Leave) Amendment Regulations, 1998.
- (vi) G.S.R. 335(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 1998 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Leave) Amendments Regulations, 1998.
- (vii) G.S.R. 335(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 1997 approving the New Managalore Port Trust Employees (Allotment of Residences) Second Amendment Regulations, 1997 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 430(E) dated the 29th July, 1997.

- (viii) G.S.R. 561(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 1997 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees (Pay and Allowances) Regulations 1997.
- (ix) G.S.R. No. 281(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1997 approving the Madras Port Trust (Contributory Provident Fund) Regulations 1997.
- (x) G.S.R. 282(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1997 approving the Madras Port Trust (General Provident Fund) Regulations, 1997.
- (xi) G.S.R. 332(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 1998 approving the Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Department) 2nd Amendment) Regulations, 1998.
- (xii) G.S.R. 334(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 1998 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1998.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 349(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 1998 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (RSP) Regulations, 1998.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 384(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 1997 approving the Amendment to the Recruitment Rules for the post of Signal Bosaan Regulations, 1997.
- (xv) G.S.R. 568(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 1997 approving the Madras Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Departments) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 562(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 1997 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Acceptance of Employment after Retirement) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997.
- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi for the period from 1989-90 to 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts under section 24 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1381/98]
- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1382/98]
- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—
- (i) S.O. 288(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1997 declaring the Highway No. 57 as the National Highway.
- (ii) S.O. 432(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1997 authorising M/s Ideal Road Builders Private Limited, to collect levy of Toll for the use of Thane-Bhiwandi Bypass.
- (iii) S.O. 433(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1997 regarding entrustment of development work of National Highway to State Government concerned.
- (iv) S.O. 2426(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 1997 Notifying

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1380/98]

the Levy of Toll for the use of Durgapur Express Way.

- (v) S.O. 791(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 1997 appointing the competent authority for the supervision of land acquisition work for 2nd Vivekananda Bridge across river Hooghly in West Bengal.
- (vi) S.O. 894(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 1997 declaring the New National Highway No. 58.
- (vii) S.O. 922(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1997, declaring the New National Highways No. 59 and 60.
- (viii) S.O. 53(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 1998 declaring change in alignment of National Highway No. 2.
- (ix) S.O. 116(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1998 declaring 14 New National Highways.
- (x) S.O. 230(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1998 declaring change in the alignment of National Highway No. 4.
- (xi) S.O. 505(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 1998 regarding acquisition of land for the Second Vivekananda Bridge across river Hooghly in West Bengal.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1383/98]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Navik Bhavishya Nidhi, (Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation), Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Navik Bhavishya Nidhi, (Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation) Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1384/98]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th July, 1998 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in Regard to the said Bill."

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

[*Translation*]

Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Reports and Minutes

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:—

- (1) Fifth Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the First Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation.
- (2) Sixth Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Finance.
- (3) Seventh Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Third Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Finance.

- (4) Eighth Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation.
- (5) Ninth Action Taken Report on recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Working of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

12.05 hrs.

OILFIELDS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.

The motion was adopted

**SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: I introduce the Bill.

12.06 hrs.

INTEREST ON DELAYED PAYMENTS TO SMALL SCALE AND ANCILLARY INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993.

-MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993."

The motion was adopted.

** **

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: I introduce the Bill.**

RE: REPORTED DEPORTATION OF BENGALI-SPEAKING MUSLIM WORKERS FROM MUMBAI

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the steps taken by the Government of Maharashtra last week...(Interruptions) Some Muslim families have been deported from Mumbai...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chadni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir I have given a notice. ...(Interruptions) You have to take a decision about panel of Chairmen...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some Muslim families have been deported from Mumbai. Last year also the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance...(Interruptions) the Muslim families of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal were deported in the name of Bangladeshi, and the same situation prevails there today. They are not Bangladeshis. They were sent out from Mumbai because they were Muslims...(Interruptions) The Government of India has not taken any action on it. Such incidents are taking place in the name of religion and other states...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum): Sir, he is misleading the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Sharad Pawar.

...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Sir, I also want to speak...(Interruptions)

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** Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

**Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

**Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you. Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sirpotdar, please take your seat. I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you worried? The Minister is there to reply, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): Sir, if the Leader of the Opposition is not permitted to speak, then we will not allow the Prime Minister to speak. This is too much...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chaman Lal Gupta, please allow him to speak. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MUDHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: The Leader of the Opposition should not speak like this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him say what he wants to say. What is this? I have allowed him to speak. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Sharad Pawar's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, such a situation has not been created for the first time but a few years ago, the same communal force...(Interruptions). Whether it is Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu or Kerala, they attacked people in the name of South Indians and North Indians. Three years ago in the name of Bangladeshis, whether they were Muslim families...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, he is making a wrong allegation.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat. I have allowed him to speak. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this communal force had started its political career by organising attacks on North Indians and South Indians. Even today, poor persons belonging to Muslim community of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal go there to earn livelihood, they are attacked by them in the name of Bangladeshis. They are ill-treated and such conditions are created for them in which they would have to be deported...(Interruptions) In spite of all that the Government of India is not willing to take any action in this regard. I feel that it is an attack on the integrity of the country. The State Government has no right to rule if integrity of the country is attacked in that State. The Government of India should dismiss such a State Government. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs as to what is the policy of the Government in this regard?

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, please allow us also because the issue is related to my State.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, I will allow you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I appeal to all sections of the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha): Is this a regular debate?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chauhan, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Mr. Speaker, I have also given a notice to speak during Zero Hour...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please to not do that.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I humbly appeal to all sections of the House that in view of the nature of the issue and in view of the human rights question that is involved, let them at least have the satisfaction that we are able to articulate what the people are feeling outside the House. If we are not allowed to speak here, people will go to the streets and decide the matter. Therefore, I am appealing again and again to my friends...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: They are all illegal immigrants.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter was raised in this House by my Party colleague, Comrade Hannan Mollah, twice before, that is, on 17th and 23rd of July. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE: Take them to your house...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai): Sir, this is highly objectionable...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: He is speaking as if India belongs to them. You cannot allow this. ...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: The hon. Member is speaking as if the whole nation belongs to them. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please take your seats.

12.15 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Anil Basu and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

12.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Anil Basu and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: What is your ruling? ...(Interruptions) Are you indulgent to us or not? ...(Interruptions) I want to know whether the hon. Member will apologise or not. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the hon. Member to withdraw those words.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the hon. Member Shri Prakash Vishwanath Paranjpe to withdraw those words.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE: I will take just one minute. What I said was this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please withdraw those words. I do not want any explanation from you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE: Sir, I have not spoken any illegal word or any unparliamentary word. So, I will not withdraw it. ...(Interruptions) I have not used any illegal word or unparliamentary word...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he has withdrawn those words.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, he has withdrawn those words.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Sir, he has said that he would not withdraw those words ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he has withdrawn those words. Now, Shri Somnath Chatterjee to continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE: I have said nothing which is unparliamentary. So, I have not withdrawn it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he has withdrawn those words.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: He has not withdrawn those words...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE: I have not said anything which is unparliamentary. So, the question of withdrawing those words does not arise...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Vishwanath Paranjpe, have you withdrawn those words or not? Please tell me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE: I have not used any unparliamentary word...(Interruptions) I have not uttered a single unparliamentary word at all. Why should I withdraw those words? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please withdraw those words.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Now, Shri Somnath Chatterjee to continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think you have not properly listened to what he said. Let me repeat it...(Interruptions) I will take one second...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon): Sir, he has not withdrawn his statement. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am proud to be an Indian and I consider every inch of the territory of this country as my home. Nobody can say that any part of the territory of this great country belongs to him exclusively and that he shall decide where I reside or not reside...(Interruptions) A person in this country cannot be treated as a foreigner or otherwise only on the basis of the language he speaks. We have a neighbouring country...(Interruptions) Our neighbouring country is Bangladesh. They speak Bengali...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. What is this? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed him to speak. Let him complete. Please take your seat. You can make a submission later on. I have not allowed you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will this country be divided on the basis of caste, religion and language? ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Your party supports the division of this country on the basis of religion...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): You have no knowledge of history...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, what is happening in this House that we cannot speak even on important matters? Are we at the mercy of these gentlemen here? ...(Interruptions) Some large number of people have been forcibly taken away from Mumbai, Maharashtra on the plea that they are foreigners...(Interruptions) May I have your kind attention? These people were being taken in a railway compartment and kept in chains. Can you imagine what is happening? They were brought here from Maharashtra in chains surrounded by the police people. I do not know under what law of this country the Maharashtra Police, the armed police can go to another State without even informing that State Government, without trying to take help of the police there on the basis of their own decision. ...(Interruptions) This is too important a matter and we are not allowed to speak. I do not know how the House can run. If there is not a little amount of patience with my hon. Friends here on that side, this House cannot

run ever. As I said the other day, the country is suffering tremendously because of a Government like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what our information is that some large number of people speaking Bengali language, working there and earning their livelihood, those poor people were huddled together and taken to a court one day and seven days later, the police came, arrested them, put them in a railway compartment and put them in chains. We are in 1998. I would like to know whether this is a civilised country or not.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: They are sending them to concentration camps.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is this a civilised country? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. Why are you getting up?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are proposing to hand them over to the BSF people at the border. The BSF people will hand them over to the other side. Those people who are Indians, have no right to stay in Bangladesh without the permission of that Government. Therefore, their fate is to remain in Bangladesh jails. I would like to know from the Government as to what crime have they committed. What is the procedure that was adopted?

Our hon. Member Shri Hannan Mollah met the hon. Home Minister on the 22nd July. He wrote to him on the 17th. I am told that Shri Advani expressed, "how can it happen like this?" But what steps has he taken? Therefore, I would like to strongly protest against what is being done. This is an inhuman behaviour on the part of a State Government which thinks, because of the present unfortunate dispensation in Delhi, that they are the rulers of the entire country. We will not permit that impression to go round. All these people cannot be treated in this manner. There are civilised procedures that will have to be adopted. No notice was given and or no proceedings were taken against them. Even if there is some law under which they were taken, in that case also, some opportunity has to be given to them. Anybody can find out that they belong to the districts which are in West Bengal, like

Howrah, 24 Parganas or Midnapore. Nobody can say that these people were originally Bangladeshis.

Sir, I would like to know, how even the Indian Railways were being utilised for this purpose. How was the Maharashtra Police being utilised for this purpose? How can you keep and transport people in this country in chains? I would like to know all this.

We have asserted...*(Interruptions)*... Out of 40 people who were taken away, 27 are Indians. Their names are on the electoral rolls of this country. They have got enough material to prove about their citizenship and their nationality. Sir is this the way this will happen?

So, we would like to strongly protest against this condemnable behaviour. I am not asking for the dismissal of the Government of Maharashtra. The people of Maharashtra will throw them out, I have no doubt about it...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know, what is the role of the Government of India? The Foreigners Act is there and if any other law on the subject is there, I would like to know whether the Central Government has any role to play so far as the foreigners in this country are concerned or not. The Government owes an explanation. I should have expected, when the matter was raised twice before in this House, that the Home Minister would come and make a Statement *suo motu* in the House after what has happened. But the House is not taken into confidence. The country is not being taken into confidence. The people who are treated as cattle in chains are not being thought of. This is not the way the Government can be concerned. We strongly protest against this.

Sir, I can tell you that the ordinary people of this country will stand by those unfortunate people who are being treated as cattle will be protected by them.

Therefore, we demand that this Government should take certain firm steps.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Kumari Mamata Banerjee to speak. Please take your seats.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not only now that we have raised this issue but we have raised it earlier also, some three-four years back. I agree to what Shri Sharad Pawar, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has said. On this very floor of the House, I raised this issue so many times that in Maharashtra, in

the name of Bangladeshis and in the name of deportation, some Indian citizens are being harassed. They may be Bengalis. But what message are we conveying to the people from this House? Because they are Muslims, that is why they are being harassed. That is wrong.

Sir, I appeal to your goodself that our country should not be divided on the basis of religion. It is our Constitutional Right that every citizen should be protected as a human being, as a citizen of this country.

But if the trend is like this, may I request the Home Minister through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that he should make a statement on this today itself? They should ask the Government of Maharashtra as to how many people are being deported from Maharashtra to Bangladesh. They were taken off the train *en route* Howrah...(Interruptions)... We know the place also...(Interruptions) ... Please let me finish. Who is really an Indian citizen? Even if somebody is a Bangladeshi, he should not be treated like cats and dogs, as we have traditional ties, ethnic and common culture with Bangladesh.

Yes, there are some people there who speak Bangla. They may come from different parts of that country in search of jobs, because of their economic problems. They are poor people. They may come. But in India, everybody is in minority. Who is not in minority? I am from Bengal. I am in majority in Bengal but I am in minority in the rest of the country. Similarly, Maharashtra people are in majority in Maharashtra but they are in minority in other parts of the country. Biharis are in majority in Bihar but they are in minority in Kerala. So, everybody is in majority in this country and everybody belongs to minority sections of this country.

So, a message should go to the people that nobody is harassed like this and the people are not tortured like this. We have to consider these cases on humanitarian grounds. I condemn this incident and I request that this matter be taken care of without any delay.

The Home Minister should make a statement as early as possible and take the findings from the Maharashtra Government also to actually know what is going on there. If atrocities are going on, they should be stopped immediately.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: It is a very sad incident again on the floor of this House. Firstly the Leader of the Opposition has levelled wild allegations against the State Government of Maharashtra. The subject matter was limited and restricted to the deportation of the

Bangladeshi people from Maharashtra to their own country. This was the limited subject matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: I have also given notice and I am coming to that subject also.

He has taken full advantage of the situation and levelled allegations. Anyway, I leave it to his good sense because it is recorded over here; one can say not to that also.

Today I have given a notice for 'Zero Hour' about one incident. But luckily it has come up in the House early. The incident was that a group of Bangladeshi people were deported to Bangladesh border and thereafter to Bangladesh. While the team of police accompanying these people were travelling towards the Bangladesh border, at one station—I do not remember the name of the station, it has been written in my notice—the mob, under the leadership of one of the MLAs—I do not know the name of that MLA also—had assaulted the police team and rescued...(Interruptions) all the people who were supposed to be deported and they were set free. The police had to open fire in order to save their own lives. This was the incident which took place.

Subsequently a number of stories have come over here. Somebody said in the House that various...(Interruptions) You can say whatever you want.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him; let him complete.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: My only grievance is that after assaulting the police, all the people to be deported were set free and the police had to resort to some firing in order to protect themselves.

Secondly, while mentioning this subject matter in this august House, it has been alleged that in the State of Maharashtra, people from Bangladesh have been assaulted, people from West Bengal have been assaulted, people from Uttar Pradesh and other States have been assaulted. I do not know from where all these stories have been collected.

To the best of my knowledge, not a single person, on the basis of his province, on the basis of his language, has been assaulted. People have been well protected during their stay here. But prior to that, when the Leader of the Opposition was the Chief Minister in the State of Maharashtra, everyone knows the number of persons assaulted. Everyone knows what was the

condition...(*Interruptions*) of the State. At that time the Leader of the Opposition said in the House itself that if they were Bangladeshis, if they were Pakistanis, they would be deported.

This is what Shri Sharad Pawar said earlier in the House and I was also present in the House. 'If Bangladeshi people are there, let me formulate a policy. ...(*Interruptions*) If they belong to Bangladesh, proper scrutiny will be done and, after the scrutiny, if at all it is proved that they are from Bangladesh, they will be deported. There are no two opinions on this. ...(*Interruptions*) Not only that, if they are Pakistanis, they shall not also be spared. They will be sent to various places.' ...(*Interruptions*) The problem as I see is that the ISI is very active. Even yesterday, there was a bomb blast in Delhi. ...(*Interruptions*) One bus was blown off and a number of people were seriously injured. The security of our country has come to such a stage and these people are raising the question of the security of the country.

Let me say that if they are national minded, we are also national minded people. If the security of this country has come to this stage, then, eventually, it is our utmost duty to see who are responsible and whether they have a right to stay in this country. We have to see that. There shall not be any compromise on the deportation of these foreigners. I am using the expression 'foreigners' that is 'Bangladeshis' and Pakistanis or anything else. ...(*Interruptions*)

Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said something about documents. But let me say that all these documents are fake documents and that they are wrong documents. There cannot be any point of argument or point of dispute on this question.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, while agreeing with hon'ble Shri Sharad Pawar, I would like to submit some points. The Constitution of our country is based on secularism. On the basis of this secularism in our country...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Sir, three hon. Members have already spoken on this topic. It has been discussed comprehensively. The hon. Minister is prepared to reply. ...(*Interruptions*) Let him give his reply and the topic should be closed.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Sir, there are other important issues also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed her to speak. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AKBAR AHMAD (Azamgarh): Sir, please do not allow these interruptions

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. .

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO: I agree that this is a serious issue. Similarly, I have sought your kind permission to raise another serious issue. I should be given permission to raise that.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you also.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Sir, the Minister is prepared to reply.

MR. SPEAKER: After she finishes, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will give his reply.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Through you, I would like to make the members of ruling party aware that our Constitution has been formulated on the basis of secularism. The word secularism depicts that centre and State Governments have the responsibility to protect the life and property of every citizen without any discrimination of cast, creed or religion. However, I am sorry to state that the present ruling party wants to formulate our Constitution on the basis of Hindutva. Present Government do not want that the people belonging to other religions live peacefully and their religion be protected. Today a very serious matter has been raised in the House. Since the Bharatiya Janata Party has come into power, it has been its strategy to give step-motherly treatment to the minority communities like Sikhs, Muslims, Christians and Buddhists...(*Interruptions*) When first time BJP Government came into power in Uttar Pradesh, Babri Masjid was demolished in Ayodhya...(*Interruptions*) In some areas of Rajasthan where BJP Government is in power, it has compelled the Muslims for the conversion of their religion. A large number of Muslims are living in Mumbai in Maharashtra for earning their bread and butter. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please take your seat. The Minister will reply.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have called me...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Under a conspiracy those people are being forcefully sent to Bangladesh after being labelled as Bangladeshi nationals.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you that it is a very serious matter and clarification should be sought from the Government for doing so. Hon'ble Prime Minister or Home Minister should give an explanation in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow all the Members to speak. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify one thing that any citizen of India belonging to any cast, creed or religion has the right to live in the country and the Government takes the responsibility of his safety...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, let the Minister complete the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: However, crores of foreign nationals are living in India without any legal documents. They are not the citizens of our country and we call them infiltrators. Hon'ble Home Minister will give a statement in the House tomorrow regarding the action being taken by the Maharashtra Government in this regard.

Secondly, I would like that a wrong signal should not go out of this House that this information has been given deliberately in the House. As I just said in the House that citizens of the country have the right to live here with self-respect. I never said that these are infiltrators in our country. During 10th Lok Sabha when Shri Narismha Rao was the Prime Minister and Shri Chavan was the Home Minister, they had stated in this very House that 3 lakh Bangladeshi people in Delhi and about 11/2 crores of Bangladeshi intruders were present in the country. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I remember, in 1992...(Interruptions) When Delhi's voter list was prepared. Please let me speak. Let me complete my speech.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chatterjee, please understand. Let the Minister complete the reply...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: You have given me the permission, I have cleared the point...(Interruptions) Let me speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not satisfied with the Minister's reply. Therefore, I and my party walk out of the House.

12.48 hrs.

At this stage Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that I was a member of the House, when in reply to a question Shri Chavan had stated that 3 lakh Bangladeshi infiltrators are living in Delhi. It means in 1993 when elections were held the names of 4 lakh Bangladeshi people were scored out of the 1992 voter list of Delhi. At that time BJP was not in power. Shri Narsimha Rao was in power and Shri Chavan was the Home Minister.

12.50 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ajay Chakraborty and some other Hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. You cannot dictate terms like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: A few months back a news item appeared in the newspapers that Bangladeshi people have also been deported from Karachi in Pakistan...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit that the Government will give full respect to all the citizens of the country without any discrimination of cast, creed or religion. Regarding the incident that happened in Maharashtra, I have already stated that tomorrow the Home Minister will make a statement in the House in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

12.51 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ajay Chakraborty and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Balam Jakhar.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we want an assurance from the hon. Minister that no such action will be taken against them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore): Sir, the Home Minister should come and make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that the hon. Home Minister will make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has to make it today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that the Home Minister will make a statement here. Please understand it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, please understand; he has already said that the Home Minister is going to make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That will be made tomorrow. We cannot accept it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Home Minister is going to make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But we want a categorical assurance from him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already given; the Home Minister is going to make a statement. He has already said that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, let him assure. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, please understand. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has already given an assurance that the Home Minister will make a statement here. Please understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We want an assurance.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: No Indian citizen will be expelled from the country.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we cannot accept it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He gave an assurance that the Home Minister will make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We strongly protest against the action of the fascist Government; and we walk out in protest.

12.53 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Balram Jakhar says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called Shri Balram Jakhar to make his submission. Madam, I have not called your name.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL (Hingoli): I stage a walk out from the House against it.

12.53 hrs.

At this stage Shrimati Surya Kanta Patil left the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Balram Jakhar says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has already given an assurance that the hon. Home Minister would make a statement here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Action to be taken in Maharashtra should be postponed till tomorrow...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I am saying that no Indian citizen will be sent out of the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Till the Home Minister's reply comes...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Balram Jakhar says.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We stage a walk out from the House against it.

12.54 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Jaipal Reddy left the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, this is an action taken against the minorities. The Government of India is supporting the State Government. Therefore, we walk out in protest against the statement made by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

12.55 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Buta Singh left the House

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): This is against the minorities. I strongly protest against the statement made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and walk out of the House...(Interruptions)

12.55 hrs.

At this stage, Shri E. Ahamed left the House

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Balram Jakhar.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important issue...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, this is too much. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the question of integrity of our country...(Interruptions)

12.56 hrs.

Shri Ramdas Athawaie then left the House

[English]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner): I would like to bring a very important subject to the notice of the House.

The third centenary celebrations of Khalsa Panth are going to be held next year. There are only six months left for it. I think, this is something to which every Member of this House would agree. It is a sort of interface movement. The former Chief Minister of Punjab, Shrimati Rajinder Kaur Bhattal and also the present Chief Minister, Shri Prakash Singh Badal passed a unanimous resolution in the Assembly that there should be a year for the commemoration of 300 years of the foundation of the Khalsa Panth. This is something which requires the attention and cooperation of all parties and they have agreed on this issue. They have written to the Government. But I must bring to the notice of the Government that they have not taken any step so far in this regard. They should initiate steps for it and we should also write to the United Nations to make it a year of cooperation with human spirit and that there should be a mega event.

Khalsa Panth has said something remarkable. Guru Govind Singh founded Khalsa Panth 300 years back on the day of Baisakhi. He said it openly.

[Translation]

it has been written in Guru Garanth Sahib:-

"Manas kee jat sabhey eko pehchano"

[English]

What is that? All human beings are one and there is no difference between them. He defines Khalsa like this:

Khalsa is he who shuns back-biting.

Khalsa is he who fights foremost.

Khalsa is he who respects other's rights.

Khalsa is he who loves God.

Khalsa is he who devotes himself to the Guru.

Khalsa is he who confronts arms.

Khalsa is he who helps the needy.

Khalsa is he who wages war against evil.

Khalsa is he who rides well.

So, this is what Khalsa is. It means standing for the good. The same thing is said by Guru Govind Singh and Guru Nanak in the Sikh Movement. He has said:

"Avval Allah Noor upayo, Kudrat key sab bande,

ek noor ton sab jag upjaya, kaun Bhale Kaun Mande."

Everything that has been said is so good.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given an adjournment motion...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: So, I appeal to this House to commemorate it as a national event and a national year should be earmarked by the Government. I think the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs would respond to this point. We, as a people, should celebrate it because it is a stormy year now where people are fighting against each other, there is a war against each other and there is a racist struggle going on.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given an adjournment motion regarding the law and order situation of Delhi...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Home Minister will give a statement in the House at 3 O'clock on bomb blast and law and order situation of Delhi...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, I have called Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to speak. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Karol Bagh): I am not getting a chance to speak here. Law and Order situation is deteriorating in Delhi everyday...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is saying.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently Indian scientists were deported from United States...(Interruptions) Seven scientists have already been deported. Indian scientists living in United States are mentally disturbed and are living under constant fear. It has been learnt that three rounds of talks have already been held between Indian Government and US representatives.

13.00 hrs.

We do not know the relation between Indian and the United States. Therefore, I request the Indian Government to clarify the relations between the two countries and to disclose the talk undertaken in this respect. Our people are in dark about the reasons for deportation of our scientists from United States. They are working there as doctors, businessman, professors and scholars. Therefore, I request any Union Minister or Minister of Parliamentary Affairs present in the House to brief about the steps taken so far to stop such expulsion of our scientists. A statement should be made on this subject...(Interruptions)

13.01 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Meira Kumar.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, there is a law and order problem in Delhi. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, I was called. ...(Interruptions) Then, he called the other name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who?

SHRI VAIKO: Mr. Speaker. ...(Interruptions) I am asking for my opportunity.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Let me speak. ...(Interruptions) He has asked me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaiko, I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Having already called her, please let her complete.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, let me speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, Home Minister is responsible for maintaining law and order in Delhi which is not in order...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, he is questioning the ruling of the Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jos, let me hear him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Goel, let me understand it.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I have given a Privilege Motion. I am using my rights.....*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar): It should not be allowed to go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, my only submission is that 10 members are nominated for the Panel of Chairman by the Speaker. Every Member enjoys the same rights as given to Speaker.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Goel, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you given a notice for a privilege motion?

* Not Recorded.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been received here. It will be placed for consideration of the Speaker. Now, Shrimati Meira Kumar.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It constitutes a reflection on the Speaker. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: His notice for a privilege motion has been received just now. It will have to be placed before the Speaker. The enquiry aspect will remain on record. But the other aspect regarding contents of the privilege will not be there on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you will get a chance. I appeal to all of you to kindly cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to adjourn.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, with great anguish and pain, I want to point out that law and order has totally collapsed in Delhi.

Sir, Delhi has turned into a wild West. Yesterday there was a bomb blast in which two people were killed and so many people have been seriously injured. Everyday there is loot, dacoity, murder and rape. Every kind of crime is being committed in broad daylight. Old people and children especially are vulnerable to such crimes. Out of 204 days of this year, there have been 405 different kinds of crime in Delhi. Even the *samadhi* of Mahatma Gandhi was destroyed and there is no security. The people of Delhi are feeling so insecured that there is a panic situation everywhere.

The Home Minister himself has acknowledged that Delhi has no law and order. The law and order situation in Delhi has totally collapsed. In such a circumstance, when the Home Minister himself has said this, I think, the Government of Delhi should be dismissed. There should be a statement in the House from the Home Minister on this...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaiko, I will call your name.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Sir, I have also given notice...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very important matter.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, it is a very serious matter...(Interruptions) The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should make a statement in the regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to react?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram): Sir, there are other issues also...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call your name also. Now let me hear Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Sir, he has already spoken during the 'Zero Hour' and has also walked out during the 'Zero Hour' itself...(Interruptions) What is the procedure that is being adopted...(Interruptions) Sir, we are waiting for our chance...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Sir, he has already spoken in 'Zero Hour'...(Interruptions) He also has walked out...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: No, I have not spoken...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Please look into the records and see...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sathiamoorthy, let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given notice of Adjournment Motion on law and order situation in Delhi.

[English]

The adjournment Motion should get top priority.

[Translation]

Presentation of adjournment motion itself means that the law and order situation is very bad in Delhi. Since Police Department is under the Home Ministry of Central Government, therefore, Centre is directly responsible for such a situation alongwith Delhi Government.

Sir, I would like to submit that no issue could be more appropriate for adjournment motion where the Union Home Minister and also Shri Khurana has stated that law and order situation in Delhi has deteriorated...*(Interruptions)* You may state on T.V. that law and order situation is good in Delhi. In spite of the statement of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that the people of Delhi are safe and situation is under control and has not become explosive, the people are still dying and the Government has remained silent on the issue. If the Government admit that the law and order situation has deteriorated, then through you, I demand the reply in this regard from the Government. I do not know whether the Home Minister will give the reply or not but I know as to what the reply will be. I would like to submit that either the House should be adjourned or the Government should say that the law and order situation is good in Delhi. Otherwise, tomorrow they will be answerable to the people of Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Sir, I have given a notice on the same issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to react.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Sir, I have also given a notice on the same issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I should give you the permission to speak. I will not give you permission like this. You cannot impose on me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What is the reaction of the Minister? He comes from Delhi. What is the law and order situation in Delhi?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Khurana Ji, you have to address the Chair and not the Members.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the morning I have talked to Union Home Minister. He will make a statement in the House at 3 P.M. Secondly the question raised by you regarding the scientists...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Kindly allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: Mr. Chairman, Sir...*(Interruptions)* Madam, kindly allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I will ask the Minister of Human Resource Development to give information regarding the scientists...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): I will speak only when silence prevails...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me.

With a heavy heart and terrible agony, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue. A grave tragedy has taken place in Palk straits. About 47 refugees who were coming from Sri Lanka were killed when their boat capsized. They were drowned to death. The dead ones include pregnant

women and also the children. One of the survivors, Shri Velayudham with tears in his eyes stated that before his own eyes his pregnant wife and children were crying but he could not help them and now he was wondering why he had survived. About 47 people have drowned in the ocean. Our late lamented founder of DMK, Peraringer Anna once said, 'the sea water is getting salty because of the tears of the Tamils'. The survivors have narrated how the mishap took place. According to them the accident took place because of the genocidal attack launched by the Sinhalese Government. There was bombardment from the planes. In order to get some solace, succor and asylum as refugees, these people were coming to India.

This is not an internal problem of Sri Lanka. The former Prime Minister, Shri Gujral, stated, 'whatever has happened, is an internal problem of Sri Lanka'. This is a problem of universal human right. I would say that this is worse than what has happened in Bosnia. More than 10 lakh people have been uprooted from their traditional homes. They are now in jungles. They are dying without food and medicines.

What happened two days back is only the tip of the iceberg. The press cannot go there because of the genocidal attack. There is censorship there. Representatives of the International Red Cross Association could not visit the affected areas.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is 'zero hour'.

SHRI VAIKO: A lot of time is wasted on a lot of issues. Why are you getting disturbed over this issue? You need not remind me that it is 'zero hour'. It is a matter which concerns us very much. Our hearts reach out to the victims. ...*(Interruptions)* I shouted against the Member who said that it is 'zero hour'. I can reply to him, if he stands up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaiko, you are a senior Member. Do not invite troubles like this.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, it might be a matter to laugh at for these people. It is because of the foreign policy pursued by the previous Government that these things are happening. They committed blunder after blunder. When our kith and kin are getting killed like this, we cannot shut our eyes to the reality. This genocidal attack against the Tamils should be stopped. I urge upon the Government that they should take it up as an issue of human rights and ask the Government of Sri Lanka to stop forthwith the genocidal attacks on the innocent Tamils. Since the hon. Prime Minister is going to Sri

Lanka to attend the SAARC Conference, the matter should be taken up there. In the same Pak Strait, our fishermen are getting killed everyday by the Sri Lankan Navy. This is going on everybody. Our own Tamil fishermen as well as Tamil refugees who are coming from Sri Lanka, are getting killed. The Government of India should realise the seriousness of the problem, and take up the issue of protecting the innocent Tamils.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may make her statement now.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Sir, I gave notice on the same matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister ought to have made the statement at 1 o'clock. So, let the Minister make her statement now.

13.18 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

*Re: Telecast of a documentary on
Sardar Sarovar Project*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, during Zero Hour, on Friday, the 24th July a few hon'ble Members raised the matter against the telecast of documentary on Sardar Sarovar Project on television. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs assured to give a statement in this regard on Monday. While fulfilling his assurance, with your permission, I would like to present this statement in the House.

On 19th July, 1998 Doordarshan had telecast "Laha" an award winning film on resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected families of Sardar Sarovar Project (Narmada river) The 28 minutes telecast commenced at 10.32 p.m. in the IDPA Panorama Documentary time slot.

"Laha" is a film shot in 16 mm in colour. It had earlier been telecast in 1994 in its original 40 minute format. The film was produced in 1994 by eminent documentary film makers Ms. Sumitra Bhavne and Mr. Sunil Sukthankar. It had received certificate of merit in Barcelona in 1996 and it had won accolades during its screening at Thiruvananthapuram International Film Festival in 1994 and Mumbai Film Festival in 1996. "Laha"

has duly been cleared for public exhibition by the Censor Board.

The 28 minutes time slot at 10.32 p.m. on Sunday has been allotted to Indian Documentary Producers Association (IDPA) under an agreement reached between Doordarshan and IDPA last year. The documentaries to be telecast in the Panorma documentaries time slot of 10.32 pm on Sunday are selected by a Committee, which previews all the candidate films, keeping in view the broad policies of telecast on national network of Doordarshan. The Selection Committee consists of two journalists, two IDPA executive committee members, two outside film makers and two documentary film producers. The President of the IDPA Shri Arun Khopar has an established name and presence in the domain of documentary films.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, broadcast of programmes on Doordarshan are now within the purview of Prasar Bharati, which has been set up as an autonomous statutory organisation with full powers regarding such matters...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is true that this film has been made, but the facts shown in respect of the Sardar Sarovar Project are absolutely wrong. ...*(Interruptions)* Sardar Sarovar is being constructed in Gujarat but the steps taken by Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh Governments to rehabilitate the displaced persons have been shown incorrectly in this film. ...*(Interruptions)* We are opposing because we want that true facts should be given and our feelings should be respected. Whatever has been shown in this film is beyond the facts...*(Interruptions)* The case is lying pending with the Supreme Court. These facts show that the interests of Gujarat State have been ignored. We are opposing it with the request to the Government to review the film as it does not depict the facts. We oppose the production of such a film...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There cannot be any discussion on the Statement by the Minister, not even a clarification.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has made a statement. You know, according to our convention, after a statement is made, you cannot have a discussion or clarification on that statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaiko has sent a note to the hon. Speaker and the hon. Speaker has permitted him and not all of you.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: My name is in the list. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate, Shri Sathiamoorthy.

[English]

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram): The incident has happened in my constituency. I am from Rameshwaram.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, Shri V. Sathiamoorthy.

13.22 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad and Shrimati Suryakanta Patil came and stood on the floor near the Table

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 23rd July, 52 persons of Tamil Eelam left Sri Lanka to reach India. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why can you not tell your Members to sit down? This is too much.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.23 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad and Shrimati Suryakanta Patil went back to their seats

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Forty-four of them including women and children drowned in the sea and died pathetically while they were coming to Rameshwaram from Sri Lanka as refugees.

Sir, a vigorous war is going on between the Sri Lankan Army and the LTTE in Jaffna. This region is thick-populated by Tamilians. There is no safety for the lives of the innocent Tamil people in Jaffna area. Some of them want to save themselves by coming to Tamil Nadu as refugees. But both the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Army are preventing them from leaving.

In such a circumstance, it is a usual and routine thing that the innocent affected people escaping from the Sri Lankan Army and Navy are trying to reach Tamil

Nadu as refugees by small unsafe boats and in the process most of them are meeting with fatal accidents. They are in a very pitiable condition.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to take up the issue under humanitarian considerations with the Government of Sri Lanka and take some official measures to help those refugees who are all willing to come over to India. In order to safeguard their lives, some authorised vessels may be arranged and pathetic deaths may be prevented in the mid-sea.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of Gujarat has not been completed...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL (Hingoli): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, at last, you allowed me to speak.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, National Industrial Tribunal constituted as per the direction of Supreme Court has ordered to provide Salaries and other allowances to the officers and other staff Members of regional banks at par with the nationalised banks vide order dated 30th April, 1990. This order was given to the Government of India which intrun ordered for its implementation vide order dated 22 Feb. 1991. Accordingly, the facilities provide by the 5th Pay agreement have been provided to Regional Rural Banks of Banking industries. Thereafter, the agreements reached on 14th Feb, 1995 and 30.6.98 for staff and officers respectively and order dated 29.10.93 have not yet been implemented. Allahabad High Court and Kanpur Labour Court have ordered for the payments but orders are yet to be implemented.

The employees of Rural banks have been demanding the establishment of Bharatiya Rashtriya Gramin Banks for a long time. Earlier this demand was also raised by the members of all the parties. Members of Parliament of all the political parties had unanimously decided in a meeting held on 7th October, 1993 in the North Block that Bharatiya Rashtriya Gramin Bank should be established by merging all the 196 Rural banks of our country. This Fourth Report of the Standing Committee was laid on the Table of the House on 23.12.93.

Today, thousands of representatives of Rural banks from all over the country are demonstrating before the Parliament House. It is a request to the Minister of Finance to accept the demands of officials of rural banks and to announce it in the House today.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): Mr. Chairman, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am going according to the list.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (Thiruvananthapuram): Sir, I want to bring to the notice of this House a very important and urgent issue, that is, establishment of a Division Bench at the Capital of the State of Kerala...(Interruptions) Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is not there.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, it is there...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am going according to the list.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I do not know, what is the criterion. I may be permitted to say a few words...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) Please call the members serial-wise. My notice is at number 2.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Shri Baalu's name. After that I will call you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: We have given the notice according to the serial. My notice is at number 2 ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You get the opportunity to speak almost every day. Please sit quietly.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): Mr. Chairman Sir, with great angush, I would like to draw the kind attention of this august House and the Government about the excruciatingly painful state of affairs of the Indian fishermen, especially from Rameshwaram.

Sir, on 26th June 1974, Shrimati Gandhi entered into an agreement with her counterpart, Shrimati Srimavo Bandamaike to settle the boundary line in the waters between Palk Strait and Adams Bridge. On 23rd March 1976, one more agreement was entered into between the Sri Lankan Government and the Indian Government to settle the issue of boundary in the Gulf of Mannar. Both the Agreements are valid as on date. The 1976 Agreement does not supercede the 1974 Agreement.

As per article 5 of the 1974 Agreement, Indian fishermen and pilgrims would enjoy unrestricted access to Katchatheevu and they do not require any travel documents or visa. Article 6 of the same 1974 Agreement states that the vessels of India as well as Sri Lanka can enter into anybody's waters; they can fish and go and the traditional rights given to them are valid. Thus, in terms of these articles, the traditional rights of Indian fishermen to fish near Katchatheevu have been accepted and conceded. However, in April 1976, through an Executive Order issued by the Government of India, Indian fishermen fishing in these areas were asked to confine to their operations within the territorial waters of India.

These Executive Orders have caused untold hardships to our fishermen over the years. The Sri Lankan Navy is harassing our fishermen, cutting their nets, seizing their boats, even capturing them and keeping them in custody indefinitely. So far, 123 incidents took place. Out of which, 229 boats were attacked, 28 boats were sunk; 59 fishermen died in shooting and 194 fishermen were injured. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri T. R. Baalu, please conclude now. This is 'Zero Hour'. You cannot make a long speech.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu had written letters many times but the Government of India is keeping lukewarm, and the harassment of our fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy continues unabated.

Hence, I demand that the Prime Minister, who is going to Sri Lanka tomorrow to participate in the SAARC Conference, should speak to his counterpart in Sri Lanka and stop this menace.

Finally, before I conclude, the Government of India...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? You are making a long speech.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I will conclude in one sentence.

The Government of India should set up a monitoring cell consisting of Sri Lankan Navy and Indian Coast Guard officials so that the district administration could easily contact the cell and solve the problems then and there without taking the matter every time up to Delhi.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, ever since the formation of the new States, the people of southern part of Kerala was demanding to re-establish...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaiko, please resume your seat. Shri Baalu, please resume your seat. It is very difficult to control.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): Shri Vaiko, you wanted silence when you speak but now you are interfering when our Member is speaking...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Muthiah, kindly resume your seat. What is this? Let others also have their chance.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Mr. Chairman, ever since the new State was formed in the year 1956, the people of southern part of Kerala was demanding to re-establish the Bench which they were having in the capital city of Kerala, that is Trivandrum.

Sir, unfortunately, for the last 52 years, their cry, if I may say so, was not heard by those responsible in the Government. Even today they are repeating their request. Sir, Probably, Kerala is the only State where the capital of the State is not having the High Court.

Today their demand is at least to have a Division Bench with full powers for filing, etc. All the facilities are there. This was there before 1956. As you know, as a part of the State-Reorganisation, it was made very clear in the Act itself that the capital of the State should have the High Court also. But, unfortunately in Kerala, it was not so, due to certain political reasons. I do not want to repeat them. Today the request of the people of southern part of Kerala is to have a Division bench with filing powers.

I appeal to this Government to kindly look into it and establish a Division bench at the State Capital without any further delay.

Sir, unfortunately the Court has not taken any view.

Recently, Sir in Rajasthan they wanted to establish a bench in Udaipur but it is reported that the High Court

has not agreed to that. I can understand the running of the judicial administration, whether it is a High Court or whichever court it may be. Setting up a Division Bench in the State Capital is the people's demand. It is not only the demand of the litigants but also the demand of the people of Kerala. I will quote only one sentence of Justice Bhagwati. Justice Bhagwati said, "The time has now come when the court must become the court of the poor and the struggling masses of the country. They must be sensible to the needs and of doing justice to the large masses of the people to whom justice has been denied for generations."

Under this observation, whatever the court may say, it is the right of the Government to take a decision. It should be a political decision. It is the need of the people of the country. So, the Government should take initiative to establish a full bench with all responsibilities at Trivandrum, the capital of the State...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You say it in one sentence that you are supporting it or endorsing it. Are you endorsing this?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Yes, I am endorsing this. But my case is a little bit different. I have given notice on the same demand. There is already an agitation by the lawyers of Trivandrum. They are holding a demonstration. They have even boycotted the courts. There is an Action Committee and they are also demanding the establishment of a High Court Bench at Trivandrum. I have given notice on the same thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why, I am calling you.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There was already a Division Bench functioning at Trivandrum. It was stopped and we want to revive the Division Bench once established and functioned at Trivandrum in the past. Jaswant Singh Commission has also given its recommendation. The recommendations should be completely followed and a Bench should be established at Trivandrum. Why should we get agitated? I am only raising the people's cause. I have given notice on the same thing. It is the need of the hour.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Sir, I have also given notice.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is because the State Government and its exchequer will be benefited if a Bench is established at Trivandrum. In the entire thing, the State Government is a party. It will have to go to Trivandrum. I therefore, request the Central Government

to establish a Division Bench at Trivandrum...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You just say in one single sentence that you endorse it.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) Sir, I fully support the views expressed by these two leaders and I would like to state that as per the hon. Jaswant Singh Commission's report, the capital of the State of Kerala is fulfilling the requirements. So, it is the urgent need of the State of Kerala to have a Bench with full powers of filing cases also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already told both of you to say that you endorse it. All right, you say that you endorse the point raised by them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want another Bench at Kasaragod also?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) Sir, he is also supporting the same.

SHRI P. SANKARAN (Calicut): Sir, I have given notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is there.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name should have been called earlier. But I do not know why it was not called.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given a notice and so has Raghuvansh Prasad Ji. The Indian Scientist have been asked to leave U.S.A. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. SANKARAN: Sir, I have given notice for another issue. I have been giving notice everyday but I never get a chance to speak in this august House. So many notices have been given by me but I never got a chance because I am not making any noise. That is the only problem. I am sitting quietly here. What is the reason I am not getting a chance? If this situation prevails, it is very difficult for new Members to raise any issue in the House. It is very sad.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is there. I will call you. I am calling each one of you according to the list already provided to me. Your name is there. When your name comes, I will be calling you. You just cannot get up and say anything and everything that you want to say.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Sir, he is supporting our view...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, U.S.A. is doing a wrong thing by making false proppanda against the Indian Scientists and Indians throughout the world ever since nuclear tests have been conducted at Pokharan in Rajasthan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, seven scientists were made to leave U.S.A. a few days ago. We are not worried about the people who were working there. We will provide jobs to those scientists in our own country. However, at least 100 Indian students studying science, who had gone there to make their careers as research scholars or for some other purposes have also been served notice to leave USA. Their life is being spoiled. I demand from this Government and I agree that the Government has caused a heavy loss to the country to gain political mileage but then only Indians can condemn such an act. We have not given foreigners any right to intervene in our internal matters. You have done a great harm to this country. However all our matters will be taken up here and that too by Indians.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that the career of the students studying science on scholarship is being spoiled. Hence Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development should take up their cases. He should think about the repercussions it is likely to have on their education and career and ensure that their career is not spoiled.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (Motihari): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak. I had raised an issue in this House on 8th June and it has now acquire extremely painful dimension. My husband was murdered on 13th. Had I known that I shall not get justice even after raising this issue in the House on 8th, I would never have raised it. I had submitted that Shri R.K. Singh of C.B.I. is hatching a conspiracy to murder my husband. I went to my constituency on 12th and my husband was murdered on 13th. Thereafter, I have been continuously asking in this

House for referring the matter to Privilege Committee, however, that too was delayed. More than two months have passed but I have not got justice so far and there is no hope of getting justice in near future also...(Interruptions) Please keep quiet.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a conspiracy is being hatched now in a planned manner to kill me and this has been confirmed by the D.I.G. of Bihar. I do not feel safe any more. I and the National President of my party, Shri Lalu Prasad met the Union Minister of Home Affairs in this regard and many letters were sent to him also, but it is a matter of regret that the Union Minister of Home Affairs has not been able to make proper arrangement for my security. I sent a representation on 24th July also. Still no attention was paid. I met him personally also, however nothing has been done so far...(Interruptions) What I mean to say is what should I do? Should I attend the House or should I sit on a dhama? Should I think that there is no regard for women in this House and they do not have any rights? ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Home Minister will come to the House at 3 O'clock.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) (U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rama Devi ji has raised this issue many times. I regret to state that the Union Government has still not made any arrangement for her security. She is a Member of Parliament and even if she had not been a Member of Parliament, the circumstances in which her husband has been murdered, could have been taken into account. I do not wish to speak much in this regard, but I fail to comprehend as to why the Government is maintaining silence in such a serious matter and why is it not taking any decision in this regard. I feel that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs cannot say that this is the duty of Minister of Home Affairs alone. Mr. Speaker and you are directly concerned with the issue of security of Members of Parliament. It is the responsibility of Mr. Speaker and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to ensure the safety of all the Members of Parliament and appropriate steps should be taken in this regard today itself. I am not asking for a statement, but the Ministry of Home Affairs should provide security to her at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Minister or Parliamentary Affairs should respond to this...(Interruptions) Sir, it is your duty to give protection to the Members...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I'll tell you after consulting him...*(Interruptions)* I can't say anything right now regarding the sentiments expressed by Hon'ble Chandra Shekhar ji, Rama Devi ji and other Hon'ble Members, but I'll surely tell you after I have spoken to my colleague in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister is coming at three o'clock and making a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* In 1987, the famous socialist leader...*(Interruptions)* Public Health Guides were appointed in all the villages throughout the country by the former Union Health Minister Late Shri Raj Narain ji. Medicines were provided to people through them. These Guides were given fifty to hundred rupees per month as honorarium. However, that programme has been discontinued and medicines are also not being provided in the villages. The Public Health Guides had staged a demonstration in Delhi recently. Through you, I request Hon'ble Minister of Health and the Government to provide medicines for the Public Health Guides and to increase their honorarium. They should be made permanent. With these words, I conclude...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA (Chandouli): Varanasi is the cultural and religious centre of India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: They are given fifty rupees per month. They go to the villages...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot direct the Minister to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Shri Maurya now.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Varanasi is the cultural and religious capital of India...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? You could have reacted immediately after his mentioning it.

[Translation]

Whenever I call somebody else, you stand up. If you want to react, tell me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: You have asked me to stand up. Of my own, I don't want to say anything...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: After he mentioned it, if the Government wanted to react, the Government could have reacted. After I have called somebody else, if the Minister stands up, then there is a confusion. Now after having already got up to react, you just say whatever you want to say. If you do not want to say anything, I will call the next Member.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please let hon'ble Minister reply...*(Interruptions)* he wants to give reply...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: We have held talks with the leaders of all the parties. The matter is under active consideration. We cannot give an exact date for this, but we are doing it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Maurya.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing, except what Shri Maurya says, will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Varanasi is the cultural and religious capital of India and Ganga has its own importance in Varanasi. For the last many years, the work on Ganga Action Plan is going on. Under this Action Plan, a Ganga Sewage Treatment Plant has been installed in my area—Salarpur. The State of Sewage

treatment plant is so bad that it has made life miserable for the local residents. The area is swarmed by flies, mosquitoes and insects. A few days back an epidemic like situation had developed there. Trans Varuna Sewer Scheme associated with Ganga Action Plan is pending for so many years. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has already submitted its plan outlay to the Ministry of Environment. The matter is pending. Due to delay in implementation of Trans-Varuna Sewer Scheme, three lakh people living in the cultural capital, Varanasi are forced to spend their days in dirt. I demand from the Government that Environment Ministry should pay immediate attention to this scheme and ensure its implementation at the earliest. The sewage treatment Plant at Salarpur should be repaired, otherwise it is very difficult for the people to live there.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to inform the House that the rural area of Kheri in the State of Uttar Pradesh, which shares its northern border with Nepal, has become a safe haven for smugglers. Many unemployed boys, corrupt police officials and corrupt politicians are involved in it. Illegal trade worth lakhs of rupees is being done there every year. It has become a cause of serious threat to national security. The Sinister alliance between smugglers and foreign spies is no longer a secret. Many times large hauls of illegal arms have been seized at borders.

It is regrettable that entire administrative machinery of Kheri is influenced by a senior Minister of the State Government. As a result, smugglers and anti-national elements are getting protection openly. I expect from the government to take immediate action in this regard and make extensive arrangements to stop smuggling over there...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call the names according to the list. Already the mess has been created.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was born in Bengal. When a conspiracy was hatched in Jammu and Kashmir to disintegrate Jammu and Kashmir from India, at that time a movement was launched that there cannot be two laws, two heads of State, and two flags in one country. To provide leadership to this movement, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee went from Bengal to Kashmir. He said that Kashmir was an integral part of India and he would not visit Kashmir with a permit. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was arrested on the banks of Ravi river, where border of Jammu-Kashmir began. He was the leader of an opposition party. The leader of the opposition was arrested on the land of Jammu and

Kashmir but was taken to jail of Kashmir. But later, only his dead body arrived back. His death broke the barriers between India and Kashmir. At that time, permit and custom barriers for Indians to visit Kashmir were removed. The Prime Minister of Kashmir became the Chief Minister of Kashmir and Sadar-e-Riyasat became Governor. The Supreme Court's jurisdiction was extended to Kashmir. The jurisdiction of Auditor-General was also extended to the State. The elections were held there, and other labour laws also came into force.

Although at that time all these barriers were broken, yet unfortunately, even today his death remains a mystery. Today the death of the leader of the Opposition who sacrificed his life on the land of Kashmir has not been probed. It is not clear whether he died or was killed. I request that as we are having our own government today and we revere Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, so inquiry should be conducted into the circumstances of his death so that everything should be crystal clear. This is a very serious matter. A leader of opposition was killed in jail. I request the Government to inquire into this matter immediately. Even inquiry of the deaths of Subhas Chandra Bose and Gandhiji was done after many years. Therefore there is no reason why the inquiry into the death of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee can't be held.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to invite the attention of this august House towards acute shortage of drinking water in my constituency, that is, Kutch. After the unprecedented cyclonic storm, many persons have lost their lives and more than 12 lakh fruit-bearing trees have been lost. The only hope for the people of Kutch for drinking water and irrigation is Narmada water and Narmada water is entangled in a dispute for so many years. The Supreme Court has fixed the next date for hearing of the case for 13th August. I only urge, through you, upon this Government that this matter requires to be settled. Otherwise the people of Kutch will have no other go but to migrate. Without water, they cannot live there. Their condition is very miserable. Their only hope is Narmada water. I request the Government that the Narmada water issue be settled, as included in the National Agenda for Governance. This dispute requires to be settled, otherwise so many repercussions will be there and many divisions will be there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to inform the House that there

are two types of banks in India. Firstly, there are, Government Banks which do not charge compound interest and secondly there are Commercial Banks, which charge compound interest. Commercial banks collect from ten to fifteen times of principal amount by charging compound interest from small cultivators or marginal farmers. In villages, farmers buy tractor with the bank loan and after that they charge such an exorbitant interest on it that it becomes very difficult for farmers to repay the instalments. As a result, these banks confiscate the tractor, land and houses of the farmers. They are ruining the farmers. I want to give you an example. Shri Khwazukhan of village Berakhera, Keshoraypatna, district Bundi had taken loan from a bank to buy a tractor. The bank had confiscated his 200 bighas of land and the tractor. And now along with other people, they are cultivating his land. In this way, the bank is not even paying compensation to the farmer. Thus, the farmers are being ruined. There are thousands of similar cases. After coming into power, the Bharatiya Janata Party should have encouraged cooperative banks for farmers. But this is not happening. These cooperative banks are made for the benefit of the farmers. I request you to encourage these banks and to fix lower rate of interest, which should not be more than two to four times in respect of loans to the marginal farmers and poor people. It will benefit the farmer.

SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN (Balaghat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a few Ranger Colleges in Madhya Pradesh. There is one Ranger College in my Balaghat Parliamentary constituency. The Ministry for Forests, Government of India is transferring 25 year old Ranger College to Chandrapur. People are protesting over there. They are demonstrating on road. I request the Government of India to let that Ranger College remain in Balaghat only because training for Rangers is held there. In Madhya Pradesh, maximum forest area, and bamboo growing area is in Balaghat.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very serious issue of national importance. Hundreds of people are going to Oman, especially from Kerala, for employment and they are getting employment there. But recently the Government of Oman has imposed a restriction—production of a medical certificate for the application of visa as well as for going there. This restriction is imposed only on Indians, Sri Lankans and Pakistanis. This is a restriction only on Asians, whereas the Europeans can go there without producing any medical certificate, with the result, that comes as a great restriction for the movement of the people to that place.

It will create a lot of difficulties to the people who are going there to seek employment. So, this is a question of human rights. The Europeans can go there without any problem, whereas the Asians have to produce a medical certificate. This discrimination has to be tackled internationally.

Sir, I would request the Ministry of Labour as well as the Ministry of External Affairs to take up this matter with the Government of Oman and remove this restriction so that the people can go to Oman freely, to seek employment. I would also request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to convey this matter to the concerned Ministers.

Sir, this is a very serious matter. Hundreds of people are going to Oman for seeking employment. They are coming out, but they cannot join their family when they go back. The hon. Labour Minister is present there. He has to take it seriously and I would request him to react to this matter.

SHRI P. SANKARAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to raise a matter which is of paramount importance to the State of Kerala.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the sorry and deplorable plight of the nursing students of Kerala.

14.00 hrs.

Sir, the Nursing Council had intimated the Government of Kerala that it is constrained to withdraw the recognition given to Nursing Colleges of Calicut and Trivandrum, Kerala. As per the State Government, the Nursing Council had conducted an inspection in the year 1996 in which these two institutions were termed as 'suitable under-modification'. In 1997 another inspection was conducted in which these colleges were termed as 'unsuitable'. These two institutions have produced hundreds of nurses. They are all working in major hospitals of India like Safdarjung Hospital, AIIMS, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, etc. All these nurses have proved their mettle. They are competitive, hard working and efficient. Since the recognition has been withdrawn, they are put to hardship. To the students who want to join these institutions and those who are already studying there, if they are not given recognition, what will be their plight? These students who have passed the examination from these two institutions are working in prestigious hospitals have proved their suitability. These institutions which have been termed as 'unsuitable', can produce most competitive students. Their unsuitability may be rechecked.

Sir, I can see that in my neighbouring States, some institutions are running in thatched sheds and they are not having even the primary necessities of nursing colleges are given recognition. So, this is a step-motherly attitude towards the State of Kerala. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to reverse the decision taken by the Nursing Council and grant permanent recognition so that the students can continue their studies. This state of affairs should be changed and the matter should be enquired into.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter is related to Aadvasis. I shall conclude my statement in a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, sit down. I will call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a couple of days ago, the RSS Chief, Prof. Rajender Singh delivered a lecture to IAS officers in Uttar Pradesh. A section of IAS Officers have now raised an objection to RSS Chief bringing in politics to the bureaucracy. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had laid a policy that bureaucracy is a very important pillar of our whole polity. But bureaucracy has to remain away from political influence...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur): Sir, he should be corrected. They were his pupils and students of Allahabad University...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): How can I speak wrong...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, this involves a question of propriety. What he preached there was what B.J.P. calls 'cultural nationalism'. There is an objection from the IAS cadre itself to what he spoke there. Some IAS officers might have got degrees from the Allahabad University and might have been his students. There is no objection. They can invite him to their courtyard. But they cannot invite him to the official premises. He cannot address IAS officers directly and preach his cultural nationalism. I raise this objection because already in a section of Press, this has been reflected.

Ultimately, the RSS's hidden ideology will create difficulties to the B.J.P. Government. We are watching it.

It will create difficulties for the B.J.P.-led coalition. The RSS has a hidden ideology. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore): The hidden agenda is nothing but the burning patriotism of our people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is 'Zero Hour.'

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: How can the RSS Chief go and address the bureaucrats and want the bureaucracy to follow the RSS' policies? We do not accept the cultural nationalism as propagated in the RSS ideology. This cannot happen in this country and we cannot allow this. The bureaucracy has to remain away from the political influence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chauhan, please resume your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, it is a very serious matter.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: How can the RSS Chief, whom they call 'Rajju Baiyya' go to the official premises and deliver his speech to the bureaucrats? This is not only objectionable but also unconstitutional. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, we also support that.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: It is a question of propriety.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha): Sir, 'Rajju Baiyya' was the Head of the Department in Allahabad University. He was called by his former students. It has nothing to do with the Government or any official thing.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: He cannot do this. We cannot use the official premises.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: His former students have called him. So, he cannot have any objection.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: How can he use the official premises? He should not have addressed the IAS officers. Now, some of the IAS officers have taken objection to that.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: If they had any objection, then they should not have done that. He had gone there as a former teacher. The ex-students had approached him as their former teacher.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: He went and lectured on RSS' philosophy of cultural nationalism. They are now unravelling the hidden agenda of the RSS. We reject it.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Sir, all these facts are wrong. He is only quoting from the papers.

14.06 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Thursday, the 16th July, 1998 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Accounts:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999 and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

- (2) I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:—

1. Shri Md. Salim
2. Shri K.R. Malkani
3. Shri Satishchandra Sitaram Pradhan
4. Shri J. Chitharanjan
5. Shri Jayant Kumar Malhotra
6. Shri Vayalar Ravi
7. Shri K. Rahman Khan'.

- (ii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Thursday, the 16th July, 1998 adopted the

following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999 and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

- (2) I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:—

1. Dr. Gopalrao Vithalrao Patil
2. Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav
3. Shri Gopal Singh Solanki
4. Shri H. Hanumanthappa
5. Shri Jitendra Prasada
6. Shri Jibon Roy
7. Shri Yerra Narayanaswamy'.

14.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till five minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at eight minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

...(Interruptions)

[SHRI KHAGAPATI PRADHANI *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before the Home Minister makes the statement, I want to make one point for clarification. In Ahmedabad, Gujarat the Holy Bible was burnt by miscreants.

Bajrang Dal and ABVP entered a school in Rajkot and assaulted a student.

Such incidents are taking place repeatedly. Christian schools are being attacked everywhere and the Holy Bible is being burnt down by miscreants.

The situation is very serious in Rajkot.

The '*The Times of India*' has given this news in its editorial. This incident in Ahmedabad has been reported not only in all national newspapers but all the vernacular newspapers have also reported about this incident in their editorials.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the 'Zero Hour.'

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you raise this without the permission of the Chair?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani): Sir, the Home Minister should make a statement on this also...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: It is a very serious issue...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This issue is not included in the agenda.

SHRI A.C. JOS: When the Home Minister makes a statement, he may consider this also...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? You are showing papers. Everything is written in the papers.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he should give statement about Ahmedabad's incidents also because in Ahmedabad Holy Bible was burnt and minorities schools were attacked.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. This is not the 'Zero Hour'.

If you want any change after his statement
...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you not hear me?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: This also should be included while making a statement...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? I am saying and you do not allow me to speak. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Speaker has given order regarding yesterday's bomb-blasts. Home Minister is going to make a statement about this incident. He has to make this statement in Rajya Sabha also. Therefore, first, he may be allowed to make a statement here. Advaniji, you give your statement. ...(Interruptions)

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion regarding atrocities on women should be taken up first because this item could not be completed on Friday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K. you please sit down.

[English]

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (Thiruvananthapuram): Let the Home Minister make a statement today...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not in the agenda. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: But this is a very serious issue. The Home Minister should take special care of this. This should be enquired into and whatever wrong is done, it should be rectified. The interests of minorities should be protected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, let the Home Minister make a statement regarding Bomb Blast in Delhi yesterday.

breakthrough when Delhi Police, on 10th July 1998, recovered 18 kilograms of RDX and sophisticated timer devices from a truck in Punjabi Bagh area of Delhi. This led to the arrest of two persons suspected to be Punjab militants.

15.13 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re: Bomb Blast Incident at ISBT, Delhi

I take this opportunity to assure this august House that the Government will not leave any stone unturned to eliminate any threat to the security and integrity of our great country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (Thiruvananthapuram): Today morning the Leader of the Opposition and Members from this side raised a number of issues. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 26th July, 1998 at about 11.30 hours, a powerful bomb explosion occurred in a Haryana Roadways Bus soon after it had arrived at the Inter-State Bus Terminus, Delhi. The rear portion of the bus has completely ripped off and four other buses which were nearby, were also partly damaged. The unfortunate incident led to the death of two persons and injury to the other four persons. The loss of life is too precious to be compensated. However, the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi have, in order to provide some immediate relief to the victims, announced an *ex gratia* payment of Rupees one lakh to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in this incident and Rs. 10,000 to each of those who sustained injuries.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, such activities are taking place in the capital but government is unable to check them. Tragic incidents are taking place in the capital during the rule of the Government which was formed in the name of security. It is very regretful that such statements are being made on behalf of government. Home Minister should tender his resignation because ISI is involved in all these incidents. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, what would be more shameful than the fact that Home Minister is making a statement that this government is not taking any effective steps. Such thing is happening in the capital. My demand is that if Delhi Government do not take any action then Home Minister should tender his resignation.

The investigation into this incident is in progress. It, however, appears that this is a part of diabolical design perpetuated by elements inimical to the security and integrity of this country over the last few years. The National Capital Territory of Delhi and its adjoining areas have since 11th December, 1996 witnessed as many as 40 such blasts including the last one which occurred yesterday.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon): What about other incidents in Delhi? Are they also because of the ISI? About so many other incidents also we have raised questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I will tell you the position. Rule 372 says:

"A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made."

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not questioning anything over this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to inform this august House that Delhi Police has been able to solve 36 blasts incidents out of these 40 with the arrest of 14 suspected militants, including 7 foreign nationals during the last few months. There are reports that these bomb blasts were organised by the ISI, outfit of Pakistan led by a militant group headed by Zaki-ur-Rehman and Abdul Karim Tunda.

In addition, Delhi Police and Hyderabad Police have, through sustained efforts, been able to expose Pakistan ISI/Lashkar-e-Taiba network operating in India as a result of which four Pak nationals, one Bangladeshi national and a key Indian collaborator based in Hyderabad were arrested. A substantial quantity of arms and ammunition including 50 kilograms of RDX was recovered from this gang on 1st July, 1998. This was followed by another

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Regarding law and order situation he will give a statement tomorrow.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, this morning, three issues relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs were raised. One was about the bomb blast; the second was in respect of a lady Member, Shrimati Rama Devi, who spoke about the security provided to her; the third was the general situation of crime in Delhi (*Interruptions*) and the fourth was the Maharashtra Government's decision in respect of certain people living there, whom it had deported. These were the four issues that were brought to my notice by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. ...(*Interruptions*) I am not yielding. ...(*Interruptions*)

I said, 'I will deal with every one of them. So far as the first issue of bomb blast is concerned, I would make a statement in the afternoon because it occurred yesterday. So far as the Maharashtra issue is concerned, we would have to get information from Maharashtra and, therefore, I will make a statement in that regard tomorrow. ...(*Interruptions*) In respect of Shrimati Rama Devi, who had met me personally, I instructed the Home Secretary in her presence to provide mobile security to her. On the fourth issue, I pointed out that in the list of questions for tomorrow the first question raised by an hon. Member from the Opposition relates to crime in Delhi so that we could have ample opportunity to discuss it. I do not want to make a general statement. ...(*Interruptions*) I am not yielding. ...(*Interruptions*)

I have myself publicly said that the Government is not happy with the law and order situation in Delhi. In fact, our view has been that in the last four or five years, the internal security climate in the whole country has been deteriorating. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (W.B.): This is why we are asking this question.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: But I said that I will say whatever I have to say during the course of the Question Hour tomorrow. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): What about the Gujarat problem? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Shri Jos, I am not yielding. I have not yet completed. ...(*Interruptions*) All right, I will answer that. There is a demand for everything. This episode which is being referred to took place last week. If the hon. Member had raised it in the House this

morning, I would have been able to say when I would reply on this point.

I will not be able to say anything now except to say that I believe that though the situation is not happy in so far as law and order in Delhi is concerned, the manner in which the Delhi Police is handling it is quite satisfactory. (*Interruptions*) In my statement on the bomb blast, I have said, 'To be able to find out the culprits in thirty-six out of forty bomb blasts that have taken place in the last one and a half years is no mean achievement.' It is a singularly good achievement. Therefore, I say that even though something has been achieved, a lot more needs to be done so that there is a sense of security in the mind of the average citizen of Delhi and this Government is determined to achieve that. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: We demand a thorough discussion on the internal security scenario.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: The Government is unable to improve the law and order situation in Delhi and it is protecting the officers who are guilty for this. We walk-out from the House in protest against this.

15.24 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mohan Singh and some other Hon Members left the House

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has agreed to make a statement tomorrow.

SHRI A.C. JOS: When he replies tomorrow, let him kindly have some reply regarding the Gujarat incident also.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (Motihari): Mr. Chairman, Sir, attention should be paid towards my point also ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has agreed to reply tomorrow.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Now, we will take up Matters under Rule 377.

...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, we should have a general discussion on the law and order situation existing in the whole country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please take your seat. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has already said that he would give the details tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH (Maharajganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the law and order situation in the country is not good therefore I would like to say that discussion should be held on law and order situation in the whole country. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, discussion should be held on law and order situation prevailing in the whole country...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, we had raised the issue of atrocities committed against the women in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)* An assurance was given by this Government that a statement would be made. But, so far the statement has not been made. ...*(Interruptions)* The first phase of the Budget Session is over. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, the Session is also going to be over. ...*(Interruptions)* Till now the Government has not made the statement. This is the credibility of the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has just now stated that he would make a statement tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise all these issues tomorrow during the 'Zero Hour'. The hon. Minister has already stated that he would reply tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Matters under Rule 377.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): Sir, the law and order situation in all the States must be discussed—not only in Rajasthan, but also in West Bengal and Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what have you decided...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do when you are not ready to listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, the hon. Home Minister is here. We want a full-fledged discussion on the law and order situation prevailing all over the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if I keep in mind the Questions which have been raised and the reactions thereof, then I am afraid I will be violating the conventions of this House followed for years. We cannot discuss law and order situation prevailing in the States in this House. Since full statehood has not been accorded to Delhi therefore its responsibility rests with us. Hence we can discuss here the law and order situation prevailing in Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear him. Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mamataji wants that law and order situation prevailing in West Bengal and Bihar should be discussed here because such demands are being made by members. Prominent Members like Shri Rajesh Pilot and Shri Karunakaran are present here. They know that in case of any incident, they have a right to get information. This is the convention. Today morning one incident was mentioned about which I immediately said that I would make a statement after collecting information from Government of Maharashtra. But my request is that it is not appropriate to discuss law and order situation of any state in this House whether it is Maharashtra or West Bengal...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will be making a statement tomorrow regarding the law and order situation in the country.

...(Interruptions)

15.35 hrs.

*[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]**[Translation]*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had said something about Mahatma Gandhi, but the Minister of Home Affairs Shri L.K. Advani has said nothing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not Zero Hour.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Advani, would you like to respond to the law and order situation?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have already said about it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, he has already responded and I was reacting to it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have to observe some procedures here. Please understand it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Home Minister has said...*(Interruptions)* It is not only your concern but it is the concern of entire House. Whether any Member either from ruling party or from opposition speaks or not but it is a fact that law and order situation have deteriorated. All members were asking for discussion however Minister of Home Affairs has said that law and order situation of any State will not be discussed in this House. He has said this correctly because it is against Parliamentary tradition. But he has expressed his concern also. Yesterday he was saying to women members of BJP that he was very much concerned about that issue. Similarly, there are sensitive States like Jammu and Kashmir and North-East, and today you might have read in the newspaper that one MLC was saying that he was going to resign and would wield a gun. You can imagine from this to what extent the situation has worsened.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Home Minister has already responded to it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Whether it is the issue of Jammu Kashmir or North-East...*(Interruptions)* Whether it is the issue of international security, it will be good if government agrees to hold discussion on these issues. Had the discussion been allowed on Home Ministry then today no member would have raised this Question. Therefore, the government is requested to take up this issue for discussion whenever it wants under Rule 193 so that all hon'ble Members can express their views.

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: We can have a full discussion in the House on the internal security environment in the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: We must have a full discussion particularly on the States where the situation has gone bad can be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Matters under Rule 377.

15.37 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to upgrade Jamnagar city of Gujarat to B-2 Category.*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jamnagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jamnagar city in Sourashtra region of Gujarat has not been upgraded so far to B-2 category due to which lakhs of Government employees are being deprived of house rent, city compensatory allowance and several other facilities. The population of Jamnagar city of Gujarat is 5.5 lakhs and it has 2.75 lakh voters. This city is the costliest city of Gujarat. The industrial investment is Rs. 30,000 crores in Jamnagar district. Earlier it was Rs. 20,000 crores. About one lakh people belonging to Army, Navy and Airforce are also residing in this area but they are not being counted for population purposes as the Census employees are denied entry in the military area.

Dwarka and wate-Dwarka are world famous pilgrimages where Lord Krishna had reigned. It is the place where rice were offered to Shri Krishna by his friend Sudhama. The famous Dwarkapeeth of Jagatguru Shankaracharya is also situated there. Everyday 12,000 pilgrimages visit this place.

I had raised this issue many times in this House as well as outside. I also wrote letters to Finance Minister, Home Minister and Minister of Personnel had met them personally but received only one reply that population of Jamnagar city was less than 3.75 lakhs per 1991 census. New population is more than 5.5 lakhs we have requested them to upgrade Jamnagar to B-2 category as a special case as Jammu and cities of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and some other States have been upgraded though their population is less than 4 lakh. If Jamnagar is not declared as B-2 Category then people will launch strong agitation.

Therefore I request Finance Minister, Home Minister, Minister of Personnel and Labour Minister and the Union Government to upgrade Jamnagar to B-2 category as a special case.

(ii) Need to ensure employment opportunities for apprentices of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur): Sir, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Kanpur is a public undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. The apprentice trainees of this undertaking have not been given employment so far although a number of employees have been retired during the past years. Their work is being done by casual employees or on contract basis due to which these trained apprentices are becoming over age. The Supreme Court has also passed a verdict, in Appeal No. 4347-54 of 1990, on 12 January, 1995 about the appointments of these people according to which terms required for regular appointment of trained apprentices, for instance age, registration in employment exchange should be relaxed and they should be employed on seniority basis. The Ministry of Labour has also directed all its establishments on 15.2.1995 to ensure the implementation of the verdict of the Supreme Court but H.A.L. Kanpur has been violating the directives of the Supreme Court as well as the Ministry of Labour as a result of which trained apprentices are shutting between one authority and another and have become disappointed towards their future.

My request to the Defence Ministry is that it should pay personal attention towards this issue and give

directions to H.A.L. Kanpur to immediately employ the affected trainees and thus ensure justice

(iii) Need to ensure that recognition of Medical College of Rewa (Madhya Pradesh) is not withdrawn by Medical Council of India.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Sir, Medical Council of India has given an ultimatum last year to withdraw the recognition of Shyamshah Medical College, Rewa, (Madhya Pradesh) on the ground that the college do not have adequate staff and necessary medical equipment. The Professors and Readers working in this Old College have either tendered their resignation or have proceeded on long leave. More than half of the staff members are making efforts for their transfer. The Departments like Medicine Surgery, Anatomy, Pathology, Anaesthesia, Orthopaedics and Physiology are without Professors and Lecturers. There is no ECG machine in Medicine Department and if at all there is one, it is not in working condition. No major operation has taken place during last one year. The recognition has not yet been withdrawn due to the strike of students and teachers or due to specific requests but the state administration has not yet fulfilled the requirements due to which ultimatum was given by the Medical Council of India. The state administration has neither filled up the vacancies of Head of the Departments, Readers and the Lecturers nor it has provided necessary equipment to the College. Therefore, Medical Council of India has again given an ultimatum that it will withdraw the recognition of Medical College, Rewa this year. Headquarters of the division is situated at Rewa and earlier it was capital of Vindhya. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to issue precise directives to the state administration to provide staff and equipment to the College in order to ensure that recognition of the Medical College of Rewa (M.P.) is not withdrawn.

(iv) Need to restore Bisalpur Dam In Rajasthan In its Original form to ensure water supply to Bundi and Tonk Districts for irrigation purposes.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota): Sir, the canals from the Bisalpur Dam were to be constructed via Tokrawas, Karvad (Tonk), Korma, Die, Khazoori (Bundi) with a view to provide irrigation facilities for various villages of Tehsil, Deoli, Nainwa and Uniyara of Rajasthan. Irrigation facility was to be provided for agricultural land of 360 villages by digging canal on land falling between Tokrawas and Korma. For resolving the drinking water problem of Jaipur. Water of river Chambal was to be collected in the proposed Israda dam and then it was to reach Jaipur through lift system. But now the original

form of the Bisalpur project has been changed and the attempts which are being made to supply drinking water to Jaipur are anti farmer and are also not in the interest of the country. The housing colonies constructed for the residents of the likely flooded areas of the dam are located far from the residential areas, are totally undeveloped and are not worth living for human beings. The people living in those areas have expressed their anger also by launching agitation from time to time.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government that 56 villages of Tehsil Nainwa of district Bundi should again be included in the project area. The orders issued about the construction of a mini dam in the Cantonment area of dam should be withdrawn and the areas already getting irrigation facilities from various small dams should be excluded from this project and a scheme should be formulated to provide water from the river Chamba for the permanent Solution of the drinking water problem of Jaipur.

(v) Need to restore the Land Acquired by the Defence Ministry at Shelarwadi Village, in Pune district to the farmers.

[English]

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL (Khed): Mr. Speaker I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Defence towards the pathetic conditions of about 125 poor farmers of village Shelarwadi, Dehu Road Cantonment of Pune district due to acquisition of their land by the Government for certain projects. Before, 1941, these farmers owned this cultivable wet land. But during the World War-II, this sole means of their livelihood was snatched by the British Defence Authorities *vide* Government of India Notification No. 824 OR/41 dated 4.10.41. In 1948, their agricultural land was given to the villagers on lease. The possession of leased agricultural land was with the villagers from 1948 to 1989. But, again in 1989, the land was acquired by the Defence Estate Office *vide* their letter No. L/220 dated 12.1.89 for the purpose of 'Red-Rose Project' and the land was reclassified by making it impossible for farmers to get it on lease again. The Project for which the land was acquired has been shifted to Tamil Nadu and the land is lying barren for the past ten years. The villagers have made several requests to the then Defence Ministers and Prime Minister for allotment of these lands to them.

Therefore, I request the Government to pay kind and sympathetic attention to the matter and do justice with the villagers of Shelarwadi by giving them the aforesaid land.

(vi) Need to Telecast Telugu News Bulletins Twice a Day on the Regional Channel (DD-8).

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Sir, four proposals were submitted to the Minister in respect of the following and the Minister has been urged to implement the recommendations at an early date:

(a) That everyday the regional Channel in Andhra Pradesh was telecasting two Telugu news bulletins. But because of non-availability of staff in Doordarshan, it is telecasting only one bulletin at 7.00 P.M.

(b) The rural people in Andhra Pradesh would like to know about the happenings in India and around the world and the Doordarshan channel is the most popular amongst the rural masses who are deprived of the latest information.

(c) M/s. Videomatics, Hyderabad, producers of Video programmes, have produced best quality programmes for Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams, Balaji Temple and two other corporate sectors, apart from making some serials and commissioned programmes for Doordarshan, Hyderabad. They have submitted a proposal to produce the News Bulletins in Telugu for DD-8 Channel on Sponsorship basis.

(d) The probable telecast time is between 3 P.M. to 3.15 P.M. or 9.15 P.M. to 9.30 P.M. everyday and this will be for one year on contract basis.

I hope and trust that in the interest of general rural masses in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the proposals will have a great impact on these people who are otherwise kept aloof from the world of information.

(vii) Need to include President, Vice-President and Chairmen of Standing Committees of District, Block and Gram Panchayats for Allotment of Telephone from non-OYT quota.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (Ottapalam): This is a matter relating to the telephone facilities allowed to the representatives of people in District Panchayats, Block Panchayats and Gram Panchayats. Now, the allotment from non-OYT quota has been restricted upto members of council of municipalities and corporations.

Sir, our country is going with the slogan of decentralisation. In Kerala, the LDF Government is moving fast with the schemes launched by the people. This scheme is launched by the people with the help of Government of Kerala. Panchayat Sabhas are the basis of these schemes.

Now, the representatives of the people in panchayats face difficulties for communicating with Government officials, Ministers and other important persons to collect more information regarding day-to-day works.

Hence, I request the Government to include President, Vice-President and Chairman of the Standing Committees of District Panchayats, Block Panchayats and Gram Panchayats for allotment of telephone from non-OYT quota.

(viii) Need to provide Necessary Assistance to the villagers affected by floods in Hardoi, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA VERMA (Hardoi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, house and cultivatable land of 29 villages situated between Ramganga and Ganga river under vilgram constituency in Hardoi (U.P.) are washed away by floods every year, due to which hundreds of villagers are rendered homeless. The major villages affected by floods are Arjunpu, Bethar, Arival, Tiwari Purva, Gadhia, Karanpur and Malikapur.

It is the responsibility of the state government and the Union Government to make arrangements for their food and shelter and to extend financial assistance to them. However, the Government is not taking care of the needs of poor villagers. Therefore, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the need to do justice to these homeless villagers and make appropriate arrangements for them.

(ix) Need to declare Granite Quarrying Activity as an Industry.

[English]

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY (Krishna Giri): The granite quarrying business has been discovered by individual entrepreneurs about two decades ago and they developed on their own to produce and market the granite blocks at international level without any financial assistance from State or Central Government.

The granite is available only in remote villages and at interior places. There is not a single project report available about the viability of quarry industry. The success of quarry is purely based on their luck. If the quarry owner is able to identify 10 quarries and operates all, he may be successful in one or two quarries only. For this achievement he has to invest huge amount of his own and has to fight with nature and also with the changing Government policies. At present, this industry is facing problems because of the different policies of different State Governments.

This is the only industry which gives employment for 10 lakh illiterates at their local areas throughout the country. Granite fetches revenue around Rs. 1500 crore per annum to the Government in foreign exchange.

Hence, I request the Government of India to consider the following facts:

1. The quarry activity should be declared as an industry.
2. The hundred per cent EOU status should be given to the industry to upgrade the technologies and to make available the products at international standard.
3. To regulate a uniform policy throughout the country without any pre-condition.
4. Incentives and financial assistance should be offered for quarry surveying and related activities as offered to food processing industry.

(x) Need to conduct an enquiry into the dealings of DCM Financial Service Ltd. and ensure repayment of their dues to Depositors

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, the Company Law Board (CLB), in a *suo motu* order dated 17th July, 1998, announced a new scheme for DCM Financial Services Ltd. (DFSL) to make repayments amounting to Rs. 76 crore to its 49,005 depositors. According to the order, all deposits up to Rs. 5000/- shall be paid on maturity along with interest due in the case of deposits of over Rs. 25,001/-, they will be repaid in four years from the dates of maturity at the rate of 25 per cent each year and the interest for the whole period will be paid along with the last instalment.

The DFSL had widely advertised and accepted deposits for its bills re-discounting scheme in 1986 offering an interest of 17 per cent. It insisted on a minimum

deposit of Rs. 1,00,000/- and the deposit period was to be 90 days. Many middle-class persons had gone in for the scheme. They were attracted by the offer of 17 per cent interest and the promise of redemption in 90 days. The DFSL not only defaulted in its payments with effect from August 1997 but when the CLB found that its bills re-discounting scheme was irregular, pretended that there was no such scheme. It has been converting the deposits under the scheme into backdated fixed deposits. The CLB order allowing repayment of deposits over Rs. 25,001/- in four years will pauperise many of the middle-class depositors. They are already suffering on account of the non-payment of the money due to them during the last one year. Several depositors are retired persons in the age group of seventy four years. Their money will also depreciate because of unabated inflation.

I request that the Government should intervene in the matter and ensure prompt repayment of the money with interest to such depositors.

(xi) Need to extend Chennai-Arakkonam EMU Trains up to Katpadi in Vellore, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM (Vellore): Sir, the city of Chennai is the destination of various commuters coming into the city daily. From and around Katpadi, about 5000 people daily go to Chennai for different purposes like attending office, business training, college, medical aid, etc. However, adequate EMU trains are not available in the Katpadi-Chennai sector which is only 130 kms. There are a number of train services every 5-10 minutes in the Mumbai-Pune sector. The passengers of Katpadi have to suffer the inconvenience. Introduction of EMU trains will solve the problems. Chennai-Arakkonam EMU trains should be extended to Katpadi.

15.57 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Atrocities on Women—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up item No. 13. Dr. Prabha Thakur to continue.

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir on last Friday the discussion on atrocities on Women was being held, but due to other government business, I was stopped. Today I will continue from where I left. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Today, all of us are aware about exploitation, harassment and oppression of women. It is matter of great sorrow and regret that even after the spread of education and progress in every field, the atrocities on women have increased whether the cases are related to dowry, rape or sexual exploitation. The atrocities have also increased with the same pace. These atrocities are increasing at the rate of 21% per annum. According to me, there are three main reasons for it. First, women are economically weaker, second, women are physically weaker and third, women generally have orthodox outlook. These impression compel them to think that husband is their lord, women have to live in the family. Their home exist only where their family lives. Their honour is safe while living in the house only. These types of outlook also lead to exploitation of women in society. If we discuss exploitation of women and feel about this problem then three main points come to mind—financial exploitation, mental exploitation and physical exploitation. Generally, most of the women are financially weak.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at item No. 15 of today's business it is written—

[English]

'Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita, Shri Samer Chowdhary to raise discussion regarding situation in North-Eastern region due to insurgency.'

[Translation]

It will be discussed at 4' O'clock. I request you to defer it to the day after tomorrow because many hon'ble Members want to speak on atrocities on women. Most probably, hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs won't be able to reply and at 5' O'clock there is a meeting of Cabinet. Therefore, I request to continue it upto 5 P.M. and then further continue it tomorrow also. After that, at 5 P.M. discussion on the Beedi workers Welfare bill should be taken up. This is my suggestion.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the sense of the House that item No. 15 of today's list of Business be deferred till the day after tomorrow?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 15 of today's list of Business is deferred till the day after tomorrow.

Now, I would request Dr. Prabha Thakur to continue her speech.

[*Translation*]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the atrocities on woman can be broadly categorised under three types. Until the woman are made financially secure, until such laws are made and such arrangement is made...(*Interruptions*). Sir, I am talking about women. Unless the women are financially secure, this problem can't be resolved. We talk about women liberation in this country. But, under these circumstances, we cannot even think of women liberation. The rules and laws should be made to make women financially independent. Proper education should also be given to them. For that proper education facilities for girls should be provided in villages itself so that girls should get opportunities to complete their education in the villages. The parents of any girl won't dare to send their daughters to others places for completing their education. We have to see as to how the girls, who don't complete their education can complete it. In budget also, a provision of Rs. 100 crores has been made for girls education. So that women of the weaker sections, who live in villages should not be deprived of education. After getting education, the women will shed their orthodox outlook and will get direction towards financial independence. It is true that girls are proving their talent, and are doing better than boys in every field. The women have proved their talent and competence in every field. Women should be given opportunities to enable them to source their financial independence.

16.02 hrs.

[SHRI YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

Gandhiji had said that if you educate a man you educate one person. But if you educate a women, you educate the whole family. I want to state that the state of women labourers is pathetic. In spite of the provision in law, they are not given wages equivalent to man. People do take advantage of their illiteracy and poverty and exploit them. They are also sexually exploited. Although the Supreme Court has stated in its ruling that woman should not be exploited at the place of work. It has also given directions in this regard but this is a bitter truth that these poor and illiterate women have got no benefit of these directions. I want that professional training should be given to the illiterate rural women to make them financially strong and independent. They should be given training in handicrafts so that they could set up their own business and earn some money for themselves. I am talking of financial security because man and woman are like two wheels of the cart. The family life depends on balance between these two, But if one of these wheels

is strong and powerful and other is weak then how will this cart run. This type of cart will not run. I want to state in the House that women of this country are economically weak and oppressed. This should also be taken into consideration that the way the issue of providing reservation for women in Parliament was considered, similarly if the reservation facility is provided for this section, then only a few women will be benefitted. I want to give a suggestion that the reservation for women should be done in jobs also. This matter should be considered. It will benefit lakhs-crores of women of the country. They will get an opportunity to become self-reliant. Thus, they will get some support. The matter should be discussed in the House. Women should not only get reservation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, but also in jobs. It is no longer secret how women are mentally exploited.

Sir, Jai Shankar Prasad was a great poet. About women he has written—"Nari tum kewal shardha ho", but today you can't fool the women by glorifying her or by calling her "Devi Shakti" (Divine Power). But in reality today if the women is an estranged, is a widow, childless, weak, neglected, then her pathetic position in society is very much evident. In limited amount women have to bear the burden of family, they have to bring up their children, they have to fulfill their responsibilities towards family and have to extend hospitality to guests. They not only do work for whole day but in some places, the women are bearing double responsibility.

16.08 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

In villages also women are equally contributing with men in the field of agriculture. In cities, many women work, earn money and alongwith it do household work also. In reality in spite of all these things, women are being suppressed. Even today in villages women are being exploited. Many incident of parading women of weaker sections naked have come to light. The way, the bill to provide reservation to women has been presented, it has only added to the mental harassment of women because the ruling parties have washed their hands off by passing the blame on to the opposition as if their responsibility is over and now its upto the opposition parties to see that this bill is passed unanimously or is introduced in the House. That is why I want to state that ruling parties are not willing for it because if they really had a will there was no reason why this bill could not have been introduced in the House. The law related to Municipal Councils and Panchayats was implemented due to the will power and good intentions of the Leader of the Congress Party hon. Rajiv Gandhi...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. You may speak on it when you get a chance to speak on it.

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: I would like to say that responsibility to do that rests with the ruling party. This responsibility is being shifted to others. It means that the Government is not serious about this issue and is trying to run away from its duties. I would like to tell women that the whole country including the press has seen and studied this Bill and women from the other side are also supporting it...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to say that if the Government has will and intention to provide reservation to women, keeping in view the sentiments of the House and the public, backward classes should also be given proper representation in this Bill. Sonia Gandhiji has also expressed her concern about it. The women's Bill should be brought here as per the aspirations of women and sentiments expressed in this House. We are ready to support it...*(Interruptions)*

I am saying that...*(Interruptions)* I am raising the issue regarding mental exploitation of women. I would seek full cooperation of the House in it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Congress party has not done anything about welfare of women and that is why this Bill has been brought here.

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: I am raising the issue regarding mental exploitation of women...*(Interruptions)* Women know about it very well. They are not ignorant about it. I am raising the issue regarding sexual exploitation of women. Whether it is Rajasthan or any other region of the country, it is really unfortunate that during the nine years BJP rule in Rajasthan, which is considered as land of braves, the cases of exploitation, atrocities against women, rape and dowry deaths have increased sharply. It is really shameful...*(Interruptions)* Whether it is Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or Himachal Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* I am not only raising these problems here but also like to give some suggestions.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: CBI inquiry has been demanded in cases of Rajasthan but so far nothing has been done regarding Madhya Pradesh. Please do not politicize the matter by raising the cases of specific States. Please speak on issues related to women only.

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: I am raising the issues of women only. Whether it is Bhanvari Devi incident of Rajasthan, J.C. Bose incident or Neelu Rana incident in which she was murdered after rape, what has been the attitude of police officials in these cases? The inquiry official says that the girl was Characterless otherwise why did she go out during night. This is the attitude of investigating officer. In the presence of the Minister of Home Affairs in this House. I would like to know as to why such incidents are increasing? The reasons are quite obvious that relatives of BJP leaders, at some places M.L.As are involved...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not saying so but it is a fact...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Please do not politicize the matter. In such matters, if you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please keep quiet.

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Media has brought such issues before the society. I want to ask why such incidents recur? Such incidents recur because action is not taken against inquiring officials but they are promoted. Whether it is Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh or any other state, what is the percentage of guilty persons getting punished for such crimes? Even 5 or 6 percent accused are not convicted and punished. Thus accused get encouraged and feel that they would manage to go scot free by using money, muscle and power. Police officials and other officers are rewarded with profitable postings and no explanation is called from them. I would like to say that cases of insult of women and their sexual exploitation should not be taken as a matter of any particular State but it should be taken as the matter of the whole country and matter of dignity of women folk. Such matters should be taken up from this viewpoint

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end I would like to say that our responsibility is not over with raising this issue in the House and making an amendment in the constitution to enact a law but for strengthening the position of women we should keep a check that affected women are getting justice or not? We cannot do anything if women do not get protection under the laws enacted for them. It is said that big criminals go unpunished due to small lacunae in the law. What the Government is doing to remove such lacunae so that accused of such crimes may not go unpunished? What action is being taken in this regard? Women should also be given their due rights. Women constitute 50 percent of population of this country and accordingly, they should get 50 percent rights. Women should be given right in property of their husbands. Besides, women should also get reservation in Government services and more avenues should be created for them in educational fields.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the discussion being held under Rule 193 regarding atrocities against women.

It is a fact that the issue of atrocities against women is not being raised here for the first time but it is debated here time and again. We discuss this issue so that action may be taken in this regard but nothing concrete is done. Before me, two big leaders have participated in the debate on this issue. Their speeches were above partylines. I also feel that such an issue should not be politicized. It is very unfortunate that during elections every political party promises to give 33 percent reservation to women but once elected they do not even allow the Bill on it to be introduced in the House.

[English]

This is an unfortunate thing.

[Translation]

For the last 2-4 days we have got a chance to witness things here.

[English]

Only the women Members have supported this Bill. Though I am not a feminist...(Interruptions) Let me talk please. There are only a few Members.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH (Bhiwani): We have supported this Bill.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Therefore, you did not allow this Bill to be introduced in this House. What will be the fate of this Bill later on if this is the attitude of Members about it now. This Bill was thrown to dustbin because you did not want to get this Bill introduced.

[English]

Women's Reservation Bill is a commitment made in our manifestoes.

[Translation]

How would you be able to provide 33 percent reservation to women through this Bill. You mislead and provoke the public and make false promises to get votes.

[English]

It is an unparliamentary word. I should not say this. I withdraw this word. I should not have misled the people.

[Translation]

They provoke public but once elected, they have not even allowed the Bill to be introduced. It is a fact that women MPs of BJP have supported me and then this Bill was brought here but I am very sorry to say that —

[English]

This was an understanding between the BJP and the Congress Party that this Bill will be passed. The Left would not support this fully. After that, your Chief Minister said that he was in favour of providing reservation to OBCs also. He also said that. I should not mislead the House.

Secondly, between the congress party and the BJP, there was an understanding that they would support this Bill. After that what happened? Those people ditched us; they ditched the women of the country. I would like to know, why. Everybody laughed. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: We object to it. That is totally wrong. The Congress Party had supported this bill.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: It was not introduced. We wanted that the bill should be introduced. But we are sorry that it was not introduced.

[Translation]

Can this bill not be introduced in the House in this manner?

[English]

In a democracy if there is an understanding you want a consensus in some matters like this Women's Reservation Bill. We are happy to see that the BJP and the Congress are together along with the Left Front also and the AIADMK and the TDP, all other allies. Everybody said, 'Let it be introduced'.

[Translation]

But what happened? Later on, after seven-eight days, the decisions were changed again and again and this bill was consigned to the waste paper basket. So far as the issue of including the clause pertaining to the backward classes and minorities is concerned, I agree to it, however even if the OBC and minorities are included, the opposition will still not accept it. Hence, I would say that I am from General side.

[English]

I am not a feminist...(Interruptions) Madam you have spoken.

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: We agree with you. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We supported it. We fully supported it.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki): If you are sincere, why do you not dictate to the Government? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: We are with you. We support it... (Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Chairman, we have seen the atrocities. I do not support the view sometimes. But this time we fully support them. But this time we supported this Mahila Bill. This is a parliamentary democracy. Between the Congress party and the BJP there is an understanding. If I am wrong the Home Minister should clarify. They said that they are agreeable, that the Bill as it was should be introduced.

[Translation]

If amendments are to be brought therein, that can be done after discussion, however it is a matter of surprise that such is the position of women even after 50 years of independence. I am not a feminist and I favour the progress of all, but I have seen that women can do

good work. 33% seats have been reserved for women in Panchayats and Municipalities and women have been doing good work. It is true that women are jealous of other women but no woman would ever desire that womenfolk should not progress. This is also a problem ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA (Swai Madhopur): How can you say that women are jealous of women... (Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: This is our fundamental right. Do not disturb me like this. I am speaking from my heart. Let me speak. Then I will tell you.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: This is Parliament. If you are yielding you say so. Otherwise, you speak.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I know. I have listened to her carefully. I did not interrupt her.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: You are also a party to ditch this Bill. Please understand that. Why do you get angry?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, it is good that they are unhappy... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chacko, please refrain from speaking while sitting. It is not proper to do so.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: When we assembled for the meeting, it was said that.

[English]

Both of them have not agreed and that is why this bill could not be introduced.

[Translation]

30% seats are reserved in Bangladesh also. Reservation is there in some African nations and some other countries as well... (Interruptions) The issue of atrocities will be taken up later. You should listen attentively... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: This also tantamounts to atrocity that women were insulted over the issue of bill pertaining to women and you kept on watching silently like Dhritrashtra. ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Such a pandemonium was created in the House over the issue of introduction of women's bill which conveyed the message to the country that these people are not desirous of introducing women's bill. I would like to relate an incident. It is true that these people would not have allowed the bill to be introduced even if the OBC and the minorities had been included therein. I was talking to an Ex M.P. who told me that the introduction of women's bill will give rise to controversy in his home. Whom will he give the ticket-his daughter-in-law, daughter or wife? I said as to why doesn't he give the ticket to a woman who is not his family member? Will such people allow the bill to be introduced? However, we should have consensus in some matters so that a positive message is conveyed to the countrymen. If the women's reservation bill is not introduced in this session, it is the responsibility of the Government to introduce this bill.

[English]

Let it be defeated. What is wrong in that? Let his Bill be introduced in the Parliament and then everybody will be exposed as to who is going to support and who is not going to support. Sir, they are talking about atrocities and they cannot introduce the Bill. So, I ask the Government that the Bill should be introduced in this Session itself, in this Golden Jubilee year, before the 50th year of Independence is completed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Otherwise you withdraw your support from the Government.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We will not withdraw our support because our support is a firm support. We are not going to ditch the people. We are here because we have got the people's mandate.

[Translation]

We are in power on the basis of the mandate given by the public. We cannot and will never do injustice to peoples' mandate. Hence we will keep on lending support to the government but the Government should promise that this bill will be introduced at the earliest.

It is true that atrocities are committed on women. There are many laws in our country, However they are not being implemented properly. Most of the laws in our country were framed 150 years ago. If we do not change them and if we do not amend these laws, justice will be delayed and

[English]

Justice delayed means justice denied. There are so many laws in our country.

[Translation]

I have been a member of the standing committee on Home Affairs and we had made amendments in the criminal procedure code. In cases of atrocities in women, conviction and imprisonment does not take place in accordance with the Cr. P.C. amendment bill. In a rape case.

[English]

according to medical science, they have to be tested within 72 hours.

[Translation]

However, in absence of proper follow-up, evidence is not found. The victims are scared and the perpetrators are sheltered by one the other political party. I would request all the political parties not to give shelter to such people who are involved in a rape case, or those who commit atrocities on women and children. Political parties should not help them. The Government should pass a law relating to Cr. P.C. through the House. We had made amendments in Cr. P.C. after examining the laws thoroughly because if a medical test takes place after 72 hours in a rape case, there is no proof left. What happens in our country? A woman was assaulted in my state. Her name is Champola Sardar and she is a tribal, however her medical test was conducted after 22 days. Even if the proof is properly preserved in a fridge, but if the fridge stops working as a result of load shedding for 72 hours, it will be affected by fungus and the proof will be eliminated. State machinery and the local machinery is there to implement the laws of our country, however if such a machinery is influenced by politicians, it can never do justice to women...(Interruptions)

[English]

It may be Central Government machinery. It may be State Government machinery. ...(Interruptions). They do not know medical science. After 72 hours, there is no value of evidence.

[Translation]

Hence, my point is that it is essential to ensure that evidence is properly collected in a case of atrocity on women. When such an atrocity is committed on a woman, it shatters her dignity. On top to that, publicly, the charge is dismissed as a false accusation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I have been given only three-four minutes. The rest of the time was taken by them...(*Interruptions*) Do you want me to stop speaking?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fixed time is being given to all the members for making their submissions. You have taken more than fifteen minutes.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Ten out of these fifteen minutes have been taken by the Opposition members. You should give me more time by curtailing their time...(*Interruptions*) I would like to make a request to Hon'ble Home Minister. A woman named Champola Sardar was raped and insulted, still it is being said that nothing has happened and it is a false case. Her medical test was held after 22 days. I demand a C.B.I. probe in this case. There is another case of Shabiran Begam. We want reservation for women and reservation has been made for women in municipalities and panchayats. A woman was paraded naked. So what is the meaning of reservation for women. I would like to give the details of Shabiran Begam case. She was contesting in the Panchayat election as a T.M.C. candidate. She was paraded naked. Shamadad Begam of Damjur, Howrah was also paraded naked and her head was shaved. I demand a C.B.I. probe into this case as well.

Under Vishnupur police station, South 24 Pargana district, Shabeelan Begam was raped and murdered...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): She is making a totally wrong and untrue statement.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: If this is not correct, I am ready to tender my resignation and if this is correct, are they ready to resign?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shabeelan Begam.

[*English*]

Has been raped. She has been murdered.

[*Translation*]

I demand a C.B.I. probe in this case also. With this, I would also like to submit that whether it is Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra or any other state, we want that such a law should be framed so that the people belonging to lower classes

and weaker sections are not insulted. Women may lead a dignified life. With regard to the issue of atrocities on women, I would like to submit that in the cases of rape, the rapists tend to threaten the victims. Hence special courts should be set up for trial of such cases.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many women do not want to testify in open court. Hence I suggest that Special Courts should be set up for trial of such cases and hearing should take place in camera. Only then the women can give evidence of the act of atrocity committed on them. Presently women are interrogated and cross-examined and they are subjected to eve-teasing.

Sir, there are many unemployed youth in our country. The entire youth class is not bad but powerful people of society instigate the youth. The problem of unemployment as well as that of drug addiction is rising in the country and unemployed youth are falling prey to it. Unemployment is spreading its tentacles in our country like cancer. In order to control it, social justice work will have to be taken up on priority basis and youth activities should be increased. Only then, the incidents of eve-teasing will be checked and women will have some relief.

Sir, the incidents of atrocities on women also take place due to lack of awareness in women.

[*English*]

Now, only two percent of women are employed in our country. So, I would request the Government to provide reservation for women in jobs also.

[*Translation*]

They get the opportunity to work as Primary teachers or nurses only.

[*English*]

If the nature of work is very difficult, then women cannot do it, because they are not physically strong. But they are mentally and Psychologically fit.

[*Translation*]

There is a distinction. Women cannot do such work demanding heavy physical labour. Women can do fine work.

[*English*]

Reservation of jobs for women is a must. So, I would request the Government to provide reservation for women in jobs so that women could come up in life, participate in every field of life and continue their services for the country and the people.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Please conclude now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are asking me to conclude, I would conclude with a few suggestions. We held a discussion on the issue of atrocities on women in the House. However no steps are taken thereafter to check such atrocities.

[English]

The Home Minister can call a meeting of the Home Ministers of all the States and Union Territories. They can chalk out some plans and programmes and implement them properly so that this type of atrocities can be stopped. Then, the law should be strengthened.

Sir, I once again urge the Government to provide reservation for women in jobs. Then, interrogation of women should be done in camera. I would also request that special courts should be set up to expeditiously deal with the cases relating to atrocities on women.

Finally, I would request the Government that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill providing reservation to women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies should be introduced in the House. We do not mind if it is defeated. But I appeal to the Government that they should bring forward this Bill before the end of this Session.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI (Vishnupur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on atrocities on women. This is an appropriate time to discuss this issue because the alarming incidence of atrocities has become a matter of concern. The number of incidence of atrocities has been increasing day by day. I do not want to give any statistics. We can have the statistics anytime from anywhere. It is happening everywhere in every State. It may be West Bengal, it may be Gujarat or Bihar but women have been facing atrocities everywhere. It is not enough to cite a particular case as citing any particular case would not serve the purpose. Our intention is to find out some means to stop these atrocities.

Mr. Chairman Sir, atrocities on women are nothing new in our society. These atrocities have been going on since ancient time. Our Puranas, Ramayan, Mahabharat

bear ample evidence of atrocities committed on women. We cannot forget the fate of Sita in Ramayan. Ramayan is our religious book. What do we find there? Ram was asked to go to exile. There was no question of Sita accompanying him to vanbas. But Sita, the devoted wife of Ram willingly accompanied her husband. What price she had to pay for her devotion to her husband? She had to undergo the stigma of agnipariksha so as to prove her chastity. After returning from exile she was again sent to vanbas. Ram, the epitome of virtue did not hesitate to abandon his pregnant wife because he wanted to please his people. Sita accompanied him in his exile but Ram did not hesitate to abandon his pregnant wife because he wanted to please his people. Sita accompanied him in his exile but Ram did not reciprocate Sita's gesture by accompanying her in her exile. Ram was supposed to protect her in their exile. He failed to do that. But he did not hesitate to test her fidelity and asking her to take the ordeal of agnipariksha. The ideal king Ram again sent his pregnant wife to vanbas because his people suspected her character. This time, of course, he did not follow Sita's example of following her husband. This is how a woman of Sita's virtue has been treated by her husband. What happened in Mahabharat? Draupadi was stripped off in the open court in front of all mighty Kauravas and Pandavas. In the story of Vikramaditya, we know the story and tale of Khana, a very scholarly woman. Her father-in-law Varahamihira, one of the Nav Ratnas in the King's court, was asked to count the stars. But he could not do it. When Khana his daughter-in-law counted the stars she was asked by Vikramaditya to come and sit in the Raj Sabha. But Varahamihira cut her tongue so that she could not speak. This was the reward she got for her scholarly deed.

So the atrocities on women are nothing new. It has been there in the past and it is still continuing now. What has happened to the fate of women's Bill. Most of the political parties have been promising reservations for women in their manifesto. After 50 years of independence it would have been an appropriate step to provide reservation to women in Assemblies and Parliament so that they become a part of decision making in legislature. Women so far have been confined to domestic background only. Although in the background they have been instrumental in promoting social development, helping in mobilising resources and increasing production. But these actions have and never been highlighted or appreciated. Now when the decision to provide on third reservation to women has been considered so as to give them equal opportunity like their male counterpart in decision making, it was scuttled and not allowed even to introduce in the House. Women play an important role in their family. They look after the family. Today my male

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

colleagues have been discharging their duties here so nicely because their wives have been looking after the family. Moreover the village women do so much work in farming, livestock keeping and off farm activity. That is how they help in our productive activity. But these roles are never taken into account. It is a matter of shame and regret that the decision to provide one-third reservations to women in Assemblies and Lok Sabha has been scuttled by the male chauvinists in the name of OBCs and minorities. Women have been functioning well in Panchayat. Then why this move to high-jack the women's Bill providing reservation? I strongly appeal to the Government to introduce the Bill and keep their promise to provide one-third reservation to women. All these years women were not allowed to participate in any activity. They were confined to the four walls of the house and kept busy in household activities only. Their contribution to society has never been evaluated or acknowledged. Today we are only one woman here to represent one crore women. So immediately the women's Bill must be introduced so that the dichotomy between appearance and reality must be exposed. People must know who is for it and who is against. The message must be clear. So my earnest request is, the women's Bill must be introduced without further delay. I do not want to mention whether the BJP, the Congress or the CPM are for the Bill or against the Bill. I do not want to mention any party. But I earnestly request to introduce the Bill without further delay.

We have many laws for safeguarding the women. But in spite of so many laws to safeguard the interest of women, women have been subjected to atrocities. This is because the laws have not been properly implemented. The rate of sexual harassment for working women has become alarming. That is why a law was passed to curb this menace. But the law has failed to protect the working women. So mere legislation is not the answer to curb any social evil. According to Hindu Marriage Act, no male is allowed to marry for the second time. But second marriage is not uncommon. The wronged wife runs from pillar to post without any justice. She has to prove to the court the authenticity of her husband's second marriage. The husband escapes punishment because of loopholes in the law. It becomes all the more difficult for the village women to seek any legal help. Most of them are not aware of the source of assistance or legal advice for their harassment. So they go on enduring the mental pressure of desertion, ill treatment and harassment. Thus it is urgent to create public awareness for the removal of social evil. Women must be trained to become self-reliant. Self-reliance will create self-confidence and they will be able to fight the injustice. In comparison to boys, girls in the villages contribute a lot for the maintenance of the

family. Most of the boys are addicted to something or other. They misuse their earnings. But the girls contribute their earnings and help financially. So if they are given more scope for job and earn more they can help their family to a large extent. So it is necessary to explore more avenues for the girl to achieve self-reliance and there should be more job reservation for the girls so that they can help their family in many ways.

The price of essential commodities has been sky-rocketed. The brunt of this phenomenal rise has to be borne by the women because they look after the family. This brunt has been causing mental pressure on women. But nobody thinks the hardship she has to undergo for maintaining the family.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, I shall call the next member.

SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI: Sir, please give me some more time. I have some more points to mention. Since there is paucity of time, I shall be brief.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you standing?

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna): We also want to speak on this topic. It should not go on record that male Members have not participated in this discussion, or male Members are anti-women. We also want to express our views in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not stopping you to speak. But first I will serially call the hon'ble Members, whose names are given by their respective parties.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH: My name is also there. My name is in the list given by the B.J.P.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If your name is there, you will get an opportunity.

SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI: Sir, the rate of infant death is increasing day by day. The infant death is 74 out of every thousand and the rate of maternity death is 570 out of one lakh. We want healthy child but we are not able to provide food or anything for prenatal care. So the rate both in infant and maternity death is increasing...*(Interruptions)*

So, the Government must have some scheme for the mothers to be self-reliant so that she can give birth to a healthy child and bring it up also as a healthy child.

[SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI]

Sir, the most important thing I bring to your notice is the allegation and the charge about the rape incidence of a village women in my State is totally untrue and fabricated. This was a political motive to garner vote and it was possible because the alleged victim comes from a tribal family and of a weaker section of society. I strongly condemn the move by some person to use the adivasi and Scheduled Caste to fulfil their selfish motive of vote catching and indulging in political gimmick. I strongly condemn and protest against this dirty move by some person. An ordinary village SC woman has been used to gain some votes. This dirty move must be condemned. Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (Jamshedpur): Respected Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on rising number of incidents of atrocities on women.

Today, in Parliamentary debate, many hon'ble female Members have spoken on atrocities on women. The rate of crime against women is so high that if today we start discussion in it, probably it won't be completed in years. But I want to state that these days newspapers are full of news related to crime against women whether it's dowry-deaths, rape, or murders...*(Interruptions)* If we do not improve our standard of education or make adequate arrangements for women education, the chart of crime against women will continue to rise. I want to say that to deal with these kind of incidents women too have to improve their conduct. Today, so called modern girls of rich families feel proud in wearing short dresses. This kind of attire also gives encouragement to crime. Therefore, T.V. serials which show vulgarity should be banned. It will help in reducing crime to some extent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give a suggestion that the amount of Rs. 500, which is given to the divorcee women by Government is too small to subsist at present, therefore this amount should be raised to Rs. 5000. The special laws for women, as suggested by Kumari Mamata Banerjee, should also be enforced. The society can't be reformed till the incidents like Tandoor murder case, incident of Tiraha in Muzaffarnagar will continue to happen. With this, I conclude.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA ((Swai Madhopur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to thank my sister, Smt. Geeta...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All hon'ble Members whose names are in the list, will be given chance to speak one by one.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to thank Shrimati Geeta for raising a discussion on atrocities on women and alongwith it I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

The country has completed 50 years of independence but we women have not become completely independent in last 50 years. All of you read in the newspapers about the kind of atrocities being committed against women. In newspapers we do read even six year old girl and 90 year old woman are being raped. Many cases of crimes related to dowry have also been reported. All hon'ble Members of Parliament are aware how, we, women are being exploited in every part of India. We have been discussing this issue for the past three days and you have listened to the views of other hon'ble Members also. They have narrated the history of Vedas and Puranas. It was told how women were worshipped during those times. But I want to state through you in the House that women have not gained freedom even during the last 50 years and probably in next 50 years also. We don't be able to attain freedom in every field. You can see the attitude of society towards women.

In modern age, after three months of pregnancy, sonography is done. And if the infant is female, the abortion is carried out, such is the mentality of the people. If a family is having four daughters, they try fifth time to get a son. This way, women are being harassed. The father of four daughters is always tense because of rising demand of dowry. I want to give you an example of Rajasthan. At many places in the State female embryo is aborted and at some places, the female infant is killed after birth. In Khupa village of Bharatpur female infants are killed immediately after their birth. In Jaisalmer also, the people of Bhati caste kill their daughters in the same way. To force the women again and for abortion is a torture and to kill female infants is a big crime. Many incidents of rape are taking place in all parts of the country.

17.00 hrs.

In a day, 35 cases of rape are registered. Similarly, 220 cases of atrocities and exploitation are registered. I want to inform the House that in every 51st minute a rape is committed, in every 7th minute a punishable crime is committed and in every 20th minute a woman is burnt alive. These are Government figures which are usually on the lower side. And true figures may be much higher than this.

Now, I want to tell you about the atrocities on women in Rajasthan and entire India. The rape cases in entire India account for 33% and in Rajasthan the figure is 55%. The abductions in India—11% and in Rajasthan

21.7% dowry deaths in entire India—8.6% and in Rajasthan 15%, the harassments in entire India 126.9% and in Rajasthan 364.3%, oppression in India-31.7% and in Rajasthan-83.6%, the sexual harassment in entire India 41.2% and in Rajasthan—21.2%. Thus, the rate of total atrocities in entire India is 56.2% whereas in Rajasthan it is 102.5%

Sir, the issue of Bhanwari Devi rape case, which happened in Bhatari village was raised in the House. In Kota district of Rajasthan Neelu Rana rape incident took place. Shivani Jadeja incident and Shalini Sharma incidents took place in the state. Recently an incident came into light where a girl was raped twice. In this case, Rajasthan Government mentally pressurised the girl, who changed her statement many times. When, hon. Home Minister was present in the House we told Rajesh Pilot to ask about the current position of the case. It was said that information would be provided to the House about the matter raised in zero hour. But till date, no reply has been given. This matter was raised in the beginning of the session, today the session is coming to an end, but no reply has been given. I want to inform the House that the matters related to rape and dowry are suppressed because of involvement of high ranking officials, whether they are Police Officers, M.L.A.s. or the sons of Ministers. Such cases are being suppressed due to the involvement of influential people.

Since long *Sati* practice is prevalent in Rajasthan. In 1985, Roopkanwar Committed *sati* in Devrala. There are so many incidents where women have been forced to commit *sati*. They are mentally pressurised by their families to commit *sati*. She is told that what is the worth of her living without her husband because people will raise finger at her. Women do not commit *Sati* willingly rather they are forced to do so. Such types of atrocities are still being committed against women. It is true that many legislations have been enacted in this regard but the same have not been implemented properly. Anxi-Dowry laws are also there but dowry is still being taken in one or the other form. The person who offers it and the person who accept it are equally to be blamed. However, this law has remained only on paper, it is not being followed. Same is the case with child marriage. Child marriages are still taking place in Rajasthan among scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and OBCs. You must have seen that small children are made to sit on '*thalies*' to perform their marriage. You must have read the same in newspapers also. Marriage of small girls and boys is performed. When grows up the boy gets educated. However, the poor girl has to take the cattle for grazing. After becoming an officer the boy deserts the girl and gets married to any other city girl. The poor village girl

is exploited like this and no compensation is given to her by the Government. It is almost impossible for her to live with a very meagre amount of Rs. 500/- which is given to her. It is being stated that women should enjoy the same rights as given to men and should have the equal share in the property of her husband. Such types of cases have been noticed not only in Rajasthan but all over the country.

Sir, just now my sister Kumari Mamata was rightly saying that atrocities were being committed on the women and there was no one to pay attention on such incidents. She was quite agitated while speaking during discussion on the issue of Reservation for women. I would like to tell her that the women Bill was moved in 1997 also. At that time both of us were on the same side. Now she has gone to the other side. At that time she and Uma Bharati had opposed that Bill...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Women Bill was not opposed rather they had supported it.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: Please listen to me. I am going to clarify the same. Congress is doing the same what you have done. Congress is also of the view to get this bill passed after necessary amendments done in favour of OBC and minority communities. Congress is not opposing it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): You did not even allow the bill to be introduced.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: You are in power, why don't you introduce the same. You are time and again repeating the things, what did you do last time, why are you blaming the Congress...*(Interruptions)* Every one talks about the women bill and try to introduce the bill, but, in reality nobody wants to get this bill passed. A kind of apprehension is there in the minds of the members that their seats will be in danger if this bill passed. The ruling party does not want to get this bill passed but is blaming other parties for this.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Please do not speak like this, it is not correct...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: Regarding Women Bill, I would like to tell that our leader late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had provided for reservation to women in Panchayati Raj Bill. He had introduced reservation for women but these people had opposed it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: You did not extend your corporation. At the time of Women Bill, women members from all the parties had gathered but no women member from the Congress Party came...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: Rajiv Gandhi had provided reservation to women in Panchayat Raj Bill to ensure their participation...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was already decided that the discussion on this issue would be held till 5 o'clock. After that the Bill regarding the Beedi workers will be taken up. What is the sense of the House in this regard?

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Sir, we may finish it first.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, its time may be extended.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Sir, the bill regarding the Beedi workers may be taken up first and after that this subject may be continued...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): For three days we have been discussing this issue. Since the hon. Minister had to go to the other House, the sitting of the House was extended up to eight o'clock. The hon. Minister can come back again and finish this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): The hon. Minister is not there. He is busy.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion will be resumed after we take up the Bill on Beedi workers.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will it be resumed today itself?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is upto the members.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the discussion be resumed after we take up the Bill on Beedi workers...*(Interruptions)* Please do not do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is upto the hon. Members. I will go by the sense of the House.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: If the discussion is to be resumed immediately after the introduction of

the Bill, the hon. Minister can go ahead with the introduction of the Bill. Otherwise, a message should not go that this House is reluctant even to discuss the atrocities on women.

17.11 hrs.

BEEDI WORKERS WELFARE CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): Sir, I beg to move.

"That the Bill further to amend the Beedi Workers welfare Cess Act, 1976, be taken into Consideration."

In hon'ble Members know that the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 is a Progressive Social Welfare law enacted to benefit Beedi Workers working in factories and at homes. This act envisages implementation of welfare measures like residential facilities, health and medical care and educational and entertainment related assistance. Under Section 4 of Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976, fund is created out of the cess collected as excise duty levied on manufactured beedies and this amount is deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India. The fund is utilized to give financial support to the activities undertaken to boost welfare of the workers employed in Beedi Sector. Approx 4.4 million Beedi workers are there in our country. Right from the beginning, this fund has been able to provide assistance to a large section of Beedi Workers through various schemes for health and medical care, Group Insurance, educational and residential facilities.

Under Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976, Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 has made a provision to increase the minimum rate of cess from ten paise to fifty paise per thousand manufactured beedis, as the Central Government may, from time to time fix.

The present rate of cess has been fixed at the rate of 50 paise per thousand manufactured beedis. As a result every year approx. Rs. 21 crores are credited in this fund. For the last five year, closing balance of this fund is growing down gradually. Beedi Workers Welfare Fund has an amount of Rs. 6.53 crore. However, this amount is not sufficient to maintain the present level of assistance provided through various schemes under this fund. To maintain the present level of assistance provided through various schemes under this fund. To maintain

the present level of assistance provided to beedi workers through this fund, to implement the new schemes, to increase the scale of benefit under certain schemes and to meet the expectations of Welfare Fund, Rs. 40-50 crore is needed every year. To achieve this target, it is proposed to increase the maximum limit of Cess to Rs. 5/- per thousand manufactured beedis. Although, the provision for a higher ceiling is made in order to avoid frequent amendments to the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, the rate of Cess to be notified would be kept at Rs. one per thousand manufactured beedis. This rate of Cess would result in the realisation of cess of 42 crore every year from the current scale of production of beedis to make this fund viable.

This amendment in the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 will help in increasing the welfare facilities for the beedi workers and their families in the entire country.

With these words, I commend this bill for the unanimous support of this august House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"that the Bill further to amend the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 be taken into consideration."

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Sir, I am on a point of information. It is given to understand that the Chief Minister of Goa has resigned and that the State Government is no more in existence. What is the information of the Central Government in this regard? What is the alternative that is found there? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no right now discussion on Beedi Working Welfare Cess Amendment Bill is going on.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, the Parliament is in Session and any hon. Minister can ask for any information....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagir) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if Government is having any information in this regard, please tell.

*SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE (Kopargaon): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Amendment Bill brought forward by the Hon. Minister. I congratulate Hon. Minister for moving this Bill. I would like to express my views on this Bill. This Bill was brought forward in 1976 for the first time. As the Hon. Minister said just now there are 44 lakh beedi workers in the country. For raising the standard of living of beedi workers, and for implementing welfare schemes for them, the Government should take steps for setting up the fund. Beedi workers can be given loan for construction of house out of this fund. Similarly, their health care and educational needs can also be looked after by using this fund. This is the laudable objective of setting up this fund. The workers' needs have increased. There is price rise. Taking this into account, I feel that the present fund is inadequate to meet the requirements. I congratulate Hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill for increasing this fund.

Sir, there are 44 lakh beedi workers in the country. In Sangamner alone, which is my constituency, there are more than 50,000 beedi workers and in nearby Akola there are nearly one lakh beedi workers. Beedi worker are poor. They do not have an inch of land and no other means of livelihood. They take tobacco leaves and start the business in their own houses. In Sangamner, Akola and many other places in Andhra and Karnataka, this is how this business goes on. Such persons who totally depend on rains for getting crops, and who have no other means of livelihood, are engaged in beedi industry. Beedi industry with limited capital has, in fact, given employment to 44 lakh persons and it has also given significant revenue to the Government. That is why the State Government and Central Government must be sympathetic to this industry. For giving protection to these unorganised workers the Central Government has passed several legislations, the State Governments have enacted several laws. 90% of the beedi workers out of 44 lakh total beedi workers are women. It is necessary to give protection to women workers. Even though there are several legislations for protecting the workers, it is doubtlessly true that beedi factory owners take the advantage of loopholes in the laws and exploit the poor beedi workers. Sir, I toured some areas during the last elections. Where are these beedi factories? They are in some small sheds where 100 or 200 workers work. There is no health care for them. All the laws are violated. Provident fund, pension laws are there. But beedi factory owners violate all the laws and as a result beedi workers are deprived of those benefits. I do not say that all beedi factory owners are bad. But those factory owners who

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

[SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE]

are good have to face competition with other and as a result they are also compelled to violate the laws. So, even though we have very good laws, the exploitation of beedi workers never ends.

Since 1995, Maharashtra Government is having discussion on minimum wages and dearness allowance for beedi workers. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra also participated in the discussion. Representatives of beedi factory owners, Government representatives, beedi workers' unions participated in the discussion. The talks went on for nearly 3 years and uniform rate of DA for beedi workers was decided. But what is actually happening? Every beedi manufacturer is now avoiding and hesitating to pay DA at that rate to the workers. During election tour I visited many beedi factories in Sangamner District. I met beedi workers who told me that they were not given DA which was agreed upon. Beedi factory owners who agreed upon enhanced DA before Chief Minister now say that they cannot afford to pay increased DA to workers. On some pretext or other they deny wages to workers. They do not supply them even tobacco leaves or tobacco. This is how the exploitation of beedi workers is going on even now in Maharashtra. When DA and other allowances are increased in a State some factory owners shift their operation to some other State where the rates are less and get beedis manufactured there. In that State also if rates go up they go to some other State and operate there. This is how the exploitation of workers is going on. No laws of pension or gratuity are followed by these factory owners. That is why even though the Hon. Minister is sympathetic I feel that these problems should be considered at national level. In different States, different rates of wages and DA are applicable. As long as we do not bring about uniformity in the rate of DA and minimum wages of beedi workers, in all States the exploitation of beedi workers who are unorganised, landless and 90% of whom are women will continue to take place. That is why I want to request hon. Minister through you that it is not enough merely to increase the welfare fund but it is necessary to go into these basic questions and bring about uniformity, in DA and minimum wages throughout the country. Sir, last week itself I had drawn the attention of Hon. Minister to this problem by raising this matter under rule 377. I am sure Hon. Minister will take action in that matter.

Sir, I must point out that there are many laws about provident fund, monthly pension. Workers should get benefits under these laws. But sometimes rules cause obstacles. The rule is that provident fund or pension of a worker would be deposited only in nationalised bank like Bank of India, Punjab National bank. In my

constituency in Sangamner, Akola, Sinnar there is no branch of these banks. Where should the workers in these places go to get their dues? So this particular rule of depositing dues only in nationalised banks should be done away with. Their dues should be deposited in a bank where the worker has account. It is necessary to make such a rule.

Sir, the purpose of the fund to implement welfare scheme for workers is very much laudable. But I feel that this enhanced fund should be actually used for the welfare scheme of the intended beneficiaries. Therefore, the trustees of this fund should be organisations who are committed and are doing selfless and dedicated work for unorganised beedi workers. There are such organisation in Sangamner. If this welfare scheme is to be successful, it is necessary to include representatives of such organisations in the trust and take benefit of their committed and selfless work for protecting unorganised workers. Only then the benefit of these schemes would be available to the beneficiaries.

Sir, it is likely that there may be some opposition to the cess from beedi manufacturers. If the Government really wants to do something for the beedi workers, I will request the Hon. Minister, through you, to put Government's own contribution of Rs. 45 crore making the fund worth Rs. 90 crores. Since the Government is getting hundreds of crores of rupees from this industry, make it Rs. 90 crore. This will enable us to implement the schemes in best possible manner. Sir, through this fund we are giving housing loan, health care and educational facilities to workers. The most popular of these schemes is educational benefit scheme through which we are providing scholarships to worker's children for primary and secondary education. My plea is that every child of beedi workers should get this benefit. Instead allotting the fund region-wise, I suggest that the fund should be allocated in such a manner that every child of the beedi worker gets benefit of this scheme. The most essential but least used scheme is health scheme. Where are these workers working? They are working in sheds where there is no light, no health facilities are available. These workers have to work among tobacco leaves and tobacco. That is why possibility of catching diseases like TB and cancer is always there. That is why maximum fund should be allotted for health care scheme for workers. Presently many schemes remain on paper. Their rules are complicated. Forms to be filled in are equally complicated. 80% of the workers are uneducated. They do not know rules. They cannot fill in the forms. Therefore, they cannot get benefit of this scheme. That is why if you really want to give them benefit you should simplify the rules and forms to be filled in. Even income tax forms also have been simplified. So I suggest that these

rules and forms should be simplified so that workers do not have to go from pillar to post. Financial assistance is given for diseases like cancer or heart problem. But this assistance is given after a lot of delay. The rules and procedures are so complicated that in many cases assistance is available after the patient dies. So, it is necessary to simplify rules and procedures in this regard.

We have opened some hospitals. But there is a restriction that patient has to go to a particular hospital. Why should patient go to a particular hospital. Why should patient go to a hospital which is 20 or 50 miles away. He must get health care facilities in a nearby hospital. I request that this facility should be made available to workers.

90% of beedi workers are women. What is the health care package for women under our schemes? There is no provision for giving assistance to women under our schemes. So we must provide that women workers will get assistance for testing, operation, post operation care under our schemes.

Doctors in the hospital usually come from some other place. Hospitals for beedi workers in Sangamner and Sinnar are lying closed for many years for want of doctors. But if we make appointment of doctors locally these health care benefits would be available to beedi workers in their own hospitals.

Under housing scheme we give loan of Rs. 13,000 to workers for constructing a house. Under Indira Awas Yojana Rs. 30,000 are given for house construction. Everybody wants a good house for which at least Rs. 50,000 should be given for house construction. Out of this Rs. 25,000 should be subsidy component and Rs. 25,000/- should be loan. This is my request. First instalment of loan is released. But second instalment takes time. So officers should visit the sites and see that the scheme progresses quickly. But the second instalment should be released in line. I must again point out that procedures and forms are complicated. These should be simplified. In my village also there are many beedi workers but not even a single house has been constructed. So this housing programme should be taken up in right earnest. This is my request to you. There is TV purchase scheme. That is not so necessary. So, thrust should be given on health care and housing scheme. If we do this, we will be in a position to achieve the basic objective of raising the standard of living of beedi workers. So I request Hon. Minister to see that these schemes are effectively implemented. With these words, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on Beedi Workers Cess Amendment Bill, 1998. It is a step taken by the Government in the direction of welfare of Beedi workers. It is true that many measures had been taken to improve the condition of Beedi workers but even today, their condition is pathetic. In spite of government rules and regulations owners of the Beedi companies are acting arbitrarily. It has become difficult to control them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all it is necessary to strictly implement all Labour laws. Many facilities have been announced for Beedi workers. They have been given housing facility. They have been provided medical facility under which many new hospitals are being opened, but these facilities are not actually being given to them. In spite of many announcements, Beedi workers are deprived of help and facilities which they deserve. It has been said that at some places housing facility has been provided. But in reality, they are deprived of it. I don't want to go in details, but I would like to draw your attention towards some important issues. The wages given to Beedi worker are very less on the lower side. There may be different laws and rules for the welfare of the Beedi workers, but they are not being benefited therefrom because they make beedis at their home. Most of the Beedi makers who work at home, are women and children. Thus, Beedi company owners circumvent the factory law. They say they are having less than 20 workers in their factory. But in reality the actual figure is much higher. But factory Act can't be enforced there, because workers make beedis at their homes. They work on contract basis. The workers are not given tender leaves. On time and wages are also not fixed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the Government is fully determined it can easily catch hold of the owners of Beedi Companies. The way to do this is to see if the total production of the company is in proportion to the number of workers employed on record. If the production is in proportion of the number of workers, then it is all right. But it must be calculated as to how many workers can give that much production and in how many hours. The company owner can be caught on the basis of that calculation. If any Beedi Company owner defy the law made for the Welfare of Beedi workers, he can be apprehended. Many times labour inspectors go to Beedi Factories for inspections. They just see the accounts shown to them, and come back. The Labour Inspectors, or officials of Labour Ministry must pay attention in this regard. I want to draw your attention toward this bill. In this bill it is stated that

"It was subsequently increased to fifty paise per thousand manufactured Beedis with effect from 17th October, 1995. In order to continue and expand

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY]

welfare measures for persons employed in Beedi establishments, it is proposed to amend the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 so as to increase the minimum rate of cess from ten paise to fifty paise and maximum rate of cess from fifty paise to five rupees per thousand manufactured Beedis, as the Central Government may, from time to time fix."

By getting this bill passed, the Government is making the provision to increase minimum cess of 10 paise to 50 paise and the maximum cess of 50 paise to Rs. 5. But in financial memorandum the provision is of Rs. 1. I want to quote that also:

"The cess on manufactured Beedis will have to be collected from all over the country by the Central Excise Department. A collection charge of one per cent is proposed to be paid to the Central Excise Department. For the present, the rate of cess is proposed to be fixed at one rupee per thousand Beedis manufactured and on this basis, the estimated total collection of cess per year is likely to be Rs. 42 crores per year and the collection charges that would be payable will be about Rs. 42 lakhs per year. The provisions of the Bill do not involve any other expenditure whether of recurring or non-recurring nature."

That is why he has said that the recovery of Rs. 42 crore will be made and they want to use this amount for the welfare of Beedi workers. As you know, there are around 60-70 lakh Beedi workers in the country. Most of them are in Madhya Pradesh. They are also in Rajasthan. In Gujarat also there are 7-8 lakh Beedi workers...*(Interruptions)*. They are also in Maharashtra. Beedi workers are there in all States. I have stated that Beedi workers are in every part of the country and their number is around 70 lakh...*(Interruptions)*. Beedi Smokers and Beedi makers are there in every part of the country, there may be a few states where Beedis are not made but if we take an overall view Beedis are made in almost every state. At some places Beedis are made on large scale and at some places, on small scale. Beedis is manufactured especially in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. I had from Madhya Pradesh. Hon'ble Member, Shri Virendra Singh also hail from Beedi manufacturing area. Sagar, Damoh Jabalpur, Ratlam, Mandsaur and Indore are the Centres of Beedi manufacturing in Madhya Pradesh. Workers in the State are getting Rs. 25 for one thousand Beedis...*(Interruptions)* You can express your views afterwards. This type of discussion on Beedi Workers was also held in the Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh. It was discussed that workers are not getting desired benefits and Labour Laws are not being enforced. Adequate arrangements should be made for this purpose.

I want to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister towards the fact that recently a hospital was opened for the Welfare of Beedi Workers in my Parliamentary Constituency. In that hospital doctor has been appointed, but all facilities are not available. Arrangements for housing facility are needed to made there. Same facilities are also required at Sagar, Jabalpur and other places. The cess collected through this measure would be used only for the Welfare of Beedi Workers. Therefore, I want, that this money should be used wherever required, for the Welfare of Beedi Workers. If any worker really requires housing facility, it should be given to him, because Beedi Workers are not having proper housing facilities. Their condition is pathetic. Their houses are having worn-out curtains. They live in damped rooms where Beedis are made and they are not paid their wages on time. That is why adequate measures should be taken in this regard. I want to request, as clearly stated in the financial memorandum —

"In order to maintain the existing level of services made available to the Beedi Workers under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, and also to increase the scale of benefits under certain schemes, it would be necessary to create a corpus of between Rs. 40-50 crores per year to meet the requirement of the Welfare Fund."

Therefore I want to make a request that Centre should also contribute in allocations for this purpose. If that is done, we would be able to safeguard the interests of these workers. No attention has been paid towards the health of the workers. At some places hospitals are there but new hospitals are required to be opened at other places. They demand land for housing. They want loans for this purpose. Although the Government has introduced Group Insurance Scheme for these workers, but it has not been implemented properly. They are not getting benefit of group insurance scheme being implemented for them. I would like to make a submission that they must get full advantage of group insurance scheme.

There was a proposal to issue identity cards to the Beedi workers by the State Governments. But is the duty of the Central Government and not of the State Government. With issuance of the identity cards the actual number of Beedi Workers and work done by them can be known. This should be made essential so that owners of Beedi Mills may not be able to force the children and women of the workers to work at their homes. I hope that hon. Minister would pay attention towards it.

The Labour Courts should be made more powerful so that their disputes could be settled and their interest could be represented. There are labour courts but posts

of judges are not filled. There is provision of labour inspector but their posts are lying vacant. Several other issues also relate to it like the issue of provident fund and other facilities provided to Beedi Workers. As I have mentioned earlier also that the laws enacted for their welfare should be enforced strictly and they should get full advantage of funds proposed to be collected for them. The medical facility, accommodation facility and arrangements of schooling for their wards should be made properly. Besides it, the atmosphere of the premises where Beedis are prepared should be hygienic. They should not be forced to work at any place which may not be hygienic. The owners of Beedi Mills furnish fictitious number of employee to flout laws enacted in this regard. I would like to say that these rules and laws should be enforced strictly to achieve the objectives fixed. This is a brief bill and that is why I express my views on it very briefly. I hope that hon. Minister would pay attention towards it.

SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN (Jangipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill introduced by Hon'ble Minister is in the interest of Beedi Workers. I would like to mention few points while supporting this Bill. In 1976, Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act and Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act was enacted. Thereafter an amendment was made in the Act in 1981. At that time cess was imposed from 10 paise to 50 paise. This time Hon'ble Minister has brought an amendment to increase the rate of cess because only Rs. 21 crores are collected in a year by imposing 50 paise cess due to which it is difficult to run welfare Schemes. There are many welfare schemes for Beedi Workers but Rs. 21 crores is insufficient to cover all these schemes. Therefore, the amendment which the Hon'ble Minister has brought to increase the rate of cess from 50 paise to Rs. 5.00, we all agree with that. If this cess is collected then this fund is utilised for the welfare of Beedi workers. The condition of Beedi Workers is very pitiable. There are more than 70 lakh Beedi Workers in 14 states in the country. Hon'ble Minister has said that there are 44 lakh Beedi Workers in the country but this is not correct. All the Beedi Workers have living below poverty line and 80 percent of them are illiterate, 90 percent are female workers and 20 percent are Child Labourers. The whole of the Beedi Industry is in unorganised sector. The laws enacted for Beedi Workers are not enforced. There is Beedi and Cigar (Condition of Employment) Act but it is only on paper as it has not been implemented. There is Minimum Wages Act. But it has not been enforced in any state in case of Beedi Workers. Even after working whole day they can prepare around 1000 Beedies but they do not get more than Rs. 25/-. In some cess they get only Rs. 10 or Rs. 12. This is their condition. There is no minimum wage for them. They are getting Rs. 10 or 12 even though they work for

whole day. They are being exploited extremely and their condition is very pitiable.

There is law relating to P.F. Not even 10 percent Beedi Workers have been covered under it. Bonus and Gratuity is not provided to Beedi Workers. It is the condition even the Welfare Fund for the Welfare of the Beedi workers is also not utilised properly. There is also a Scholarship Scheme for the children of Beedi Workers but this scholarship is given only when they get 40% marks. You must be knowing that it is difficult for their children to get 40% marks I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister that scholarship should be provided to every child of beedi workers. We should all the children of Beedi Workers under Scholarship Scheme.

As regards medical facility, I would suggest that there should be static cum mobile dispensary at a place where there are five thousands Beedi Workers and there should be big hospital where there are more than 50,000 Beedi Workers. Hon'ble Minister Sir, you must be knowing and we have also written a letter and had conversation with you that there are atleast three lakh Beedi Workers in Murshidabad District in West Bengal. The construction work of a hospital is going on there for the last ten years but it has not been completed so far. This hospital is proposed to have 50 beds. The construction work of hospital should be completed as early as possible so that 3 lakh Beedi Workers who are living there can get medical facility. There is one very good area of Beedi Workers in Jhalda in Purulia district. There are large number of Beedi Workers in Talkhola also. There should also be a hospital for Beedi Workers. The rules and laws relating to other scheme should be simple otherwise they will not be interested in these Schemes because it is difficult for them to fill up from. The forms should be in regional language but regional language forms are not available everywhere we do not know whether State Advisory Committee is functioning everywhere or not but Beedi Advisory Committee is functioning in West Bengal we have sent all files there but Centre Advisory Committee has not convened its meeting or the last three years. Few days ago Centre Advisory Committee convened its meeting why it did not convened for last 3 years? If Centre Advisory Committee does not convene its meeting how State Advisory Committee become Successful? Therefore Centre Advisory Committee should be reconstituted and there should be a representative of each union in State Advisory Committee. The Bill introduced for collecting fund is right. At present, the provision of imposing cess is from 50 paise to Rs. 5 and there is a proposal to increase it upto Re 1. Excise duty is included in it. As per existing rules excise duty is exempted on production of Beedis upto 20 lakhs. A Law was enacted for not imposing excise duty on the production of twenty

[SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN]

lakh Beedis, but it is not proper. We find that the owners of big factories do not show their production more than 20 lakhs. In 1996 there was Tobacco warehouse, that should be introduced. It would be better if cess is collected from Tobacco instead of Beedi. Excise Duty has been reduced on Beedi and Cigarettes. Earlier it was Rs. 120 previous Government had reduced excise duty from Rs. 120 to Rs. 60 and at present it is Rs. 90 but my suggestion is that excise duty should be increased to Rs. 120. If it is not increased to Rs. 120 then Beedi Industry would face difficulty. If excise duty is more, cess would also be more. Excise duty should be Rs. 120 per thousand. Similarly identical excise duty should be levied for branded and unbranded Beedies because big companies produce unbranded Beedies and put the label of branded Beedi later on.

Even the funds which we are collecting, have dwindled you can see figures. In the year 1996-97 when our party is in power we have given assistance of Rs. 3 crore 27 lakhs but in 1997-98 your Government has given assistance of Rs. 2 crores. What happened? Earlier you were sending more but now you have reduced it though the expenditure has increased. You have reduced the funds which you are distributing to different states therefore, I want to say that there are many other ways and means to collect funds. My suggestion is this that we should formulate more schemes for Beedi Workers. When Beedi Worker attain the age of 60 or 65 years, he cannot work. Therefore old age pension should be provided to him so that he could get some relief. The Government should format some schemes in this regard under which relief can be provided to Beedi Worker whether he is male or female. We support this Bill and want that some funds should be provided for the construction of a hospital for workers of Sealdah and North Bengal. I hope that the Government accept this demand. With these words I would conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI S. MURUGESAN (Tenkasi): Hon Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to participate in the debate on the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

A number of hon. Members have already participated and discussed this Bill in this august House. I would also like to say some points for the perusal of the Government.

As per the 1998 Census, the total number of beedi workers in the country is 44 lakh. In the State of Tamil Nadu, there are seven lakh beedi workers who are engaged in the production of beedi. A large number of

these workers are living below the poverty line. Without doing this work, they will not be able to run their family peacefully. So, in most of these families, women and children are involved in beedi-rolling work.

As far as their minimum wage is concerned, it varies from State to State. In the State of Tamil Nadu, the minimum wage that has been fixed is Rs. 38.50 per one thousand beedis. That is not enough to run their families because now-a-days the prices of all other items are very high. The owners of the beedi industry do not pay wages properly to the beedi-rolling workers. I would request the Government to take effective steps to increase the minimum wages of these beedi workers.

The Government has provided a lot of facilities to these beedi-rolling workers. Due to inadequate medical facilities, they have to suffer health problems leading to chronic disease like TB, Asthma, etc. The Parliamentary Committee on Labour has recommended to give proper medical care for these beedi workers. The Committee also recommended that every Taluk and District Headquarters, which are having these beedi workers, should at least have a 25-bed hospital and a 100-bed hospital respectively, which would facilitate proper medical treatment of these workers.

Out of six and a half lakh beedi-rolling workers in Tamil Nadu, three lakh are there in my constituency, that is in Tenkasi. The Government has already sanctioned a 50-bed hospital in our district but till today nothing has been done. So, I would appeal to the Government, through the Ministry of Labour, that this 50-bed hospital should be established immediately in Alangulam Assembly Constituency. I would be thankful to the Minister of Labour if this 50-bed hospital is established in Alangulam. Infrastructural facilities are available. Road facilities and water facilities are there. Alangulam is a big town. It is also the Headquarters of the Assembly Constituency.

The Government has provided a number of welfare schemes for these beedi workers. Our hon. Minister has introduced some schemes for the welfare of these beedi workers.

18.00 hrs.

The scholarship scheme has been given to the children of beedi workers on the basis of the marks obtained by them. It should be given to all the children who are studying because they are all living below the poverty line. I would appeal to the hon. Minister to increase the amount for the housing scheme from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 40,000. The subsidy should also be increased.

By way of this Amendment Bill, the hon. Minister has introduced more facilities. They should reach the beedi workers immediately. The Government should take immediate steps so that all the facilities should reach the beedi rolling workers. I support the Bill. With these words, I conclude my speech.

18.02 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): With your permission, I beg to present the Fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[English]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): Sir, we can extend the sitting of the House by one hour. This Bill should be passed today. Hon. Members may be requested to speak briefly.

[Translation]

I would like to suggest that discussion on this bill may be concluded within one hour and it may be passed today itself if hon. Members make brief speeches on this Bill.

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum): This Bill should be passed today.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA (Sawai Madhopur): Sir several hon. Members want to speak on this bill, therefore in place of extending the time of the House, discussion should be continued till tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of the House may be extended to get this bill passed if the House agrees to it.

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Nobody is opposing this bill. Everybody is supporting this Bill... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, the time of the House may be extended by one hour. This discussion can conclude today if hon. Members speak briefly.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): Sir, have you decided to extend the House?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: How you will get a chance to speak if time of the House is not extended. Therefore the time of the House has been extended by one hour.

18.03 hrs.

BEEDI WORKERS WELFARE CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL — CONTD.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I welcome the Bill for enhancing the cess from 50 paise to more than Rs. 5.

At the outset, I would like to point out to the Minister the anomaly in the Financial Memorandum. I would like to read from the fourth line of the second paragraph of the Financial Memorandum attached to the Bill.

"In order to maintain the existing level of services made available to the beedi workers under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, and also to increase the scale of benefits under certain schemes, it would be necessary to create a corpus of between Rs. 40-50 crore per year to meet the requirements of the welfare fund. To achieve this objective, it is proposed to enhance the rate of cess up to five rupees per thousand manufactured beedis. Although the provision for a higher ceiling is made in order to avoid frequent amendments of the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, the rate of cess to be notified would be kept at one rupee per thousand manufactured beedis, for the present. This rate of cess of one rupee per thousand manufactured beedis would result in realisation of receipt of the order of around Rs. 42 crore per year at the current level of production of the beedis to make the fund viable."

Sir, in the Act, it is stated that it is not more than Rs. 4. Here it says that it will be one rupee. I do not

[SHRI A.C. JOS]

know if every other day a notification will come. Is it the intention of the Minister that now the notification will be for one rupee and thereafter sometime later it will be enhanced? Why is it mentioned in the main Act as not more than five rupees? It should also be five rupees. Why should there be any difference? I want a clarification from the Minister, if possible now.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): It is only the upper ceiling.

SHRI A.C. JOS: I understand it. Upper ceiling means that the notification will have to come. Why does the Minister stipulate it now? I understand it. The Government gets the facility to notify. If it is five rupees then why should it be reduced to two rupees or one rupee? Why can it not be two rupees now? The Minister may kindly look into that anomaly.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati): I am on a point of order. Sub-rule (2) Rule 376 says that Members can formulate a point of order and the Speaker shall decide. My friend has pointed it out. As a matter of fact, I wanted to raise this point at the initial stage. But it is desirable on my part and on your part also to allow a discussion. There is an anomaly in that the Statement of Objects and Reasons and financial Memorandum wherein mentioned a different thing. As my hon. friend says, Sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Bedi Workers Welfare Act, 1972 mentions 'not less than 10 paise or more than 50 paise' One Rupee in Financial Memorandum. Now you have to give the ruling. Earlier the cess was to be notified by one rupees per one thousand beedis. The financial statement says one thing and in the main Act it is fifty paise or more thus different thing.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Rs. 5/- is mentioned.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Please ask him to table the amendment.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: I know my business. I can move my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jos, you continue.

SHRI A.C. JOS: I can understand the Government's point. The Government is now fixing it at one rupee. At the same time the Minister has a prerogative to enhance it up to five rupees. What is the reason for fixing it at rupee one? As he said the Financial Memorandum says one thing and the main Act says something else. There can be a possibility for misinterpretation. The Ministry may look into it.

Anyway, the object of the Bill is to collect Rs. 42 crore. My first question is, what is the contribution of the Government to this Cess Bill? The Government has not contributed anything. If Rs. 42 crore was recommended, why can the Government not give Rs. 50 crore for this fund?

As my learned friend suggested there are, as per the statistics, about 46 lakh or 50 lakh beedi workers. If these 50 lakh workers were to contribute Rs. 50 crore, it comes to Rs. 100 per head. So, my request is that the Government should contribute their mite to the Cess Fund because the beedi workers are the most unorganised, illiterate and unhealthy people. The Government should contribute at least Rs. 50 crore to this Fund, otherwise every now and then the Minister will have to come forward with some amendment like this. We need a corpus and that corpus should be formed with Government's contribution. So, my request is that the Government should contribute at least Rs. 50 crore to this Fund.

Secondly, I request the hon. Minister to inform this House whether identity cards have been issued to these workers. Has the Government ever thought of issuing identity cards to them? If they issue identity cards to these workers, then only they will come into the account of the Government, then only they can go to the hospitals and then only they can get the maximum benefits. So, identity cards to all beedi workers should be introduced. That is a matter which the Government should very seriously consider. There is a Board and these workers are covered under that Board. So, why do they not issue identity cards to them so that just like ration cards, they can very well claim the benefits on the basis of those identity cards? I am not elaborating it.

My third point is that they have hospitals in many parts of the country, but what is the position of those hospitals? Those hospitals are financed by the Welfare Board, if I am right, but are controlled under the Central Health Service Scheme (CGHS). The doctors in these hospitals are appointed under the CGHS. These hospitals are situated in rural areas and in the remotest parts of the country, and the doctors never go there. For months and months, these hospitals are left without doctors and other facilities. Why can the administration of these hospitals and appointment of doctors also not be brought under the welfare Board? That is a matter which the Minister should give serious consideration to.

This is not the only Scheme. There is the ESI Scheme also under them and there also the same thing is happening. ESI Scheme is also being financed by the

Labour Department. The ESI Corporation is managed by State Governments, with the result that many of the hospitals run by the Corporation have no staff and no medicines. Depending upon the whims and fancies of the State Governments, these hospitals are functioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now please wind up.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, I have just started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many Members to speak on this Bill and we have to conclude by seven o'clock.

SHRI A.C. JOS: I am mentioning only the points, Sir.

My next point is that some mechanism should be worked out for the management of the hospitals meant for the unorganised sector. You draw a scheme and then leave it to CGHS, but CGHS itself is an ocean...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): What is your point of order?

[*English*]

SHRI A.C. JOS: I am not on a point of order. That is over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, they have a housing scheme, but do they think that the amount now stipulated for constructing a house under that scheme is sufficient? Everybody has expressed his desire that the amount under the housing scheme should be enhanced to make it reasonable. At the same time, subsidy should also be given to them. These are all poor workers. They are all illiterate and are mainly women. Our Urban Development Minister has been going about throughout the country, saying that he will solve the housing problem. So, I request the Labour Minister that instructions may be issued to give more subsidy to these workers so that they can construct their houses.

My next point is about providing educational facilities to the children of these poor workers. I do not know what facilities are now being provided to them by the Board. The children of the beedi workers should be given scholarships and other facilities. So, my submission is

that educational facilities should be provided to the children of the beedi workers and also scholarships should be given to them.

Sir, in this context, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Act. We had passed it in 1996. I have got this Act with me here. That Act came into force in August, 1996 as Act No. 28 of 1996. We are now reaching its second anniversary while this Government has not taken any action with regard to this Act. A Board has to be constituted and rules are to be framed. This Government has not done anything. Our Government had passed it and the United Front Government continued it. Even now, it is in cold storage. Only the State of Kerala has passed a Bill, Construction Workers' Bill and the welfare fund is working very well.

But there are a lot of anomalies. Even at the time of discussion on this Act, I had mentioned that there were anomalies but the officers rather over-powered me and the Minister only obeyed the officers. I had suggested that in the name of the Bill, "Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Bill", there was no necessity for the word 'Building' and it could be called 'Construction Workers' Welfare Bill'. It was resisted like anything. Even now, I do not know why they had resisted it. Even after passing of the Bill, the Board has not been constituted and the rules have not been framed with the result that very serious consequences are there. The Construction Worker's Welfare Fund of the Government of Kerala which had been functioning very well has now come to a standstill because they have to function under the scheme of the Central Government.

I seriously urge upon the Minister to give attention and kindly listen to me. I am saying that one of the very good schemes of Kerala Government, Construction Workers' Welfare Scheme, could not function now because of the non-framing of rules and non-formation of the Board. So my submission to the Minister is that he may kindly take immediate action, for fulfilling the requirements of the Building and Construction Workers' Welfare Act and frame rules also. ...(*Interruptions*) It is entirely different. I am only mentioning that. So, my point is that even the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund needs a streamlining and a very serious looking at it, and more and more welfare funds need to be started for the welfare of unorganised workers. I conclude with these words.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome and support the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill brought here with a view to increase the cess.

[SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN]

As we all know that Beedi Industry is a cottage industry which is growing continuously. It is a good thing that this has been granted the status of the small scale industry since it was a long pending demand. It would give some relief. It is a cottage industry and men, women and children of 12 to 14 years of age are engaged in this industry. Children are also working in it. They are engaged in the work of packing and labeling. But the most dangerous job is that of heating beedis. During this process poisonous fires come out which are harmful to children. I request the hon. Minister to pay special attention towards it.

Though the Government have fixed the rate of Rs. 37 for making one thousand beedies but it is really a matter of concern that this rate is not being paid anywhere. In my Parliamentary Constituency, Amroha about 25000 persons are engaged in beedi industry and they are living in a very pitiable condition. The hon. Members speaking prior to me have rightly stated that people engaged in this industry are very poor and they are forced to go to hospital time to time. I would like to say that Government should see to it that the rate which has been fixed should be implemented so that the economic condition of beedi workers could be improved. It has been found that beedi workers become sick and at age of 20 or 22 years they start looking older than their age. There is no proper arrangements for medical facility for them. A few days back member of Beedi Workers Union came to me and told that a large number of persons are engaged in this industry but there is no proper arrangement of doctors and medicines in the hospital, which are meant for them. Most of the beedi workers have been suffering from tuberculosis, cancer and other diseases and they are facing so many problems. Another issue of concern is that on the one hand the owners of beedi industry are paying less wages to the beedi workers and on the other hand they are also paying less excise duty to the Central Government. Excise duty of Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 is paid on one lakh beedis but rate of excise duty increases to Rs. 25 to 30 per thousand when it is sold in market. I would like to say that there is large variation in this regard and hon. Minister should pay attention towards it.

Workers engaged in this industry are very poor but even then this industry is not going to close down but it will grow further and common man smoke beedi to relieve himself from his sufferings and for relaxation. The consumption of beedi control decline in the country. But this is also facing a tough competition, excise duty on Cigarettes, has been reduced significantly and as a result of it consumption of beedi is declining continuously. Just now an hon. Member mentioned in his speech about the

report of the Standing Committee. I would also like to say that hon. Minister and concerned officers at the department should pay attention towards recommendations made in it. In recommendations of the report, it has been stated and I support that a 25-30 bedded hospital should be set up in every district with facilities of X-ray and pathology so that dangerous diseases could be diagnosed. A 50 bed hospital costs Rs. 6 crore and with securing expenditure of about 25 to 30 lakhs. This proposal of raising Rs. 42 crore will not be adequate for construction and functions of these hospitals and for welfare of workers. I request you to pay attention towards it as I have doubt that this amount will be sufficient to meet all these expenses. Like other members, I would also like to say that Rs. 42 crore is proposed to be raised and another Rs. 42 crore should be added to it by the Government to work on this scheme.

I would also like to say something about two-three schemes launched under the welfare schemes for workers. As it has been mentioned that in case of natural death of a worker Rs. 3 to 5 thousand are given under the Group Insurance Scheme. What is the position of the recommendations made by the Working Group comprising of people from Insurance sector and other people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know as to whether these recommendations have been accepted or not. Whether Life Insurance Corporation and other corporations have accepted those recommendations and those have been implemented? Whether the recommendations made for providing an assistance of Rs. 5000 and Rs. 10,000 in case of natural and accidental deaths respectively have been accepted or not?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise another point. Beedi Workers have been provided with the facility of constructing their own houses under two schemes namely for 'Economically Weaker Sections' and Build Your Own House' and a loan of Rs. 15,000 is provided under it and a subsidy of Rs. 1700 is also provided. As several hon. Members have stated, I would also like to say that it is a meagre amount. One cannot construct a pucca house with this amount. Therefore this amount should be enhanced to Rs. 25000 and amount of subsidy should also be increased to Rs. 5000/-. In this way he would get Rs. 30000/- and would be able to construct a one room house for himself.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is not much controversy over this Bill and all are unanimous of it. You should increase allocation for the welfare of the beedi workers. If you do so, it would be in the interest of workers engaged in beedi industry and they will be grateful to you. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for having provided me the opportunity to express my views on the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1998. There are more than 50 lakh beedi workers in the country and most of those engaged in this work belong to minority community. Hon'ble Members have expressed their views in the House I associate myself with them and would like to make a few suggestions.

Sir, beedi industry has been recognised as cottage industry in Madhya Pradesh and most of the consumers of beedis are farmers, labourers or rickshaw pullers. Sagar, Damoh and Jabalpur areas of Madhya Pradesh alone account for 40% of the total production of beedi in the entire country. 65% of the total *Tendu* leaves available in the country are found in the forests of Madhya Pradesh. Through you, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to double the rates payable for beedi making so that beedi workers may be benefited. Many schemes have been formulated for setting up hospitals in the states for beedi workers. Through you, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to set up hospitals at Tehsil level. If that is not possible, at least one hospital should invariably be set up in each district and such hospitals should be equipped with X-ray machines and pathological facility because the beedi workers mostly suffer from tuberculosis and their lungs are affected. Hence the facility of blood test and X-ray should be made available in these hospitals.

Sir, along with the hospital facility, the facility of education should be provided for the children of beedi workers and scholarship should be given to them compulsorily because if one happens to visit the rural areas, he will find small children and women making beedis in their homes. The Child labourers should be removed from work and provided the facility of education. Scholarship should compulsorily be given to them so that they have a better future. There is a need to change the policy regarding *Tendu* leaves. Proper agreement should be reached with the owners for the enforcement and implementation of welfare schemes for beedi workers so as to extend all the facilities to them. There have been many instances of bungling in beedi industry and these are mostly regarding the low quality of tobacco and tendency of underweighing. A scheme should be formulated to address these problems. Besides, the workers should also be given the thread used for tying the beedis free of cost by the Government. It seems that the Government has bowed to the beedi industry owners because the owners have become prosperous, millionaires and even billionaires whereas the problems faced by the beedi workers have remained unresolved.

Secondly, there is a need to implement the Group Insurance Scheme strictly. The Government has raised the grant given in case of natural death from three thousand to five thousand rupees whereas the amount of five thousand rupees is inadequate in the present time. At least ten thousand rupees should be provided in case of natural death. In case the death is caused by sudden accident, a grant of twenty five thousand rupees should be given instead of ten thousand rupees. The Government has provided only 14,180 houses so far. In view of the large number of Beedi Workers, I demand that housing activities should be speeded up under housing policy and more and more loans should be given to them, especially those belonging to weaker sections for building houses. Child labour in the industry of beedi making should be abolished. The Government is concerned about the Child labourers. Besides, I would also like to submit that there is a large number of beedi workers in Uttar Pradesh as well. There are at least 25,000 workers in my constituency. In the Muslim dominated areas like Allahabad, Kaushambi, Fatehpur, mostly those belonging to minority Community are engaged in this work. Minimum wages should be fixed at national level for beedi workers. As I have stated, the state government should have the right to fix the minimum wages in view of the geographical condition prevalent in the state.

Similarly, Family saving scheme should also be implemented so as to extend same facilities to their families in future I would also suggest that a duty of two paise or five paise should be imposed on cigarettes and beedis. 50% of the amount so collected coupled with 50% contribution from the Government should be utilised for the treatment of beedi workers so that they may get protection, their health is guarded and they are able to work with dignity and dedication...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding many people belonging to weaker sections wish to set up their own cottage industries. They should be given loans at a lower rate of interest so that they may set up cottage industries and find for themselves. With these words, I support the bill introduced by you and hope that my suggestions will be implemented.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): I hail from District Sagar of Madhya Pradesh which has the largest number of beedi workers. Beedi making has turned into a cottage industry. About sixty lakh workers are engaged in beedi making. About sixty thousand workers are engaged in beedi making in District Sagar alone. A large number of children, women, youth and those belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes are engaged as beedi workers because they are illiterate; they lead a life of poverty and lack awareness. They are not organised and that is why they are exploited by the

[SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR]

beedi producers. Due to illiteracy, the beedi workers are unable to avail of the benefits of identity card, log book, minimum wages, provident fund, bonus, scholarship, housing schemes, medical facility and other welfare schemes. There are many such workers who do not know even the name of their employer. Though the Government has framed many laws for beedi workers such as Beedi and Cigar Workers Act, 1966, Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, Bonus Act 1965, Gratuity Act, 1972, Provident Funds Act, 1925 etc. Besides, the Union Government has enacted Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 and Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has been enforced for fixing the wages of the workers. Despite all these laws, the beedi workers have not been benefited to the desired extent. In the absence of identity card, beedi workers remain deprived of all the facilities provided by the Government. The future of beedi worker is in dark. As per the definition of poverty line given by the Union Government in the newspapers and Doordarshan, those having a family income of Rs. 11,000 per annum in rural area and Rs. 15,000 per annum in urban areas are deemed to be living below the poverty line. However, as per my information, the beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh do not earn more than Rs. 600 p.m. This reflects the pitiable condition of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh. The Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Bill should be implemented effectively and only then the workers can be benefited by these schemes. In the interest of employees, there is need to bring amendment in the law for efficient implementation of rules and removing practices and administrative problems. There should be a provision in the law of awarding strict punishment and heavy fine to an employer or contractor, who employs workers without providing on identity cards. Non-issuance of identity cards, non-maintenance of employment registers should be considered a serious offence. A provision should be made to allow beedi workers to file a suit in such circumstances.

There is a great variation in the rates of wages given to beedi workers in different states. The lowest wages are given to beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh Rs. 35 is paid for making one thousand beedis, in Karnataka, Rs. 36 and in Kerala Rs. 42 is paid whereas in M.P. only Rs. 22.50 is paid to beedi workers. It means that the lowest wages are paid in Madhya Pradesh to beedi workers. This anomaly should be removed and a uniform rate of wages should be fixed for beedi workers throughout the country. In several regions workers are provided leaves and thread for making beedis but in Madhya Pradesh cost of thread is charged from workers.

On 7th February, 1997, the Labour Minister of United Front Government had gone to Sagar and laid the foundation stone of a hospital for beedi workers. 6 or 7 years ago also a foundation stone was laid to construct a hospital for beedi workers at the same place. While laying the foundation stone of the hospital for beedi workers in Sagar on 7th February 1997, the hon. Minister had announced that the said hospital would be completed within two years, but it is really unfortunate that about one and a half year is going to elapse and so far not a single brick has been used for construction of the above hospital. Beedi workers live in small houses and six or seven members of the family are engaged in this work and due to pollution emitted in this process they catch dangerous diseases like tuberculosis and cancer. But due to their poor financial conditions they are unable to treat their family member suffering from tuberculosis. The dispensaries run by the Labour Department for the welfare of the beedi worker, especially in Sagar do not have medicines even for the treatment of ordinary ailments..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Every body is saying the same thing.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: I am concluding in just two minutes. Sir my district is dominantly inhabited by beedi workers. There are maximum number of beedi workers in Sagar District of Madhya Pradesh.. (Interruptions) A large number of labourers have been engaged in making beedis in Sagar, Damoh, Jabalpur, Vidisha, Raisen, Banda of Bundelkhand, Mahoba and Jhansi. It has been noticed that most of the beedi manufactures exploit beedi workers by wielding their political influence and there is lack of participation on the part of the Government and the owners of this industry in welfare schemes launched for them. It seems impossible to solve the problems by simply enacting laws. At present Rs. 25 thousand to Rs. 50 thousands are required to construct houses for workers as per the location of site. There is a need to provide 30 percent as grant and 30 percent as loan by the Central Government for construction of houses for the workers since they are not economically strong enough to construct the houses on this own.

There is need to create a sense of duty among owners of this industry that they are head of the family and workers are their family members. This feeling would create a sense of responsibility among them to think for

welfare of workers. There is need to remove the fear of worker and restore confidence among them through imparting education and training. I support the amendment proposed in the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill brought here with the view that the Minister has heart of a poet and also leader of labourers and he is well aware of the sufferings and problems of labourers. This cess is being raised to Re 1 from 50 paise but the amount recovered from it would not be sufficient for welfare of workers. The Government should make efforts to mobilise funds from more resources. The coordination should be created among beedi producer labourers, speculators and administration for the welfare of the workers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at first I felt that this 'Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill' would be for welfare of worker and it would relieve them from their sufferings. I thought that how these anti-labourer people have brought a bill for welfare of workers. It is being stated that hon. Minister is pro-poor and works for their welfare. So, I would like to analyse the Bill as to what provisions have been made in it for the welfare of poor and if the hon. Minister dares to take some special measures for welfare of workers only then I will consider him well wisher of labourers.

There was a provision to impose a minimum cess of 10 paise and maximum cess of 50 paise and now a provision has been made to impose minimum cess of 50 Paise and maximum of Rs. 1. Is it not so?

DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA: That would be recovered from the owners of this industry.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Of course you would recover it from owner of the industry. Excise duty would be imposed on production of one thousand beedis. But no provision has been made to provide something to workers. The workers are being exploited by the owners and you are free to impose tax on them but you should also give something to the workers only then we would consider you well wisher of workers. We don't have any faith in your party and this Government. People say that hon. Minister comes from a poor family and work for welfare of this class. There are 50 or 60 lakh beedi workers in the country.

There are no less than 7-8 lakh beedi workers in Bihar. The beedi workers of Bihar make good beedis

that a Cigarette smoking persons would quit his habit of smoking Cigarette and prefer beedis. 'Bachhvada' beedi of Bihar is famous. Thousands of labourers are engaged in Beedi making in Bihar Sharief and make a famous brand of beedis. The labourers working in Calcutta look for 'Bachhvada' beedis and beedis of Bihar Sharief I have seen that there is nothing for the welfare of workers and for their protection from exploitation. You want to create a fund by receiving some amount from the owners. But there is no mention that this fund will be properly utilised for the welfare of workers. The Government should categorically make it clear as to how much money along with the funds collected by imposition of cess would be spent for welfare of workers. Just now hon. Members were making speeches that hospitals should be set up for welfare of workers. The Government should guarantee and make it clear to the House as to how it would spend money for welfare of worker which will be collected through cess. Transparency should be maintained in this matter. It should not be so that funds allocated for welfare of workers are utilised for some other projects because workers would not be benefitted by it. It should not be used for welfare of exploiters. Criterion should be fixed in this regard.

We were surprised to know because this Government is anti-workers. This is a party of rich people. Traders and big capitalists are associated with it and it is strange that they have brought a bill for welfare of workers. We have also come to know that the Government would collect through cess and would not spend anything from its own pocket. No special arrangement has been made to check the exploitation of workers. As Chacko ji has also stated, I am confident that as the Minister belongs to a poor family he would take care of workers. I would say that this Bill should be passed at the earliest and the Government should state as to how much amount would be given for welfare of workers and transparency should be maintained in spending this fund. With these words I conclude.

*SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharwar-South): Mr. Chairman Sir, on behalf of my party Lok Shakti, I rise to support this Beedi Workers' Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1968. This Bill seeks to increase the cess from 50 paise to Rs. 5/-.

There are about 50 lakh of people who are working in the beedi industry. Out of this, 25 lakh are young boys and girls. The Government of India has resorted to this amendment instead of finding solution to major problems of the young boys and girls in the beedi industry. They have several serious basic problems.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[SHRI B.M. MANSINKAI]

Compulsory education to children upto 14 years of age has been made mandatory in our country. Unfortunately this is not being implemented. The boys and girls and even children are employed to make beedis. Neither the State Government nor the Central Government seriously think about implementing compulsory education.

Sir, the Government may be collecting about 50 crores of rupees in the form of cess. Out of this a substantial amount must be spent for the welfare of these children who are being exploited by the society. These boys and girls get a meagre amount for making beedis. But what will happen to their future? Should they work like this as slaves throughout their life time? Why don't the Centre come forward with a comprehensive amendment Bill for the welfare of these children?

Those children who are working in the beedi industry would be attacked by several diseases. Hence, it is very essential to take care of the health of these children. They cannot spare money for purchase of medicines from their meagre income. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to help these poor children to protect their health from the hazards of the beedi industry.

In Karnataka State there is Bage Beedi Company. In Savanoor also beedis are produced in large quantity. Beedis are being produced in houses. This has become a very important cottage industry. At home these children are asked to make beedis everyday. Thousand beedis are counted and payment is made to the children accordingly. However, the education of our younger generation particularly children coming from very poor families is in jeopardy.

I, therefore, once again urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Labour to look into this serious problem of children who are working in the beedi industry. He should provide all educational and medical facilities to these children without any further delay.

Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to participate in this vital discussion and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, this Amendment Bill is introduced by the hon. Minister with the objective of enhancing the cess on beedi manufacturing for the purpose of collecting Rs. 42 crore from this sector. There are no divergent of opinions among the Members that the beedi workers are the most unorganised workers of this country. They are the

neglected and deprived section of the society. They belong to the below poverty level. The shades, places and the vicinity where they are working are most unhygienic. There are no suitable arrangements fit for their working. The places where they are working are most unfit for doing work. There is no provision of toilet even for the women workers.

The beedi workers are doing the most hazardous work in the country. Hence, they have been suffering from various serious diseases, particularly the Tuberculosis. There are no arrangements for proper medical facilities for the beedi workers of our country. There is a system of mobile medical unit, but that is not functioning properly. They are not discharging their duties which have been provided. So, I urge upon the Government of India, particularly the hon. Minister concerned, to give attention in order to make arrangements for setting up hospitals in the different parts of the country only for the treatment of the beedi workers. Beedi workers have no job security. They are dependent on the sweet will and mercy of the employer. They have no pension and provident fund facilities. They are not getting the minimum wages under the laws enacted by the different States for the welfare of the workers. There is a provision of labour officers and labour inspectors to look after the facilities of the beedi workers so that the beedi workers may get their remuneration under the Minimum Wages Act.

But the labour authorities and the Labour Department are very much reluctant to do their duties. The beedi workers form a large section of the society—near about one crore people are working in the beedi sector. But they are living below poverty line. There is no arrangement for medical facilities; there is no arrangement for educational facilities, and they are living in slum.

So, the Government should pay special attention to improve the condition of the beedi workers. A large number of beedi workers are working at their residences with their families. The children and the womenfolk are also working as beedi workers at their residences, but sufficient materials are not supplied to them.

They are also not getting any loan from the banks. The public sector banks, the nationalised banks are very callous; they are very reluctant and they are not rendering any financial assistance to the beedi workers. Beedi workers form poorer section of the society. So, special attention should be paid to the beedi workers so that their living condition is improved. I urge upon the hon. Minister to pay special attention and to render special facilities to the beedi workers so as to improve their pathetic condition.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to offer my views on this Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1998. On behalf of the DMK Labour Progressive Federation—while supporting the Bill—I express my views on this.

In India, about 95 per cent of the labour force are in the unorganised sector. The beedi industry employs a major section of the workers who are unorganised. In the strictest sense, though trade unions expose the cause of the workers, since it happens to be a home industry, a cottage industry, it is very difficult for the trade unions to fight for the cause of the workers.

In Tamil Nadu alone, more than six lakh workers are engaged in the beedi industry. The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the able leadership of Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi are taking vigorous steps to improve the social and economic conditions of the beedi workers. The Government of Tamil Nadu have taken up the task of constructing 435 houses at Melapalayam and 535 houses at Mukkudal for beedi workers in Tirunelveli district and also have planned to construct more houses in other districts where beedi workers are concentrated.

Here, I would like to point out that a meagre sum of only Rs. 9,000 is sanctioned for the construction of houses for the workers. To get the remaining amount for construction—taking into account the cost of escalation of building materials—each worker has to go in for a loan of more than Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 45,000. So, it is very difficult for the workers to build houses. Therefore, the grant should be increased to at least Rs. 30,000 per worker.

Though Tamil Nadu is one of the major beedi manufacturing States and though a sizable amount is collected from Tamil Nadu by way of cess, the said amount has not been proportionately flown back to Tamil Nadu for the welfare of those workers for whom the cess has been paid.

Under the existing Beedi Welfare Scheme of the Government of India, the children of beedi workers are entitled for educational scholarships. But a condition has been prescribed under the Scheme that the children of the workers should have obtained a minimum of 45 per cent marks in order to avail of the scholarships. These workers are poor with no social or economic background and these children are used by their parents to assist them in the beedi manufacturing industry.

19.00 hrs.

You cannot expect the children to get 45 per cent marks. So, I urge upon the Government to relax the condition as far as the beedi workers are concerned. I would request the Government of India that this condition of 45 per cent marks should be dispensed with and all the workers' children who pass in the examination should be enabled to avail these scholarships.

Under the existing Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, read with rules, identity cards have to be issued to the beedi workers. It is the responsibility of the Welfare Commissioners to issue the identity cards to these workers. But, unfortunately the cards are not being issued properly. I urge upon the Government and the Labour Minister to entrust the task to the Labour Department of the State Government. Since identity card is a must to avail of the medical facilities, I would request the hon. Minister to bestow his personal attention on this point.

Beedi industry is a peculiar industry which countenances the contract system. This system hampers the growth of the beedi workers. The contractors, on the hand squeeze the workers and on the other hand deprive them of the statutory benefits. Leave with wages, bonus, etc., are not passed on to the workers by the contractors.

In order to wean away the beedi workers from the clutches of the contractors, the Government of India should encourage, help and assist in organising the beedi workers under cooperative basis. Tamil Nadu is placed in a paradoxical situation. Though it has deprived the beedi workers, it has no raw materials. Hence, the Government of India should take action to supply *Tendu* leaves at a subsidized rate to the cooperatives so that the beedi manufacturers who come under the cooperatives will sell them at competitive rates. Similarly, the Government of India should procure only from the cooperatives for its use.

It is understood that the State Advisory Committee has not been reconstituted since 1991 for the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund. I would request the Government of India to constitute the Committee immediately. Since the workers in the beedi industry are prone to occupational diseases, the existing medical care in Tamil Nadu should be augmented and broad-based so that it caters to the needs of workers adequately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the time is 7 p.m. The House had given its consent to sit upto 7. p.m. About seven or eight Members are there to speak. We may sit for half-an-hour more or till the Bill is passed. Each Member may take only two minutes. Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Berhampur) (Orissa).
Sir, the beedi manufacturing industry is a small scale industry under the registered scheme of Small Industries Development Organisation. All such registered small scale beedi manufacturing units are entitled for incentives, concessions and facilities as other SSI units avail under the States Governments and the Central Government.

In this present amendment to the Act, the rate of cess notified will be kept at Re. 1 which will create a corpus of about Rs. 42 crore. But this will also be insufficient looking at the pitiable conditions of the beedi workers and the problems they have. The Government should have come forward to contribute the same amount for this Fund.

First of all, I must say that the beedi workers do not get the minimum wage because they are in the unorganised sector and what they get is much below the prescribed rate. Sometimes, even the skilled beedi workers get only Rs. 10 or Rs. 12, what to speak of women and children. Definitely, the women do not get what even the men get. In spite of our legal restrictions, children are engaged in beedi-making, specially in packaging, levelling and heating the beedis. Heating is so hazardous. It is done by the children who start looking old at the age of 20 or 22 itself. The girl beedi workers do not go to school and even if they go to school, they drop-out because they are to earn from beedi-making and save money for their marriage. That is why they do not go to the schools. It should also be looked into especially when you are giving much importance to the education of girls.

An employee who is processing the beedis can be recognised by the way he walks. Sometimes the beedi workers are roaming around the clinics and hospitals and spitting here and there. We know that there are no hospitals and health clinics. And if these are available, there are no doctors and medicines. The Parliamentary Committee has also suggested that there should be 25-bedded and 100-bedded hospitals in every taluk and district, respectively. But this is yet to be seen.

About housing, I must also say that they are working in pitiable conditions. The women suffer the most. They do not have toilet facilities. They are living in very unhygienic conditions. Now, you are paying Rs. 15,000. This amount is insufficient. It should be enhanced to Rs. 25,000.

Now, I talk about insurance. Their lives are at risk. From the very beginning, they start beedi making. You are paying Rs. 10,000 for an accidental death and

Rs. 5,000 for a natural death. I must suggest that when their lives are at risk, they should, at least, get Rs. 10,000 even in the case of a natural death. I must say that they are the most exploited ones. They are exploited specially by the owners. On the one hand they exploit the employees. On the other hand, they also deprive the Government, that is, the Excise Department, of revenue annually by removal of one lakh beedis worth Rs. 20 lakh at the rate varying from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per thousand in the market. I must say that the Corpus must be increased. Various measures meant for them should also be looked into very seriously.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views. I support the Bill with certain observations. The beedi industry could be classified into two categories, that is, home-based industry and factory-based industry. It has been reported by the earlier Standing Committee in the year 1994-95 that 70 per cent of the beedi workers belong to the home-based industry. Most of them are women. They are also living below the poverty line. So, the fate of the beedi workers still remains the same as has been mentioned in the previous Report.

The difficulty in giving the welfare amenities to these workers is that since they are in the unorganised sector, it is very difficult to identify those workers. As per the Act and as per the Welfare Fund Act and the Rules framed thereunder, it is the duty of the Welfare Commissioner to issue the identity cards. So, it seems to be very difficult. Even according to the Ministry of Labour, the statistics would show that there are 44 lakh beedi workers both in the organised industry and in the home-based industry. So, these statistics are not correct. As has been pointed out in the House, it will come to more than one crore.

Since they are in the unorganised sector, we are not able to have a proper assessment of the workers who are working in the beedi industry. What I would like to suggest is that as far as the identification of these workers is concerned, the Ministry of Labour has also directed the State Governments to have a survey upon the workers. So far, the survey has not been conducted and the statistics have not come to the Central Government or the Ministry of Labour. It is also learnt from the Report of the Standing committee. So, I would like to suggest that ample powers should be given to the State Governments to check upon the workers.

I would also like to suggest one more thing. There are local bodies. A three-tier Panchayat system and nagarpalika system are functioning well in our country, especially, in our State. So, those local bodies are able to identify the workers. As far as agricultural workers are concerned, we are organising *adalats*. At the gram panchayat level, we are having *adalats*.

These agricultural workers, who are in the unorganised sector, would come and be identified by the Labour Officer or the officer concerned and it would be certified by the President of the Panchayat or the member of the Panchayat. So, identification of the beedi workers could also be done by the local bodies and that could be submitted to the State Governments. It could be certified by the local bodies and the State Government could complete the survey. So, I would like to suggest that the local bodies should be given an opportunity to identify the workers and they should be registered. All the workers should be brought within the purview of this Welfare Fund Act, 1976.

Sir, my second point is in regard to the welfare measures. The amenities, under the welfare measures, now being availed of by the beedi workers are very meagre. There are three welfare schemes. They are, Housing benefit scheme, medical facilities and educational facilities. The educational facilities are very limited. As has been pointed out by hon. Madam, the benefit accruing to a worker on his death is very meagre. That has to be enhanced. Now, in the present scheme of things, the total amount on account of cess comes to Rs. 24 crore. When it is 50 paise per thousand beedis then the cess is 50 paise. Now, it is being increased to Re. 1/-. So, the Government is expecting an accrual of Rs. 42 crore from this increase. Therefore, the scope of the welfare activities should also be expanded. As far as the marriage of the girls belonging to the families of the beedi workers is concerned, they should be provided with maternity benefits and such other benefits. So, I would like to urge upon the hon. Labour Minister to widen the scope of welfare activities to the beedi workers.

Sir, lastly, I would like to submit on another aspect, though it is not connected with this particular Act or Fund. There is a pioneering cooperative society in Kerala, namely, the Kerala Dinesh Beedi. It was started in the year 1969 with 12,000 workers. That industry is also in a crisis due to several problems and lack of several things. They are now trying for the rehabilitation of their workers. Some aid or grant should be given, not to the private sector industry, to the cooperative society. Some financial assistance or grant should be provided by the Government of India to this cooperative society. In our

State, there are twelve Welfare funds. These twelve Welfare Funds are solely meant for the purposes of welfare activities of the poor and common workers of the country. But what has happened is that the interest accruing to the Welfare Funds is being subjected to Income Tax by the Ministry of Finance. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Labour to kindly intervene in the matter and take it up in the Cabinet so that the interest accruing to the Welfare funds is exempted from income tax so that the benefits could go to the workers.

Sir, with these suggestions, I once again support the Bill.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to convey my thanks for allowing me to speak on this vital subject.

Sir, we are dealing with a Bill here on which rests the fate of about one crore of beedi workers in this country. I disagree with whatever data that have been collected by the Ministry and has been given by the hon. Minister here. The very purpose of amending the Act is to increase the cess rate in order to provide amenities to the beedi workers.

Sir, I would not like to repeat the provisions of the Bill. But I would only sum up the provisions contained in the Bill. What I would quote now is not a part of my speech but what is stated in the Objects and Reasons to the Bill I quote:

"Initially, the cess was fixed at twenty-five paise per kilogram of tobacco issued from warehouses for manufacture of beedis. The cess for financing the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund could not be collected under the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 with effect from 1st March, 1979 due to exemption granted by the Finance Act for 1979-80. Thereafter, the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 was amended in 1981 to provide..."

It means that they were not in a position to collect the funds for about eight to ten years. This indicates the apathy on the part of Government towards Beedi workers. The Government is not in a position to collect the fund. The Government come forward to amend the Bill from time to time. I do not want to go into the technicalities. I have given an amendment. The things which have been incorporated in the Financial Memorandum give bad intention. In the Financial Memorandum it has been proposed to enhance the rate of cess up to five rupees per thousand manufactured beedis and Clause 2, Section 3 of the main Act which the Government seeks to amend,

[SHRI R.S. GAVAI]

it has been provided for, 'not less than fifty paise or more than five rupees'. This is a great anomaly. Of course, I do not want to go into these technicalities.

I now come to the relevant point. I would say that there has been piecemeal amendment of the Act. Many hon. Members have pointed out the defects that are there in the original Bill of 1976. Keeping that in view, there ought to have been a comprehensive Bill. I think it requires a lot of amendments.

What is the fate of the Provident Fund? So far as I know, I have some idea about the State of Maharashtra. There are beedi industries in Bhandara, Nasik, Pune, Ahmadnagar and so on. There are a lot of complaints of the beedi workers. Their legitimate funds are not being given to them. What is the point in having a mere ornamental provision of the Provident Fund? Because of the technical financial law, the Government could not collect the fund and, therefore, could not tender service to the poor.

What about pension? The Government has amended the rules governing pension from time to time. The range of pension is between Rs. 225 to Rs. 240. Has the Government reviewed the performance in that respect? How many manufacturers are providing pension to their beedi workers? How many manufacturers are providing benefits of Provident Fund to the workers? Performance plays an important role here. I would suggest that the rate of pension should at least be Rs. 500.

There is another proviso in the Act which paves the way for corruption. The Government do not impose any cess on the loose beedi manufacturers. This not only results in the loss of revenue but also paves the way for corruption. In the Maharashtra State the workers produce loose beedis to the tune of one crore which accounts for a loss of about Rs. 25 lakh. The manufacturers use this as a tool to earn money. They purchase beedis at the roll head and sell it in the market. The manufacturers themselves make the sale of these beedis in the market and, therefore, the genuine beedi workers are deprived of the opportunity because of the proviso that is there in this Bill.

I would like to know why the Government allowed the contractor system. The policy of the Government is to avoid middleman. Why have the Government incorporated the provision to have a contractor? On the one hand we are saying to discourage the middleman and on the other hand we are incorporating the provision of a contractor. This should be removed.

Many hon. Members have talked about having the uniform rates throughout the country. The Government has now given the handle to the manufacturers. Supposing, the manufacturers in Maharashtra give low rate for the manufacture of beedi, the labourers may organise a *morcha* and say that they will shift to Gujarat or Madhya Pradesh where the rates may be little higher. So, why not have a uniform rate throughout India?

The provision made in the Act of 1977 is only ornamental. It is nothing but a mockery. Has the Government ever deliberated on the provisos of the Act or produced a performance Report on the same? There are no housing facilities, no maternity facilities, no educational facilities and why is the Government collecting money for this fund? If we call ourselves a welfare State, we are supposed to look after the people when they are in difficulties.

There is the provision of special court in case of a breach of the rule. How many courts have been set up in the country so far? How many courts have been set up in the States? How many courts have been set up in the specified areas where beedi workers do their business. Special courts meet after two years. What about the grievances? Is there any compulsion that there should be a summary trial on all the complaints of the beedi workers?

One of my friends elaborated the point on contractors and I agree with him. Why should the contractors be allowed in this field? Why should we not encourage cooperative societies? I am reminded of my friend late N.H. Kumbhare who happened to be a Member of Parliament and who actually drafted the Beedi and Cigar Workers Act. He had started a cooperative society and it is doing very well. It is economically stable. So, why should the Government not encourage the cooperative sector? Why should the Government shirk their responsibility? It does not matter if they are collecting to the tune of Rs. 42 crore from the Cess. What about their matching grant from the Central Fund? They should give a matching grant of at least 50 per cent; the concerned States Governments should have a 25 per cent grant. If calculated, the total amount will come to the tune of Rs. 100 crore. That can be utilised for the purpose of the beedi workers.

Sir, because of shortage of time, I have elaborated points only. Thank you.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narsaropet): Sir, this is a Government Bill and there is no quorum. This shows the Government's lack of interest in the business.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I welcome and support the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1998 presented by the Hon'ble Minister. I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards the way the cess has been collected and I would like to tell that there are three categories of workers in this industry. First Category of workers do the work of collecting *Tendu* leaves, second category of workers work in the beedi factory and third category of workers are those who work under the contractor to save owners of beedi factories from the cultures of law.

Sir, Hon'ble Minister knows that only 20-25 per cent of workers working in the beedi industry have access to law and 75-80 per cent of workers do not have any access to law and are receiving their wages from contractor. In Uttar Pradesh the rate fixed for preparing 1000 Beedis in Rs. 35 but Beedi workers get only Rs. 17. On an average they get Rs. 10 per thousand beedis. The deductions are in respect of *Tendu* leaves, lower quality of thread and wet tobacco which sheds weight during preparation of beedis. In this way, they do not get more than Rs. 10/- per thousand beedis.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask whether the Beedi workers who are working under contractor will be provided same status and facilities as it is being provided to those beedi workers who are working in Beedi Factories. If he gives an assurance in this regard then I will think that it will benefit Beedi workers. In his reply, he should give an assurance that the beedi workers working under the contractor and those working in a Beedi factory will be treated at par.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill has no use because 80% of workers prepare 1000 beedis but they get only Rs. 12 or 15. According to law of Government of India only 30% workers are working in the factories. This bill is a welfare measure. I believe that the programme which the Hon'ble Minister has declared in this Bill, through that programme he will provide scholarship, housing facility, medical facilities and legal assistance to them. Today Jhansi is the bigger Centre of Beedi workers. I would like to bring to the notice of Hon'ble Minister that there is no hospital in Jhansi though 70,000 beedi workers are working there. While drawing the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards these things, I would like to say that I have two demands. My first demand is that the compensation which is being given to Beedi workers in case of any accident should be doubled because this amount of compensation was fixed 10 years ago and

situation has changed during last 10 years. They are getting Rs. 5000 but now it is proposed to give Rs. 10,000 whereas the workers who are working at other places are getting triple amount. My request is that compensation amount should be doubled. Similarly in the country the minimum wage is Rs. 22 or 35. It should be increased to Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 because prices have increased. I would like to say that not only the worker but four Members of his family jointly prepare 1000 beedis. Therefore, he should be given Rs. 50 with this, I conclude my speech and hope that the Hon'ble Minister will make an announcement in the interests of workers so that they can get the benefit of this Bill.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): I am thankful that you have given me time to speak on this Bill. Hon'ble Minister belongs to a poor family and comes from a class most of whose members are labourers. Though the name of Bill is Beedi Workers Welfare Bill but it does not talk of any welfare. There is difference in one's intentions and actual practice. Whether or not there is any law if we have good intentions towards any work we can translate that into reality. If hon'ble Minister wants to work for the welfare of Beedi workers then he should remove all anomalies. We want to tell the Hon'ble Minister that if he sees the figures which he possesses, he will come to know that there is a vast difference because these figures are based on survey which was conducted a long ago. There are inequalities in the wages of Beedi workers throughout India. Such inequalities should be removed. Secondly their wages should be hiked keeping in view the rise in prices. It is rural industry and it is in hands of private people. No factory is required for preparing beedis. Just now Shri Rajendra Agnihotri was saying correctly that less provision is shown in this industry. The beedi workers are paid less wages. They belong to poor families and live below poverty line. They are not in a position to meet their basic needs. Their requirements such as medical facility, housing facility & compensation to family members of the deceased are not fulfilled. The Government have not formulated any policy for their welfare. The Government is going to collect Rs. 42 crores for their welfare but this amount is not sufficient, if you want to provide education and medical facility to them. The Beedi workers are living in 42 districts and if we want to construct hospital in every district then we cannot construct a hospital with Rs. 1 crore. The cess which the Government is going to increase should be raised to Rs. 5. This will provide them Rs. 300 crore. This amount will be made available from those people who are exploiting these workers. If the Hon'ble Minister wants to provide any benefit to the workers he should implement all these suggestions in all areas.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I welcome Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill. I also congratulate the hon. Minister for introducing this Bill. The Beedi workers are very poor workers and are generally living in the rural areas. They live below the poverty line. The workers and their entire family are working in this industry. They do not get minimum wage and do not get any bonus facility. There is no gratuity also for these workers. These workers are exploited by the middlemen.

There are more than 30 lakh beedi workers in my Constituency and there is not a single hospital for them. When Shri P.A. Sangma was the Minister for Labour, it was proposed that hospital would be set up in Jhalda in Purulia district. So, I would request the hon. Minister to set up a hospital in my Constituency, Jhalda, Purulia.

The scholarships, in education, should be extended to all the children of the beedi workers. The old age pension scheme should be introduced. Subsidy for the housing scheme should also be enhanced. Group insurance should be introduced. There is a State level Advisory Committee, but there should be an Advisory Committee at the district level also with the recognised trade unions having their representatives in those Committees. Identity cards should be issued to all the workers otherwise the facilities for the beedi workers would not be available to them.

Sir, from this Amendment Bill a sum of Rs. 42 crore would be collected. I would request the hon. Minister to give Rs. 42 crore more for making a Welfare Fund of the Central Government for these workers.

*SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM (Vellore): Hon'ble Chairman, I would like to thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to express my support and speak on the Bill to amend the Beedi Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1976.

At the outset I would like to thank the valiant leader of the Tamil Race Dr. Ramadoss, who enabled me to represent Vellore Lok Sabha constituency in this august House after being fielded as a candidate of the Vellore District Pattali Makkal Katchi that was a constituent of the Democratic Progressive Front in the recently held elections to the House of the People.

I would also thank Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi who was the leader of our Democratic Progressive Front. Let me also thank all the alliance partners who enabled me to romp home successfully. I express my gratitude to the electorate

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

of my Vellore constituency for reposing faith in me and for having elected me as their representative.

In Tamil Nadu, there are about 6 lakh families that have taken to beedi rolling. At least half of those beedi workers' population is in my Vellore constituency. Entire family of these workers go ahead with beedi rolling work day in and day out. Even after putting in so much of labour throughout the day and night they could earn only about Rs. 50 to 75 per day. They involve their children also in this industry.

Though there is a minimum wage fixed for this, they are not paid accordingly. So I urge upon the Union Labour Minister to enhance this minimum wage further while taking effective steps to implement the same. They are all put to worst sufferings under poverty conditions. Their plight is pitiable. They do not know any other job. They are not skilled enough to shift their occupation. They do not get any other livelihood. Their job is hazardous to health. But still we are not in a position to provide them with some other job. Diseases like tuberculosis and asthma are afflicting the majority of them. So they should be provided with separate identity cards as part of medical facilities aimed at them. Hospitals should be set up in their localities to attend to their occupational hazards. Housing facilities must be provided to them with about 50% grant as subsidy to them. There must be liberal scholarships to encourage their children to have educational facilities.

As far as Vellore District is concerned, we find contractors promoting bonded labour. Children are pledged to these contractors for monetary considerations. The conditions of the beedi workers are so poor that they pledge anything and everything including utensils at home whenever their occupation meets with fluctuations. There are so many cases pertaining to the pledging of children leading to bonded labour. Legal remedy must be available to them. If the head of the family, the principal bread winner dies such of these families must be paid compensation in the form of ex-gratia payments and family pension schemes. The compensation so paid should be doubled. Beedi workers must get all the benefits of various welfare measures intended for them. Their well being must be ensured.

I once again urge upon the Union Government to ensure that all the welfare schemes meant for them percolate down to them. Thanking you for the opportunity, I conclude, Thank you.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate the hon Minister of Labour for bringing forward The Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill. He himself has been a labour leader and has also successfully guided the labour movement. That is why on seeing this amendment bill, I am reminded of labour leader Advocate N.H. Kumbhare who was a Rajya Sabha Member and was the first to play an important role in shaping the Beedi and Cigar industry in the country. Then I would like to thank the Labour Minister, and congratulate him for bringing forward this amendment Bill for the Beedi workers welfare. I will not take much time, but I would like to put forward one thing before the hon. Minister. First of all, there should be a uniform wage policy regarding minimum wages of beedi workers. The wages of the beedi workers throughout the country should be uniform. Minimum wages should be the same. In Maharashtra Rs. 35 per thousand beedis are paid to the workers whereas the rate in Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 20/- . That is why the factory owners of Maharashtra go to Madhya Pradesh to get workers. Thus, Beedi workers are exploited by them.

About 50 to 60 lakhs workers are engaged in Beedi industry. These workers live below poverty line. They belong to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and minority communities. This is country's most neglected industry. This industry makes factory owners rich and labourers sick. Through you, I would submit to the hon. Minister that strict provision should be made in law to stop exploitation of workers in beedi industry. To make only welfare schemes for them will not help. Industrialist will not implement the welfare schemes, factory owners will not implement them. Exploitation of beedi workers will not stop until strict action against these people is not taken and provision to this effect is not made in law. Here we find multinational cigarette manufacturing companies in the country. Some multinational companies and big Indian Cigarette industries have been given licence to manufacture small cigarette, called Mini cigarette. Excise duty initially levied on it was Rs. 120/- which was later reduced to Rs. 90/-. All this has led to competition between beedi and mini cigarette, which resulted in adverse effect on beedi industry and demand for beedi went down. This is because the Government have reduced the excise duty on mini cigarette. It should be increased and beedi should be protected. Incentives should be given to Beedi Workers Co-operative Societies which are engaged in beedi manufacturing. Maximum financial help be given to them from Government side. As regard cess, my friend has rightly said that one rupee will be insufficient. This should be raised to at least five rupees. If this becomes five rupees then we will be able to collect more fund, can work for the benefit of workers and can make welfare schemes for them.

The Central Government and State Governments should also contribute to the cess taken from factory owners. If fund is created by way of cess collected from all three sources, such fund will go a long way to ensure welfare of beedi workers. Medical facilities include labour welfare officers, labour commissioners and the whole machinery. But they help industrialist and factory owners in exploitation of beedi workers. They don't think about welfare of workers. I would request the hon. Minister to pay more and more attention to stop the exploitation of beedi workers. Provision to this effect should be made in law. There are various facilities available to the workers, even television set is also provided, but the condition of the workers is very bad. The working conditions of the factories where women are working is really bad. There women go to the factories with their breast feeding infants. They work at these places for 8-10 hours in the conditions in which it is difficult to stay even for five minutes. Their children are afflicted with dreaded diseases like T.B. and cancer and there is no provision for their treatment. I request you to provide better medical facilities, medicines and doctors for their treatment. Besides, there should be a mobile hospital for them so that happiness comes to their lives with all these facilities.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. These points have already been made by the previous hon. Members who have spoken.

[*Translation*]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Under the contract system, the factory owners get the supply of beedis from the contractors. Thereafter, they affix their own label and sell the beedis in the market.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

[*Translation*]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, I request the hon. Minister to stop the contract system, the hon. Minister is a leader of the poor and has been a labour leader too. I hope that he will surely work for the welfare of beedi workers. With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO (Karimnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting this bill I want to give three suggestions. In some states there are welfare

[SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO]

activities and some departments like labour department are also there. But there should be single window system. As long as single window system is not there, beedi workers can't benefit. Secondly the money you collect from states.

[English]

But you are not giving back the corresponding money to them. For example, from Andhra Pradesh you have already collected more than Rs. 50 crore but you have given hardly Rs. 3-5 crore to the welfare of the beedi workers.

[Translation]

That is why in every states there are excise officers, they know how much money is collected from Andhra Pradesh or Maharashtra, but they do not know how much money is spent on beedi workers, there is no account of that. Therefore, this account too should be there in every state. Until you ban mini cigarette and can't collect cess. This bill which the hon. Minister has brought is only to give salary and to maintain the infrastructure. But until you ban mini cigarette, you cant give benefit to workers.

[English]

I would request the hon. Minister through you that he must immediately come out with a bill for banning mini cigarettes, thereby he can help the womenfolk of this country.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Sir, he has been waiting for a long time. He should be respected. Some of our friends also want to speak. They should also be given the opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I will give chance to them.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heartily congratulate the Labour Minister who was virtually a labour leader and now he has become the Minister. He knows the problems of the labourers. I honestly and sincerely think that he must put his heart and soul to solve the problem. This is my first point.

Secondly, most of the beedi workers are in my constituency. They are unorganised. They are living in such small houses. Their houses are like pigeon holes. Four to six members of the family are residing in one house. The houses are located side by side and there is no free air. There is no ventilation. There is no water facility. It is impossible to imagine that human beings are

living in such conditions. But they are in the voters list. We all go there requesting them for their votes and they cast their votes also. We have not been able to minimise their worst condition that they are in. Children are employed in these beedi manufacturing industries.

Those children give up the education. Particularly, ladies also because of the beedi manufacturing system, are denied of education. Small children are also employed in this beedi industry. Because of the earnings they drop out from the school. Therefore the Government should take up all precautionary measures to see that the ladies and boys, that is, the children of these beedi manufacturing workers are provided educational facilities and they should not be engaged in this beedi manufacturing.

Of course the prohibition of the children is there. But before our own eyes these children are employed and no effort is made by the Government to prevent their employment. All educational facilities and medical facilities should be provided to them. Efforts at adopting them become ineffective.

I know the hon. Minister very well. He knows the problems very well. As a trade unionist he should put his heart and soul to see that all these problems are solved. About the hospitals and other things I have got my own doubts. There will be a small dispensary where the doctor treats for the minor ailments. No specialists services provided. They should provide the services of the specialists.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you, for having given me an opportunity to speak inspite of shortage of time. I also want to thank the hon'ble Minister for increasing the cess from five paise to 50 paise. On the occasion of 50th anniversary of independence. The hon'ble Minister has announced substantial one-time increase which is a commendable step. He deserves thanks for this.

Sir, my Parliamentary constituency is Kodarma. In this area there is a place named Karma where All India Labour Institute is located. Headquarter of the Institutes related to Beedi, Mica and Dolomite are also there. All these institutes come under my Parliamentary constituency. Without taking much time of the House, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister towards the problems prevailing in these institutes. These headquarters are facing a lot of problems. I want an assurance from hon'ble Minister that these problems would

be resolved. The population of India is about to reach a thousand million and about one crore people out of this population are living below the poverty line. The laws made for the welfare of this segment of population of one crore have never been implemented. If the hon'ble Minister's pays attention towards the solution of their problems it will kindle a new ray of hope in them.

I want to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister towards a particular problem. The registration is not being done for primary classes to high school in schools, run by Mica Mines Welfare Organisation, Beedi Workers Organisation and Dolomite Association. These schools are being closed. Particularly, Mica Mines Schools is on the verge of closure, and poor people are being affected as a result thereof. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister to issue orders for running these schools, so that the future of poor children may not become dark.

Secondly, the construction of the buildings for nine hospitals has been completed, but these hospitals have not started functioning. Hon'ble Minister should issue orders for starting these hospitals.

With this, I conclude my speech and support this bill.

[*English*]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me. I know, the time is very precious. This is a small of legislation to strengthen the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Scheme and also the administrative machinery. So, it is not difficult to support this Bill and I support it.

In this context, I request the hon. Minister to think about Government's participation in this Scheme and also request him to increase the cess and enlarge the facilities such as health care, housing and educational facilities for the children of the beedi workers.

I would also like to point out one or two aspects of the beedi industry. One is about the shifting of the units by the owners. Owners are a very clever and influential section of this industry. They are shifting their units to places where lower wages and other facilities are existing. In order to prevent this, I request the hon. Minister to declare national or region-wise minimum wages for the beedi workers.

I would like to mention about the anti-smoking propaganda. I am not going to blame the Government or the social or voluntary organisations for this propaganda, but it is affecting the small and the weakening beedi

industry a lot. A lot is being heard about cigarettes. The Government has been making announcements about boosting the cigarette industry. Some hon. Members here rightly mentioned about the tax on the cigarette industry. I request the hon. Minister retain a previous level of tax on mini cigarettes. I also request him to strengthen the Advisory Board. Now the Board is functioning in a poor manner. I request the hon. Minister to strengthen the functioning of the Advisory Board. Beedi industry is a declining industry. So, I request the hon. Minister to revive this industry because a large number of men and women are engaged in this industry.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet): Sir, this is a long-awaited piece of legislation and I join the other Members who have welcomed this legislation.

We have got a number of Acts; we are not short of Acts. But these Acts are not implemented properly. For instance, there is the Prevention of Child Labour Act. In spite of the existence of that Act, we find a number of child labourers, particularly in the beedi industry, and this is not prevented.

Similarly, the Government now proposes to provide medical facilities also to these workers to some extent. Sir, you know pretty well the fate of the Government hospitals and how patients are treated in many of the Government hospitals. Even the poorest of the poor also does not want to go to a Government hospital now. So, if these hospitals also, which are primarily meant for beedi workers, function in the same way, then they are not going to really help them.

I do not know whether there is any possibility of introducing a health insurance scheme, particularly for the beedi workers. If that is introduced, the workers can be paid sufficient amount to get treatment wherever they like. Now, through this enactment, we will ask the beedi workers who may be suffering from a severe disease, maybe tuberculosis or some other disease, to go to this particular hospital for treatment and they will not be treated very well. That is the general situation prevailing. So, I appeal to the hon. Minister to apply his mind and see whether his particular class of workers can be covered through a health insurance scheme.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, from the contribution made by hon'ble Members to make the discussion important and meaningful it appears that they are concerned about the problem and wants something to be done about it.

[DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA]

A small amendment is being made in the Act through this bill. A provision to increase the limit has been made. Through this amendment, an effort has been made to collect some money to help the neglected, exploited and oppressed people. They include people from schedule caste and scheduled tribe, backward classes and economically weaker sections. It is beyond imagination that prosperous people are engaged in beedi making. The concern and contribution of hon'ble Members of the House in this regard is very important. Many suggestions have also come. The questions raised here will give me the direction.

I took charge of this Department sometime back I have arranged meeting of the Board, constituted for Beedi workers. Earlier, the meetings of the Board will not being held regularly. Usually people pay less attention towards scheduled caste labourers and workers. In today's meaningful discussion, I have tried to note down the suggestions given by every hon'ble Member. Many important things are there in the proceedings.

At the beginning of the debate, an hon'ble Member from Maharashtra expressed his concern and made suggestions. I am equally concerned about it. He said that beedi workers were having serious health problems and measures taken to relieve them of these problems were not enough. As I have told you earlier there is a scarcity of funds. An effort is being made to make arrangements for the money. That amount would be around Rs. 40-42 crore. The Government will collect this money in the form of cess and excise duty. This amount is collected for their welfare. We know that money is needed to construct, run and maintain hospitals. Rs. 5 crore is an ordinary amount for the medicines and equipment required in the hospital. You can think how many new hospitals can be opened with a mere sum of Rs. 40-42 crore. In view of the shortage of funds, money has to be collected for this purpose...*(Interruptions)*. I am stating the real facts. Nobody can deny the facts stated by the hon. Members. The challenge before us is to extract the maximum out of the limited possibilities available. The true state of Beedi workers, their houses, factories in which they work is before everybody to see. While cleaning tendu leaves, the beedi workers is rebuked by the contractor. I have seen labourers while making beedis. I had been in their contact. I have witnessed the difficulties faced by them. If the leaf is rotten, it cracks off while rolling. If the leaf is very old in that case also it gets cracked. They don't have adequate means to preserve the leaves. After providing them leaves and tobacco it is expected of them that they should make the beedis of highest standard. It is not possible to give good results while working in such pathetic conditions.

Many measures have to be taken to emancipate them from explanation at the hands of contractors. Although the responsibility to enforce these laws lies with the State Governments, yet we too have some responsibility and today we are discussing the same.

20.00 hrs.

A message to the effect that this is an important matter and proper attention must be paid to it should go through the debate. The number of Beedi Workers are estimates to be around 44 lakh. Many hon'ble Members have said that identity cards should be issued to them. Identity cards have been issued and the number of identity cards issued is 35 lakh. It is understood that there are seven and a half lakh Beedi Workers in Madhya Pradesh and out of them identity cards have been issued to 7 lakh beedi workers. It means, that identity cards are yet to be issued to many more workers. If the worker is having the identity card, he would be able to avail of the facilities to be provided to them in future.

The hon. Member have said that their job should be made pensionable. After subscribing to Provident Fund, they become eligible for social security benefits. The lakhs of workers are getting benefit from it. The suggestions given by the Members who have participated in today's discussion are very useful. If this discussion had taken place in day time many more hon'ble Members would have given their suggestions and had taken part in it. Today, this discussion has become very emotional and the desired sympathy on such type of matter, has come from all the Members. Nobody has denied the cooperation in the process of amending this Act. Members have said that the matter should be given top attention on humanitarian ground. More money should be collected for this purpose and Government should also allocate more funds there. For this purpose Rs. 40-42 crore have been collected, but this amount should be ten times more. The Ministry of Labour will not be found wanting to take measures to fulfil the aspirations of the hon. Members. The views expressed by the Members prove their talent, but to prove myself upto their expectations. I shall be helped by the guidelines given by them and the same would be a source of inspiration for me. I will make every possible effort to fulfill their expectations.

Besides, many more suggestions have also come for instance the suggestion to build hospital for the workers. In this discussion the issue of labourers involved in construction work has also been raised. The construction is not linked with it, but it is certainly linked with labourers, Lakhs of people are involved in it. The draft has been prepared for this and the Ministry of Law

is examining this from legal angle. An effort should be made to get the bill passed and implement it. I have got limited time to speak and a lot of time is required for giving reply to all questions related to expectations from me. Still, I have noted down all the suggestions. Another suggestion that has been given is about scholarship to children. The amount allocated for this purpose is very meagre one. Hon. Member has given the suggestion to pay compensation of up to Rs. 25 thousand in case of accident. That facility is available. Besides other issues raised by the hon. Members need consideration.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: What do you want to say on the difference in rates of mini cigarettes of multi-national and Indian Companies?

DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA: This issue is engaging the attention of Hon'ble Finance Minister. He is going to express his opinion on it only after giving it due thought. All of us have said that Beedi and tobacco are injurious to health, but poor labour is involved in this industry. This industry gives employment to many hard-working people, from this point of view measures should be taken to encourage this industry. I have made efforts in this direction and have gained success to some extent. You might have observed that notwithstanding the hurdle the beedi industry has got indirect assistance. The hon'ble Members have personally given suggestions about their areas and I hope, in future also these suggestions will continue to come. We can draw inferences of meaningful measures to be taken as a result of the discussion. Today much has been said in a few words. Right now, the increase is of just Re.1. Hon'ble Members were apprehensive, that this increase would be more than enough. An hon'ble Member has said that this would be inadequate. But till now, the limit was 10 paise to 50 paise, it is being increased upto Rs. 5. Under the present circumstances we are trying to collect Rs. 40-42 crore as a result of the increase of Re 1.

The suggestion to constitute cooperative societies is very important. We will eliminate the role of middlemen through cooperative societies, so that workers could get the maximum profit. We are aware that in different states the rate of minimum wages is very low. The minimum wages are fixed by the State Governments. The Central Government has fixed the minimum wage at Rs. 33, but in many states it is not so. I did get an opportunity to talk to the western states in Ahmedabad. At that time, they had said, that they were going to fix minimum wages at Rs. 33. The rate of minimum wages for beedi workers are not the same in every state and some clever businessmen get their beedis made from other states, where the rate of minimum wages is low and thereby

earn more profit. All these possibilities are there. An effort would be made to bring about uniformity on this issue and to consider all the possibilities.

Today, I want to state that the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members for the hard-working labourers will definitely provide guidelines in the future. I request the hon. Members to support the amendment which I have brought forward and pass the Bill.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: What you have to say about the contractual labour?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has given an elaborate reply to all the points raised by the Members.

Now, the question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976, be taken into consideration"

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

I have to inform the hon. Members that amendment nos. 1 and 2 given by Shri R.S. Gavai and Shri Basu Deb Acharia respectively require President's recommendation under article 117 (1) and 274 (1) of the Constitution. As the requisite recommendation has not been received, these amendments are out of order.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion, was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir. I beg to move:

"that the Bill be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

2009 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, July 28, 1998/
Shravana 6, 1920 (Saka).*
