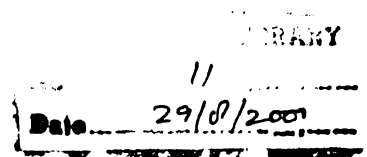


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 6 1999/Agrahayana 15, 1921
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I request that the Q.No. 104 on Babri Masjid may be taken up first. Today is the Seventh anniversary of the *Shahadat* of the Babri Masjid. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, today is the 6th December. Why do you not take up this question first? Nobody in this House will object. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Sir, this a very genuine demand.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In any case that question will come up. Let us take up Q. No. 101.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, I think no Party will object on the Babri Masjid issue. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Q. No. 101.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, please take up the Babri Masjid issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In any case this will come up.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Sir, today is 6th December.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, you can do it . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not waste the time. Let us start. This question is coming in any case. Let us not waste the time of the House.

I now call Q.No. 101. Shri Lakshman Singh - Absent.
Shri Braj Mohan Ram.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Forest Cover

+
*101. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

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

(a) the details of the forest cover in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the fast-depleting forests pose a great threat to the environment;

(c) if so, whether the current forest area meets the international standards;

(d) if not, the steps taken to increase forest land during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(e) the allocation made for the Ninth Five Year Plan for the purpose;

(f) the details of the achievements made in this regard during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(g) whether the Government propose to bring a new legislation to save the forest land; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (h) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The State-wise details of the forest cover in the country is given in Annexure.

(b) and (c) As per State of Forest Report, 1997, forest cover in India is 63.3 million hectares which is 19.27% of the geographical area of the country. Though no international standards regarding forest cover have been laid down, National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages for 33% of the geographic area of the country to be under forest or tree cover. The inadequate forest cover causes soil erosion, land degradation and instability of the fragile ecosystem.

(d) to (f) During Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97), afforestation has been done over 7.95 million hectares. An allocation of Rs. 1454 crores has been earmarked for the Ministry under the Ninth Five Year Plan for conservation and development of forests. In the first two years of Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-1999), afforestation over 3.05 million hectares has been done. For sustainable development of forests and to increase the forests/tree cover to one-third of the geographic area of the country a comprehensive action plan of 20 years has been prepared.

(g) and (h) There is no proposal under consideration to bring a new legislation to save the forest land. However, it has been decided to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927 to make it more effective for conservation and development of forests.

Annexure

State-wise details of Forest Cover in the Country
as per State of Forest Report, 1997.

No.	Name of the State/UT	Forest cover as per State of Forest Report, 1997
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43,290
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68,602
3.	Assam	23,824
4.	Bihar	26,524
5.	Delhi	26
6.	Goa	1,252
7.	Gujarat	12,578
8.	Haryana	604
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12,521
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	20,440
11.	Karnataka	32,403
12.	Kerala	10,334
13.	Madhya Pradesh	131,195
14.	Maharashtra	46,143
15.	Manipur	17,418
16.	Meghalaya	15,657
17.	Mizoram	18,775
18.	Nagaland	14,221
19.	Orissa	46,941
20.	Punjab	1,387
21.	Rajasthan	13,353
22.	Sikkim	3,129
23.	Tamil Nadu	17,064
24.	Tripura	5,546
25.	Uttar Pradesh	33,994
26.	West Bengal	8,349
27.	A & N Islands	7,613
28.	Chandigarh	7
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	204
30.	Daman & Diu	3
31.	Lakshdweep	Nil
32.	Pondicherry	Nil

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at present India has 19.27% forest cover. After independence, it has increased in less ratio. How will you achieve the target of 33% and at present what is the condition of Bihar?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, from the First Plan to the Fifth Plan, that is, from 1951 to 1980, the afforestation measures have been taken upto 3.5 million hectares. In the Sixth Plan the allocation was 0.71 per cent and the afforestation took place in 4.65 million hectares. In the Seventh Plan, the allocation made was 1.03 per cent of the Plan allocation and the afforestation was in 8.86 million hectares. In the Annual Plans from 1990 to 1992 the afforestation was in 3.12 million hectares. In the Eighth Plan, that is, from 1992 to 1997, 0.94 per cent allocation was made and the afforestation done was in 7.95 million hectares. In the Ninth Plan, the allocation was Rs. 1,454 crore of this Ministry. For the past two years the afforestation taken place was to the extent of 3.05 million hectares.

As far as Bihar is concerned, the total geographical area is 1,73,877 square kilometres, and the forest cover is 26,524 square kilometres. Actually the percentage is 15.3 per cent.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, the question was slightly different. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not received the reply of my question which I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister. I wanted to know as to what was the position of Bihar in 1947 and at present what is its position?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : In 1947, it was actually about 14 per cent of the geographical area under forest and now it is 19.27 per cent.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, the National Policy on Forest Cover states that it is 33 per cent whereas the State of Andhra Pradesh is in the fifth rank in the order of forest cover, with 46,000 and odd acres. I would like to know whether that falls within that 33 per cent of forest coverage or not. Secondly, there is a forest block viz. "Kambala Konda" adjacent to Visakhapatnam city, which is my constituency, where Cheetahs and Tigers are entering into the city. Recently, they caught two people when they were sleeping.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You ask the question.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I would like to know whether there is any policy to convert it into a 'Nature Park'.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The suggestion will be taken care of.

At the same time, I would like to inform that as far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the forest cover as on date is 15.7 per cent only.

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA (Nominated) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the schemes for tribals in the forest areas, especially where they have been dispossessed.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, we have a scheme called *Usufrust Sharing Basis Scheme*. It is on sharing pattern and tribal and rural people are already involved in the development programmes. We have a Centrally-sponsored scheme for regeneration of degraded forests, on sharing basis. It was introduced in the Eighth Plan only. In the Eighth Plan, nine States had been involved, the outlay was Rs. 7.35 crore for an area covered of 8338 hectares. In the Ninth Plan, the outlay is Rs. 15 crore and the area covered is 15,677 hectare. It covers 14 States - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, West Bengal, Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir. As far as sharing is concerned, minimum sharing of 25 per cent is given to the public. As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, they are giving one hundred per cent sharing to the public.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to know whether the Government are aware of the total depletion of saline forests such as mangroves (Hental), Sundari, Rai, Bhuaw etc., along the coastal belt of Orissa, whether the Government knows about the conversion of saline forest land into prawn-culture ponds and agricultural lands without the permission of the Forest Department and also whether the Government are aware of the devastating effect of cyclone and tidal waves due to depletion of such saline forests and if so, what steps the Government have taken or are taking to grow saline forests at least of three kilometres width along the coastline of Orissa in order to check further cyclonic devastation and other environmental hazards.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I appreciate the hon. Member. Actually, the forest cover in Orissa was 46,941 square kilometres before the cyclone hit it. As far as saline area is concerned, we have to grow mangroves along the coastal area and on the sides of the rivers etc. As far as Orissa is concerned, during the cyclone, the total area

damaged was 935 square kilometres, the affected natural forests and plantation were over 93,558 hectares, the devastated coastal plantations were 430 square kilometres, that is, 43,000 hectares and the trees uprooted were 15.58 lakh. To rehabilitate that extent of damage, we sent a team of people to the cyclone-affected areas of Orissa. An Action Plan had been envisaged and it was estimated at Rs. 241 crore for extending it for another five years.

Sir, for purposes of immediate relief, I have already requested the Planning Commission to extend a sum of Rs. 19.22 crore for plantation for the current year and Rs. 7.45 crore to salvage the entire area, totalling Rs. 26.67 crore out of that Rs. 541 crore. I have already requested the Planning Commission about it and I have discussed this with the Members of the Planning Commission. It would be taken up accordingly.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, over the last 35 years successive cyclones have destroyed the forest cover of Orissa from nearly 39 per cent to 11 per cent now. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider raising an ecological battalion of the Territorial Army, which has done extremely good work in the Rajasthan deserts as well as in the limestone areas of Shahjahanpur block in Uttar Pradesh which was raised during the time of late Indira Gandhi and late Rajiv Gandhi. Would the hon. Minister consider raising the Territorial Army for Orissa? It is because the State Government of Orissa has already written to the Raksha Mantri for locating and setting up of a Territorial Army Unit of the ecological battalion.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the suggestion of the hon. Member would be taken into account and I would revert back to him as soon as possible.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Sir, we all know that inadequate forest cover leads to soil erosion and land degradation. I would just like to know from the hon. Minister as to what kind of trees are planted for forest cover. It is because in West Bengal, we have seen Eucalyptus trees are planted for this purpose. But these are very fragile trees and they do not at all help in preventing soil erosion or land degradation. So, what kind of trees are usually planted for providing forest cover?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is not advisable to have Eucalyptus trees as forest cover in the areas where there are too many inhabitants. It absorbs water in the atmosphere as well as in the soil.

Sir, in regard to the specific question raised by the hon. Member I would like to submit that mixed plantation of indigenous species is advisable as forest cover to avoid soil erosion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has replied that in 1947 the forest cover was 14% and today it is 19%. The submission of the Hon'ble Minister is that during the last 50 years we have been able to achieve the target of 4%. I would like to know that when we have achieved the target of 4% in 50 years, how will we be able to achieve the target of 33% by 2010 or 2020 through your schemes?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, basic thing is that after 1985 NREP and RLEGP have been merged with Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether with a view to accelerate the progress in the work of tree-plantation Government propose to withdraw 20% funds being given under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana for tree plantation in villages and allocate the same directly to the State Government through NREP and RLEGP schemes?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, actually to have a forest cover of 33 per cent, we need an allocation of Rs. 5,285 crore per year. But we are getting an allocation in the order of Rs. 1,615 per year. During the period from 1950-80, large forest areas have been diverted for non-forestry purposes. By the by, about 100 million people in about two lakh villages live in and around forests. About 275 million people live in the forests and depend on forests products as their source of livelihood. Actually, we need more cooperation and support of the common masses in this regard. We have to create awareness in the public. Not only that, to have a sustainable ecology, we should involve each and everybody starting from school children and college students to Professors. In fact, through you, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Members to invest some money out of their Local Area Development Fund (MPLAD) for this.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, this is a very important question. Environment is one subject which is not discussed in the House. A half-an-hour discussion should be allowed on this.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Supply of fuelwood is 201 million tonnes and the gap between demand and supply is 86 million tonnes. As far as timber is concerned, the gap is 21 million cubic metres. It is because of this gap that the forest cover is depleting. That is why we are having a strategy for the future.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, this question requires a half-an-hour discussion. This is a very important question.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The National Forest Action Plan has been prepared in 1999 to expand the forest cover to 33 per cent.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, this question deserves a half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The second strategy is creation of a Forest Development Agency to give thrust to afforestation. The third strategy is development of mangrove forest and settlements in the coastal areas of cyclone-prone States. The fifth strategy is afforestation of barren mountains. These are the strategies that we have.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, there are many Members who want to discuss this in detail. It deserves a half-an-hour discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I do not mind it. You give notice.

No. 102, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi - not present.
Shri Vilas Muttemwar - not present.

[Translation]

Telephone Tariff in Rural Areas

+
*103. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone rates and security charges in the rural areas have become at par with the urban areas due to recent hike in the telephone tariff;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reconsider the proposals and to reduce the registration fees, telephone call charges and telephone rent in rural areas of the country and restore the earlier position in this regard;

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring improvement in telephone services in the rural areas of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(e) The Government of India has taken a number of steps necessary to improve the Telecommunications services in the rural areas.

- All rural exchanges have been converted to electronic exchanges.
- In order to improve the STD services reliable transmission media is being provided progressively.
- Telecommunications services will be provided in all the villages by the year 2002.
- The Government is fully committed for the expansion, better management and provision of better Telecom services in the rural areas.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that today telephone is not the luxury of rich people, instead it is necessity of common man. In the country particularly in hilly States there are several such kind of towns and in order to ensure development of such areas the State Governments have constituted Nagar Panchayats bringing under them several villages. In view of its development, your Ministry had issued a notification earlier that Rs. 1000/- will be charged as telephone security, rent will be Rs. 50 per month and 250 calls will be given as free calls in such areas where population is less than 5000 even if they come under Nagar Panchayats. However, this facility has been withdrawn and rates as applicable for urban areas have been enforced there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please ask the question.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : I would like to know whether government will reconsider to provide this facility in such rural areas. Second thing which I would like to know. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is this your second supplementary?

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : No Sir, it is a part of first supplementary question that there is shortage of line staff in inaccessible areas. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Sir, he is not asking his question : he is making a statement. This is filibustering.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : It is the Chair who will decide, not you.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is very important question, many Members like to participate in this, therefore you please ask your question.

[English]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Sir, by this time, I would have completed my question.

[Translation]

Sir, second part of my question is that there is shortage of line staff in inaccessible areas due to which most of the Exchanges become non-functional and they are not repaired for several days. Therefore, I would like to know whether you will, by giving training to local people, recruit casual labour in such places so that exchanges can function properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has said that the charges have been brought at par in urban and rural areas. It is not true because even today as compared to urban areas it is 50% less in rural areas and so far as calls are concerned, the charges are 60 paise in rural areas and 80 paise in urban areas. Therefore, the contention of hon'ble Member that charges are same in urban and rural areas is not correct.

[English]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Sir, he has not followed my question. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order please.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the government earlier issued a notification that the Nagar Panchayats which cover surrounding rural areas and where population is below 5000 will be given concession in these rates but later on this notification was withdrawn. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government will reconsider its decision of giving concession to those Nagar Panchayats whose population is below 5000?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the government earlier used to decide tariff order but ever since the Telecom Regulatory Authority "TRAI" has been constituted all these rights have been given to TRAI and now it is deciding all tariffs. If you see the tariff of TRAI, which has become effective from 1st May, you will find that in rural areas 1 to 75 calls are free and 0.80 paise are being charged for calls between 75 to 500 and for calls above 500, Rs. 1.20 are being charged. The Department of Telecommunication has made modifications in the tariff order of TRAI. Instead of 1 to 75 calls, it has made 1 to 125 calls free of cost. TRAI recommended that 80 paise per call should be charged for calls between 75 to 500,

[Ram Vilas Paswan]

we have made 0.60 paise per call for calls between 126 to 225. Rs. 1.20 was recommended by TRAI for calls above 500, we have made Rs. 1 per call for calls between 251 to 500 and for calls above 500, we have accepted the tariff of Rs. 1.20 as recommended by TRAI which means we have not exceeded the ceiling fixed by TRAI. We have given as much benefit as we could give to rural areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the urban areas TRAI asked us to make 60 calls free. We made 75 calls free. TRAI asked us to charge Rs. one for each call made between 61 to 500. In response we made it 80 paise per call for the calls between 76 to 200, TRAI also wanted Rs. 1.20 per call for the calls made above 500 and we accepted the same. In this way, the job which we could have done and the facilities which could have been given within the ambit of TRAI, all of that was done by us. As you know we want to make TRAI independent and strong and it has full rights regarding tariff. We have done maximum in the given situation whole working within its limits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the hon'ble Members submission regarding the dilapidated condition of telephone exchanges in rural areas is concerned, I fully agree with his views and there is no doubt about it that the condition of telephone exchanges in rural areas is absolutely worse. As far as MARR system is concerned, I cannot say that this system is a total failure but I must say that now this system has become inexpedient.

SHRI DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, if you reply briefly, it will be better.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what can I do, as the scope of the question is so wide and extensive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have constituted a high level committee under the Chairmanship of my Minister of state for examining. Will and other systems. The examination of all these system is being done but as far as MARR is concerned, there is no doubt that this system has been a failure. I have myself visited five-six states including Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh, Bihar and Tamilnadu. At every place which I visited. I have found deficiencies in this system and thus this system was also found as a complete failure. We will start a new system to replace it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the condition of our telephone exchanges is also very bad. The number of linemen required to do this job is also not sufficient.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the our Ministry is trying its best to provide best facilities to the subscribers. In order to run the telephone facility system in our urban and rural areas

in an orderly way, I have ordered on 30th November that all the linesmen should be provided pagers so that they may provide better service to the subscribers. The Government is committed to provide better facilities. In my Ministry, I have constituted a high level committee under the chairmanship of senior DDG, who will monitor it. We are committed to achieve the goal of providing telephone connections and better telephone facilities to the villages by 2002. At the same time we are also committed to provide world class service in the urban areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has said that discrimination has been shown against rural areas. I would like to tell that there has been no such discrimination.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : At present, the facility for payment of telephone bills in far flung rural areas is only available at sub-posts, post offices and banks and you will agree to the fact that in rural areas, the post offices are situated 20-25 kilometres apart and the banks are further away. Therefore, will the hon'ble Minister give such instructions that the people availing the telephone facility in rural areas could pay their bills in the branch post offices because several times, they end up paying more amount as bus fare in travelling for payment of the bill than the actual amount of the bill?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : No, Sir, there is no such proposal because the branch post officers in villages have no provision for the security of the cash. If the rural subscribers want to make payments of the bill through cheque, then our officers can coordinate with the Nationalised Banks and they can do so after co-ordination.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Rural telephone connections have suffered. If hon. Minister can agree to a Half-an-Hour Discussion, we can have a thorough discussion on the matter. It is a very important matter.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have no objection. I can even agree for a full discussion.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The hon. Minister has agreed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. Then you give him notice.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has given a comprehensive reply and it seems that there is no need to ask supplementary question. But through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to who is responsible for installing MARR system on which crores of rupees have been spent and it has not been successful. Whether any action will

be taken against them. Secondly, just now it has been stated that you are going to set up electronic exchanges for which wiring is yet to be done in villages. I feel that it will take time, so whether any arrangements will be made in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now M.P. Maheshwar Singhji has asked to make arrangement for payment of telephone bills through post-offices and hon'ble Minister has expressed his inability in doing so. I would like to know whether he would make such arrangements that the mobile van of the department goes to various places to collect payment of telephone bills and days can be fixed for it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in context of hon'ble Member's concern over the issue of installation of MARR system and action to be taken against guilty persons. I would like to apprise her that Ministry of Communication is such a department where experiments are going on continuously. It cannot be said that such motive or intention is behind it. But it is a fact that better technology should be ensured while spending Government funds. We are looking in to this matter.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask only one basic question though officials of the concerned Ministry have drafted your reply very cleverly that -

[English]

all rural exchanges have been converted into electronic exchanges.

[Translation]

Sir, on the basis of my experience, I would like to tell that position of telephones is not up to the mark throughout the country but in rural area is even worse. Telephones in rural area are not working at all. Paswanji, you are a very efficient Minister and I would like to say that during election in Punjab I tried to contact 783 villages on telephones but could not contact because telephones were not working. I would like to know as to whether a high level inquiry would be conducted in this regard as India lives in villages and telephones are not working there.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, telephones have been installed in every village and there are total 25,000 telephone exchanges in the country and out of these 19200 are in rural areas. I, myself have admitted that position of telephone exchanges is not that good. In context of grievance cell, I would like to inform that a grievance cell has been set up as was done in case of Ministry of Railways. We are continuously receiving

information from there. We are receiving such information that bill is being charged from those places where telephones are yet to be installed. All such problems are there. I am also one of you (Interruptions) You are raising such questions from that side. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR : You are a privileged Minister. . . . (Interruptions) It seems that you are totally different from us. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The suggestion given by hon'ble Member is quite good. The situation has improved. It is not so that nothing has been done for improving the situation. Earlier we could not contact on telephone due to fault in telephone lines. Now situation has improved but there is still scope for further improvement.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : You should admit that position is very bad.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I will personally call each and every Member of Parliament for hearing and redressal of their problems.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : I thank you for it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has admitted two things in his reply. Firstly that telephone exchanges in rural areas are not working properly. Secondly, that work in telephone exchanges is hampered due to shortage of linemen and grade IV employees. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that when he feels that exchanges are not working properly in rural areas because of obsolete machinery, and often remain out of order, whether fibre cables would be provided in all the small telephone exchanges set up in rural areas, especially in Bihar as large number of telephone exchanges in Bihar are not working. Whether working of these telephone exchanges will be improved.

Secondly, when you feel that work in telephone exchanges is hampered due to shortage of employees then why the employees of telephone exchanges in Bihar were removed. Whether the old employees will be reinstated along with recruitment of new employees required for it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : So for the issue of employees is concerned, I have given orders that no exchange will remain unmanned. It is our basic policy. The second question relates to optical fibres and I would like to say that we will utilise maximum optical fibres and where it cannot be utilised there we will use new technologies like microwave, W.L.L. or Satellite. We share this concern of hon'ble Member that cables laid in every telephone exchange should be of good quality and entire village should be covered by it.

MAJ.GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, resentment regarding telephones is prevalent throughout the country. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards two points. Firstly, along with these problems the people of hilly area lack communication facility and face difficulties in coming and going from one place to another. Secondly, there is no other arrangement for giving information about an accident or disease, therefore, special attention should be paid towards hilly regions.

A mention has been made regarding satellite and in this respect I would like to bring it to your notice that from technology point of view same problems will be faced by satellite system as are being faced by M.A.R.R. In my region more than 50 per cent satellite stations are not working properly. If a small part goes out of order one has to go all the way to Bangalore to bring spare part. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what type of system is this. That machinery can be utilised only when one brings its spare part from Bangalore.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can ask your question.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I would like to know as to why A.B.C. analysis and other measures are not taken for maintenance of spares in the area where equipment is kept which tells about the quantity of spares to be kept with an equipment. Whether any such arrangements will be made for spares of satellite system in hilly region?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : In respect of his this this particular question I would like to say that I will look into it personally. India is a country with diversified geographical features like mountains, desert and flood-prone areas. Therefore, I have stated that appropriate technology will be used for a particular geographical region.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has answered the question that I was going to ask. So I am not asking any question.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated that all the villages of the country will be linked with telephones by the year 2002 whereas his predecessor stated that it would be done by 2002. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please ask your question and do not mention the statement of former Minister.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Whenever meeting of telephone Committee is convened in States it is stated

that required telephone exchanges are not provided by the Centre. I would like to know as to whether all the villages will be linked with telephones by the year 2002. Are you sure about it?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am confident about it and I will do that. Not by 2002 but in Southern States it will be done by 2001. It has been mentioned here that due to shortage of equipment during March-April and May installation of telephones was stopped as tenders used to float during this period and work was taken up again in August-September. I have asked them to complete the process earlier so that work may not be held up during April-May-June. As far as equipment are concerned. I would like to say that there will be no shortage of equipments.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today, telephone has become necessity, Telephone Department has promised the people of villages to set up a mini telephone if 15 persons deposit security for getting telephone connections. People deposited security 3 or 4 years ago but so far nothing has been done by the Telephone Department. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to whether the consumers will get this money with interest at the rate of fixed deposit. There is a long pending demand of the people of Sirsa in Haryana that Sirsa should be made a District Telephone Subscriber Centre. It is being said that officers and employees of Telephone Department do not listen to problems of subscribers. . . . (Interruptions) whether any improvement will be made in this regard?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is correct that money has been deposited for setting up telephone exchanges and so far. . . . (Interruptions) I have stated that there are three ways for installation of telephones. Earlier copper wire was used which was often cut. Now optical fibres and other cables are used. Telephone connections are given after laying cables. There are several areas in Delhi also where telephone facility could not be provided. I am also concerned about it that several hon'ble Members recommended but telephone connections could not be provided in time. I am monitoring it personally that what type of technology should be used in which area so that telephone facility could be provided efficiently and in time.

[English]

Babri Masjid Dispute

*104. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the Government with respect to the disputed Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya, U.P.;

(b) whether the Government are custodian of the said site;

(c) if so, the number of times the status quo has been changed in the past as per the court orders;

(d) whether the status quo as finally ordered by the court is being dully maintained;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there has been tardy progress in the disposal of Babri Masjid cases; and

(g) if so, whether the Government have approached the court or propose to approach it for the expeditious disposal of the cases relating to the issue?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In compliance with the Supreme Court's Judgement dated 24.10.1994 in the case of Dr. M. Ismail Faruqui etc. versus Union of India & others relating to the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, the Central Government, as a statutory receiver is duty bound to maintain status quo as on 7.1.93 in the disputed area. Status quo as ordered by the Supreme Court is being duly maintained and so far there has been no violation of the Court orders. There are four title suits in respect of the disputed Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid site pending before the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court. The proceedings in these suits are continuing. In none of these title suits is the Union of India a party.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today is the seventh anniversary of the *shahadat* of the Babri Masjid, a very unfortunate and an anguishing matter. Justice and secular democratic values demand that the Masjid be reconstructed on its original site and be restored to the Muslims.

Now, Sir, the title deeds cases are pending before the courts for the last over fifty years. Similarly, cases against those accused for the demolition of Babri Masjid, including four Union Ministers, are pending since long. The cases with respect to the contempt of the Supreme Court in the matter of protection of Babri Masjid are also pending for the past several years.

The Report of the Liberhan Commission on this matter of the *Shaha Dat* of the Babri Masjid is also pending since long. Now, my pointed question to the hon. Minister is : (a) What steps the Government proposes to take in order to see that the cases that are pending since long get expedited in the courts? Will the Government approach the

courts and request that the matter be expeditiously decided so that we have a judicial verdict? In the original Question also I asked about this, but it has not been answered. The 15-Point Programme with respect to the minorities which is a Government Programme says that sensitive matters must not hang in balance and be pending for long. Therefore, what is the attitude of the Government in the matter? Will the Government approach the courts for an expeditious judicial verdict? Part (b) of my question is this. . . . (Interruptions) Sir, both in the Centre and in the State of Uttar Pradesh, the BJP is ruling. Therefore, taking the consent of the Uttar Pradesh Government, will the Central Government . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a very delicate question. Please do not interrupt the hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a very sensitive matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please do not interrupt.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it is a matter which comes under article 138 (b). Will the Government refer the entire matter to the Supreme Court for its final decision? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a very delicate question. He has already put the question. The hon. Minister is present here. He is due to give his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, the question relates to the disputed site in Ayodhya and the cases relating to that dispute. The questioner has asked as to what is the status of the Government in that regard. Really speaking, the Government of India came into the picture when there was a case in the Supreme Court following an Ordinance issued by the Central Government in 1993. At that point of time the Government of India was entrusted as receiver of that disputed site and the Supreme Court directed the Government to ensure that the *status quo* in the disputed area is maintained. The questioner has also asked about the maintenance of *status quo* as to whether it has been affected at any time. I feel happy to tell the House that ever since the Government of India has been the receiver of this site in 1993, we have been scrupulously careful to see that the *status quo* is not affected in any manner except to the extent that certain repairs are necessary which were also done with the permission of the court. There has been no change in the *status-quo*.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

So far as the dispute regarding title deeds are concerned, the hon. Member may be aware that these disputes have been there not lately - not when this Government has come - but since 1950. As the Member rightly said, it is nearly 50 years that these disputes have been going on. Two of the title disputes are of 1950; one is of 1959; fourth if of 1961; and the fifth is of 1989. We would certainly be happy if the cases are expedited. But it is entirely the jurisdiction of the Courts to deal with these matters. I can inform the House that according to my information, the next date of hearing is 30th December, 1999.

11.46 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, my question has been evaded. No reply has come to my question. I have asked a pointed question.

MR. SEAKER : Now you can ask your supplementary.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I am asking the question. But before I go to my second question, my first question has to be answered. The Government has to take firm steps to approach the Court on such a sensitive matter.

Then, I have also asked the point of view of the Government with respect to article 138(b). Both in the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh, there is the B.J.P. Government. The consent of the B.J.P. Government of the Uttar Pradesh can be taken and under article 138(b), the matter can be given directly to the Supreme Court. That has not been answered at all. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, he has asked the first supplementary but the Minister has not replied properly. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please ask your supplementary.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The Government is evading its responsibility. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, is a senior Member and he knows how to ask a supplementary.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : But Sir, we are seeing that you are not protecting him. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The work of construction of pre-fabricated material to put up a Mandir on the site of Masjid is going on speedily. In view of the fact that the

status quo is not affected and in view of the communal harmony, will the Government ban all such activities?

Sir, my first question which was evaded by the Government has also to be replied along with this question. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SEAKER : Hon. Members, this is not the proper way.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, you cannot speak while sitting. You must know the procedure.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, as I have already indicated even in the principal reply that I have given, the Government of India is not a party to these title suits. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : That is evading the answer. You do not evade the question. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : No. I am not evading the answer. Even then, Sir, I said that the Government of India would be happy, if the whole process of litigation can be expedited. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You are not answering the question directly. What reply can we expect from the Minister of Home Affairs who is an accused before the Sessions Court? The Minister of Home Affairs is an accused before the Sessions Court. What other answers can we expect of him?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, this is very unfair. He cannot say that. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Sir, army was deployed in a radius of 9 Km of the Mosque was demolished. Congress is responsible for it. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Please allow the Home Minister to reply. Let him reply.

MR. SPEAKER : When the Minister is there to give reply, why are you unnecessarily standing up?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I fully share that this particular dispute should be expeditiously settled and that the court and the judiciary are the proper forum for settling it. I do not know whether the Government of India has any *locus*

standi in these disputes. But I would certainly see that the Government examines them and that if we can approach the court for expeditious action, it will be done.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : My very specific question is whether it is a fact that the prime accused in this case are in this Central Ministry. If so, what is the perception of the Home Minister? I would also like to know whether he is one of the accused. If so, whether it was proper for him to take the oath. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary question ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Has my first question been rejected ? I have asked a supplementary question. The Minister has heard it. Depending on whether you have accepted it or not, my second question will come. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no supplementary question. Shri Prabhunath Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is the question? How can you deviate from the main question? Is it relevant to the main question? Please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not at all relevant to the main question. This does not arise.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Disallowed, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

11.54 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh came and stood on the floor near the Table.

11.55 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh went back to his seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already disallowed it. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that his question is disallowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat. This is not good.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, it is a serious issue. . . . (Interruptions)

He is misleading the house and the country. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting you to take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, his supplementary is related to the main question. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, today is 6th December, the day of demolition of Babri Masjid. . . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : Sir, his supplementary is not related to the main question. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said so and disallowed it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, I am requesting you that hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should reply to it properly. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. The time is very short.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Home Minister himself is an accused. That question has

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

been asked.* Please direct the Minister to answer his question. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, have you got to say anything about his question?

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have already said what I have to say. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that the hon. Minister is going to reply. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, they are not ready to reply to it. . . . (Interruptions) the discussion on it should be held while suspending the Question Hour. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kirit Somaiya, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, you please allow the Minister reply to his question. . . . (Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Adityanath, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Home Minister, do you want to say anything.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : No. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is Over. Papers to be Laid on the Table.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over. Papers to be Laid on the Table.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Yes, Question Hour is over. But I want to make a submission. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please extend the Question Hour. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have disallowed that question. Otherwise I would have answered any question.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : No. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, he has disallowed that question . . . (Interruptions). You please listen to me. I am making my submission.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to share with the House that the Government is equally concerned with the tardy progress made in these cases. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. When the hon. Minister is replying, you are not allowing him. What is this?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Mosque was unlocked during the regime of late Rajiv Gandhi.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour Over. Papers to be Laid on the Table.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Papers Laid.

(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ISI Activities Through Nepal and Bangladesh

*102. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ISI is pumping RDX into the country through Nepal and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the same;

(c) whether India has taken up this issue with Nepal;

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not Recorded.

(d) if so, whether India has been able to convince the Nepal Government to curb the activities of ISI in that country;

(e) whether any joint meeting between India and Nepal has been held in this regard;

(f) if so, the time by which a final agreement in this regard is likely to be reached; and

(g) the extent to which Nepal has agreed to help India on this account?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (g) Government are aware of the ISI indulging in activities directed against India across the India-Nepal and India-Bangladesh borders. Instances of smuggling of RDX across these borders have also come to notice in recent years.

Measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal and Bangladesh in this regard. Joint Working Groups have been set up with both countries for enhancing cooperation for effective border management. The problems faced in the management of the India-Nepal and India-Bangladesh borders have been discussed with the Nepalese and Bangladesh authorities respectively at various levels.

As far as the India-Bangladesh border is concerned, a series of measures are also being taken internally to enhance security. These include, inter alia, raising of additional battalions of the Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on land and the riverine border, and an accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing.

As regards the India-Nepal border, historically, this has been an open border with a visa-free travel regime. In view of the misuse of this open border for staging anti-India activities, the concerned agencies of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India remain in regular touch, both directly and through bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks. Periodic meetings between the two sides are also held to review the situation and jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border districts of India and Nepal, to counter activities directed against India.

The issue relating to the curbing of ISI activities from Nepalese territory and management of the open Indo-Nepal border was raised during the State Visit of the King of Nepal to India in January 1999 and also during the visit of our External Affairs Minister to Nepal in September 1999.

Shared concern on this matter was evident from the determination expressed by both sides to take urgent necessary steps to control misuse of the open border between the two countries. On their part, the Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in this regard.

Ganga Action Plan

*105. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the river Ganga is being increasingly polluted by industries;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the result of the cleaning work done so far under the Ganga Action Plan so far; and

(d) the action taken against the polluting industries?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a), (b) and (d) With the growth in industries, the pollution potential of the industries has also increased which is being regulated under the Pollution Control Acts. Under the Ganga Action Plan-I, 68 grossly polluting industries were identified in UP, Bihar and West Bengal in 1985. These industries were directed to install effluent treatment plants. Out of these 68 industries, presently 24 units are closed, 41 units have installed requisite effluent treatment plants and 3 units are defaulting and facing legal action. Subsequently, in 1997, 119 additional grossly polluting industries were identified in these three States. Out of these, 50 units are already complying with effluent treatment plants, 8 units are closed and legal action has been taken against the remaining 61 defaulting units which are in UP. Directions have also been issued by the UP State Pollution Control Board to these defaulting units for installation and proper operation of effluent treatment plants.

(c) The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I has been under implementation since 1985. Of the 261 sanctioned schemes of various categories such as interception, diversion and treatment of municipal waste water, crematoria, river front development, low cost sanitation, etc. taken up in 25 class I towns under the Plan, 256 schemes have been completed. With the completion of these schemes, the water quality of Ganga has shown improvement over the pre-GAP period quality in terms of both the bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) and dissolved oxygen (DO), the two important parameters to assess the water quality. It has been possible to install and commission facilities to divert 873 MLD and treat 788 MLD

of sewage under GAP Phase I. However, under GAP Phase I, only about 35 per cent of total sewage generated presently in towns along the river has been tackled.

Oil Exploration in Rajasthan-Gujarat Basin

*106. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil has been found in Rajasthan-Gujarat basin recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether exploration is being done in other identified oil bearing basins in the country including in Andhra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Oil was struck by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in the exploratory well Akholjuni-5, a new prospect located West of Cambay field in Gujarat, in September, 1999.

Oil has been found in Well Guda-2 in the exploration bid block RJ-ON-90/1, drilled by M/s. Shell India Production Development B.V. (SIPD), in August, 1999.

(c) and (d) Identified oil bearing basins in the country, other than those in states of Gujarat and Rajasthan, where exploration is in progress are as under :

- (i) Krishna-Godavari basin onland and offshore (Krishna-Godavari basin onland lies mostly in the State of Andhra Pradesh)
- (ii) Upper Assam and Assam-Arakan fold belt
- (iii) Mumbai offshore Basin
- (iv) Cauvery Basin, onland and offshore
- (v) Kutch and Saurashtra offshore.

Construction Work of Oil Pipelines from Iran

*108. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a final decision regarding the construction work of oil pipelines from Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the capacity of the oil likely to be imported through the pipelines per month; and

(d) the funds provided by the Government for the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) No such decision has been taken by the Govt. A Memorandum of Understanding was, however, signed between the Govt. of India and Govt. of Iran during the Tenth Session of Joint Commission held in New Delhi during 23-24th February, 1999. The MOU provides that both countries would cooperate and jointly undertake a feasibility study of the prospect of a natural gas pipeline for long term mutual benefits.

Linking of Power Grids

*109. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme to inter-link all the power grids with one another in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the sources through which the funds are proposed to be mobilized; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated plans to inter link the regional electricity grids of the country. Some links are already under operation. Others are under construction or under consideration. The details of the centrally owned inter regional links are given below :

I. Existing and Operational Links

- (i) 500 MW HVDC back-to-back link at Vindhyachal interconnecting Northern and Western regions.
- (ii) 1000 MW HVDC back-to-back link at Chandrapur interconnecting Western and Southern regions.
- (iii) 500 MW HVDC back-to-back link at Gazuwaka interconnecting Eastern and Southern regions.
- (iv) Bongaigaon-Malda 400 KV D/C line and Birpara-Salakati 220 KV D/C line interconnecting Eastern and North-Eastern regions.

II. Links Under Construction

- (i) 500 MW HVDC back-to-back link at Sasaram to interconnect Eastern and Northern regions. The

estimated cost of project is Rs. 672 crores and it is likely to be commissioned by 2002. With this, the first stage of integration of regional grids planned by POWERGRID would be completed.

III. Links Under Consideration of Powergrid

- (i) Talcher-Kolar HVDC bipole link between Eastern and Southern regions with a capacity of 2000 MW. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3865 crores.
- (ii) 400 KV D/C Rourkela-Raipur, HVAC link from Eastern to Western region of a capacity of 800 to 1000 MW. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 267.79 crores.
- (iii) 400 KV D/C Purnea-Muzzafarpur-Gorakhpur-Lucknow HVAC link between Eastern and Northern regions of 2000 MW capacity. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1260 crores.

State owned inter-regional links being utilised for exchange of power are as follows :

S. No.	Name of the link	Region interconnected	Capacity (MW)
1.	Korba-Budhipadar 220 KV D/C	West and East	300
2.	Balimela-Upper Sileru 220 KV D/C	East and South	180
3.	Kolhapur-Belgaum 220 KV D/C	West and South	300
4.	Dehri-Mughalsarai 220 KV S/C	East and North	200
5.	Karamnasa-Varanasi 132 KV D/C		
6.	Auraiya-Malanpur 220 KV D/C	North and West	200
7.	Kota-Ujjain 220 KV D/C	North and West	200

(d) The projects are proposed to be funded partly through assistance from international funding agencies like World Bank and Asian Development Bank and partly through suppliers credit, domestic borrowings and deployment of internal resources of POWERGRID.

(e) The HVDC back-to-back link at Sasaram is expected to be commissioned by 2002. The other inter regional links are planned progressively over a period of 4 to 5 years.

[Translation]

Inadequate Post and Telegraph Facilities

*110. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are inadequate post and telegraph facilities in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the facts in this regards;

(c) the targets fixed and achievements made for the expansion and upgradation of Post and Telegraph network in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-Wise;

(d) the details of such Gram Panchayats/Block development areas in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where said facilities have not been provided as yet;

(e) whether the Government have some proposal for the upgradation and expansion of said network in the country particularly in U.P. and Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof; State-Wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) :

Department of Posts :

(a) and (b) Post offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources in successive Annual Plans under the Five Year Plans. As on 31.3.99, the average area served by a post office in the country is 21.32 sq.kms., and the average population served by a post office is 5477.

In Uttar Pradesh, the average area and population served by a post office is 14.56 sq.kms, and 6875 respectively. A post office in Bihar, on an average, serves an area of 14.6 sq. kms, and a population of 7247. Both Uttar Pradesh and Bihar therefore, compare favourably with the national average, so far as the average area served per post office is concerned.

(c) The targets for opening post offices are allotted Postal-Circle-Wise. The Circle-wise detail of targets allotted and achievement made with regard to opening of post offices during the Eighth Five Year Plan is given in Statement-I.

(d) The district-wise details of Gram Panchayat Villages which have not been provided with a post office so far in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are given in Statement II and Statement III respectively.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to open 2500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) and 250 Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) during the Ninth Five Year Plan, subject to availability of resources.

The annual Plan wise targets approved so far under the Ninth Five Year Plan, and the achievements made in the country as well as in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, are given below :

Annual Plan	National				Uttar Pradesh				Bihar			
	Targets		Achievements		Targets		Achievements		Targets		Achievements	
	EDBOs	DSOs	EDBOs	DSOs	EDBOs	DSOs	EDBOs	DSOs	EDBOs	DSOs	EDBOs	DSOs
1997-98	500	50	402*	52	70	6	57	6	40	5	31	4
1998-99	598	50	598	50	82	3	82	3	72	2	72	2
1999-2000	500	50	to be achieved by March, 2000. Subject to availability of resources.		50	3	to be achieved by March, 2000. Subject to availability of resources.		50	3	to be achieved by March, 2000. Subject to availability of resources.	

* The targets for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) could not be achieved during the Annual Plan 1997-98 because adequate number of posts required to open these post offices were not sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance.

In addition to opening post offices as detailed above, a target for opening 200 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in the Annual Plan 1998-99 and 500 PSSKs in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 has been approved for the whole country. While the targets for the Annual Plan 1998-

99 were fully achieved during the year, the targets for 1999-2000 are to be achieved by March, 2000. The position regarding targets and achievement with regard to Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana so far during the Ninth Five Year Plan is as follows :

Annual Plan	National		Uttar Pradesh		Bihar	
	Targets	Achievements	Targets	Achievements	Targets	Achievements
1998-99	200	200	30	30	14	14
1999-2000	500	to be made by March, 2000	45	to be made by March, 2000	10	to be made by march, 2000.

Department of Telecom :

(a) to (f) Telegraph facilities in the country including the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are quite adequate. The service is being provided through a large number of telegraph offices and telecom centres equipped with modern electronic equipment like SFTs/SFMSS Teleprinters, EKBCs/EKBs and FAX machines. The network has been expanded and modernised to meet the requirement and to keep pace with the technological advancements through successive plans. The Circlewise achievement during Eighth Five Year Plan are highlighted below :

Circle	SFMS	EKBCs/EKBs	FTC/FT	Tos
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra	1	8/89	4/146	12
Assam	1	9/96	-	2
Bihar	2	1/2	0/1	458

	1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	2	18/88	4/64	1	
Haryana	1	8/46	0/12	2	
Himachal	1	6/48	0/7	300	
J & K	1	4/25	0/2	-	
Karnataka	2	14/130	0/32	1015	
Kerala	3	18/74	0/48	16	
M.P.	4	4/8	-	-	
Maharashtra	7	43/368	0/114	15	
North East	-	3/14	-	-	
Orissa	-	-	-	2278	
Punjab	2	-	1/32	4	
Rajasthan	2	32/209	2/28	517	

1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	6	60/496	4/169	178
UPE+UPW	6	-	6/98	2
West Bengal	1	28/233	-	7
NTR-ND	1	3/70	1/16	-
TOTAL	43	214/1996	23/765	5807

With the expansion of telephone facility including STD in the country the telegraph traffic and therefore the dependence on telegraph facilities has been reducing steadily. Expansion and upgradation of such facilities is therefore planned to meet only the specific need. The requirement of telecom facilities at Panchayat and Block Development area level are usually met through telephone network. However, public telephones wherever installed in post offices provide telegraph facility on phonocom.

Statement-I

Circle-wise details of targets allotted for opening/upgradation of post offices during the 8th Five Year Plan and the achievements made against them during the period

S. No.	Name of Circle	Targets for Opening of POs		Achievements	
		DSOs	EDBOs	DSOs	EDBOs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	42	26	29
2.	Assam	18	63	12	63
3.	Bihar	49	183	21	180
4.	Delhi	41	01	17	-
5.	Gujarat	49	59	33	103
6.	Haryana	40	28	20	34
7.	Himachal Pr.	29	53	09	137
8.	J & K	08	12	03	29
9.	Karnataka	42	34	44	62
10.	Kerala	36	35	31	33
11.	Madhya Pradesh	37	113	33	163
12.	Maharashtra	51	163	42	237
13.	North East	18	82	12	124
14.	Orissa	21	87	13	94
15.	Punjab	19	27	16	43

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Rajasthan	43	105	26	288
17.	Tamil Nadu	24	30	18	57
18.	Uttar Pradesh	73	206	40	233
19.	West Bengal	27	117	08	133
Total		650	1440	424	2042

Statement-II

District-wise information regarding Gram Panchayats with and without a Post Office in Uttar Pradesh

S. No.	Name of District	Total Number of Gram Panchayats	Number of Gram Panchayats with a Post Office	Number of Gram Panchayats without a Post Office
1	2	3	4	5

Agra Region

1.	Agra	637	251	386
2.	Firozabad	503	150	353
3.	Aligarh	1121	270	851
4.	Mahamaya Nagar	Figures included in Aligarh.		
5.	Bulandshahar	981	300	681
6.	Etah	892	200	692
7.	Etawah	413	145	268
8.	Auriya	425	131	294
9.	Jhansi	443	359	84
10.	Lalitpur	326	150	176
11.	Jalaun	539	322	217
12.	Mathura	576	186	390
13.	Mainpuri	501	215	286

Allahabad Rn.

14.	Allahabad	1217	324	893
15.	Kaushambi	629	155	474
16.	Pratapgarh	1090	344	746
17.	Ghazipur	1024	356	668
18.	Jaunpur	1520	402	1118
19.	Mirzapur	760	154	606
20.	Sonbhadra	441	116	325

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Allahabad Rn. (cont.)					Gorakhpur Region				
21. Varanasi	697		178	519	53. Azamgarh	1599		341	1258
22. Bhadohi	485		106	379	54. Mau	602		240	362
23. Chandauli	613		168	445	55. Deoria	991		245	746
Bareilly Region					56. Kushi Nagar	971		235	736
24. Almorah	280		229	51	57. Gorakhpur	1219		332	887
25. Bageshwar	337		214	123	58. Maharaj Ganj	770		243	527
26. Budaun	1061		233	828	59. Ballia	817		336	481
27. Bareilly	985		155	830	60. Baharaich	748		255	493
28. Pilibhit	557		129	428	61. Srawasti	465		136	329
29. Hardoi	1099		264	835	62. Basti	1612		376	1236
30. Kheri	990		348	642	63. Sidharth Nagar	1065		231	834
31. Moradabad	891		202	689	64. S.K. Nagar	figures included in Basti			
32. J.P. Nagar	535		92	443	65. Gonda	1021		345	676
33. Rampur	561		105	456	66. Balrampur	667		148	519
34. Nainital	300		137	163	Kanpur Region				
35. Udham Singh Nagar	226		91	135	67. Kanpur City	158		82	76
36. Pithoragarh	274		218	56	68. Kanpur (D)	1005		278	727
37. Champawat	204		49	155	69. Unnao	944		248	696
38. Shahjahanpur	937		262	675	70. Banda	443		196	247
Dehradun Region					71. Shahuji Maharaj Nagar	303		75	228
39. Bijaur	937		261	676	72. Hamirpur	323		132	191
40. Chamoli	355		334	21	73. Mahoba	226		78	148
41. Rudraprayag	figures included in Chamoli				74. Fatehpur	781		234	547
42. Dehradun	248		183	65	75. Farukhabad	920		251	669
43. Ghaziabad	374		131	243	76. Kannauj	figures included in Farrukhabad			
44. G.B. Nagar	172		42	130	Lucknow Region				
45. Meerut	511		217	295	77. Lucknow	507		154	353
46. Bagpat	189		95	94	78. Sultanpur	1255		463	792
47. Muzaffar Nagar	687		275	412	79. Sitapur	1321		354	967
48. Pauri	479		416	63	80. Barabanki	1131		378	753
49. Saharanpur	773		174	599	81. Rai Bareilly	960		420	540
50. Haridwar	296		80	216	82. Faizabad	590		306	284
51. Tehri	485		263	222	83. Ambedkar Nagar	791		287	504
52. Uttarkashi	200		124	76	Total				
						54981		17630	37351

Statement-III

Details of Post Offices in Gram Panchayats of Bihar Circle Districtwise as on 31.03.99

S. No.	Name of District	Total No. of Gram Panchayats	No. of Gram Panchayats with Post Offices	No. of Gram Panchayats without Post Offices
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Patna	348	246	102
2.	Nalanda	249	204	45
3.	Bhojpur	247	242	15
4.	Buxar	147	139	8
5.	Gaya	319	196	123
6.	Nawada	148	112	36
7.	Jehanabad	165	128	37
8.	Bhagalpur	240	178	62
9.	Banka	152	108	44
10.	Saran	329	293	36
11.	Vaishali	258	239	19
12.	Aurangabad	251	170	80
13.	Rohtas	266	162	104
14.	Bhabhua	153	73	80
15.	Palamu	251	231	20
16.	Garhwa	108	84	24
17.	Ranchi	376	265	111
18.	Gumia	250	168	82
19.	Lohardaga	93	61	132
20.	E. Singhbhum	152	116	36
21.	W. Singhbhum	321	150	171
22.	Dhanbad	138	89	69
23.	Bokaro	183	113	70
24.	Giridih	232	154	78
25.	Hazaribag	233	100	133
26.	Chatra	95	54	41
27.	Kodarma	61	49	12
28.	Dumka	283	174	109
29.	Sahibganj	147	48	99

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Goda	167	94	73
31.	Deoghar	140	68	72
32.	Pakur	71	47	24
33.	Munger	125	91	34
34.	Jamui	151	109	42
35.	Lakhisarai	88	72	16
36.	Shikhpura	50	41	9
37.	Begusarai	240	205	35
38.	Khagaria	128	114	14
39.	Madhubani	366	331	23
40.	Purnia	241	171	70
41.	Dharbanga	321	230	95
42.	Araria	203	155	48
43.	Katihar	223	172	31
44.	Kishanganj	118	85	33
45.	Saharsa	170	148	22
46.	Supaul	173	158	23
47.	Madhepura	185	161	24
48.	Siwan	308	251	57
49.	Gopalganj	222	184	38
50.	Samstipur	333	291	42
51.	Muzaffarpur	344	289	55
52.	Sitamarhi	278	239	39
53.	Sheohar	25	13	12
54.	E. Champaran	416	310	106
55.	W. Champaran	307	213	94
Total		11588	8568	3109

[English]

Pakistan Hackers Club

*111. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY :

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Pakistan Hackers Club (PHC) has broken into about 40 web sites across the world to draw attention to the Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, whether any Indian site has been affected by the Pakistani hacking activity; and

(c) the measures proposed to instruct the web hosts to tighten the security?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Hackers use unauthorised ways to break into web sites world over. As such it is not possible to know the exact number of web sites broken into by Pakistan Hackers Club (PHC) so far across the world, including India, so as to draw attention to the Kashmir issue.

Comprehensive instructions regarding the safeguard of computer security has already been circulated to all government departments. In addition do's and don'ts for computer users and operators have also been issued to certain departments/Ministries.

[Translation]

Global Mobile Personal Communication and Satellite Services

*112. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has submitted its recommendations to the Government with regard to the Goba Mobile Personal Communications and satellite services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have accepted these recommendations;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have submitted on 12th November, 1999 its recommendations on license fee and terms and conditions of the license agreement for Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service.

Salient points of TRAI's recommendations are as follows :

(i) The entry fee shall be Rs. 10 million.

(ii) The Licensee shall be required to commission its Applicable Systems and provide GMPCS Service within a period of one year of the effective date of the License Agreement. In case of delay(s) in the commissioning of Service, an additional Entry Fee shall be payable as below:

- Delay upto 1 year : Rs. 0.5 million.
- Delay more than 1 year but less than 2 years : Rs. 1 million.
- Delay of more than two years : Rs. 1.5 million.

(iii) The annual license fee as a percentage of revenue sharing should not exceed 5% of the "Adjusted Gross Revenue" (AGR). This may be reviewed after every 5 years (subject to the ceiling of 5%). This recommendation is based on majority view of 4:3.

(iv) The aforesaid mentioned revenue sharing percentage is exclusive of any contribution towards access deficit or universal service fund that the licensee may be required to pay as prescribed by the Competent Authority.

(v) The license will be issued for an initial period of 20 years and would be extendable by additional periods of 10 years thereafter.

The recommendations of TRAI will be considered and decision will be taken after examining the details at the earliest.

[English]

Militancy in Bihar

*113. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether massacres and counter massacres between different militant groups in Bihar are going on unabated;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the past two years till date, area-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken both by the Union and State Governments to prevent the bloodshed in the state?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) According to available information, the

following major incidents of mass killings were reported from Bihar during the last two years :

Period	Place	No. of Killings
December, 1997	Laxmanpur Bathe (Distt. Jehanabad)	62
January, 1998	Rampur Chauram (Distt. Arwal)	9
November, 1998	Rampur Village (Distt. Jehanabad)	7
January, 1999	Shankar Bigha (Distt. Jehanabad)	22
February, 1999	Narainpur (Distt. Jehanabad)	11
February, 1999	Usri Bazar (Distt. Arwal)	7
March, 1999	Senari (Distt. Arwal)	34
April, 1999	Khagari Bigha/Jamir Bigha (Distt. Gaya)	12
November, 1999	Loto (Distt. Palamu)	12
November, 1999	Chandraha Rupawalia (Distt. West Champaran)	9

'Public Order' and 'Police' being State Subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to ensure safety and security of the people. However, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to improve the policing infrastructure in the State. The Central Government has also been making available Central Para Military Forces to assist the State Police in combating threats from anti-social elements, including Left-Wing extremist groups.

[Translation]

Delivery of Mail

*114. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Postal Department has come in for strong criticism from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for its poor performance in the matter of timely delivery of mail;

(b) if so, whether the audit review was conducted in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad between March 1997 to August 1998 with the

objective of assessing the operational performance of the Department;

(c) if so, the details of the objections raised by the CAG in its Report and the steps being taken by the Government to improve the mail delivery in the country;

(d) whether the people living in Delhi are facing difficulties regarding the delivery of mail as the number of postmen has not increased in proportion to increased mail;

(e) if so, whether the Government have made any arrangement to ensure smooth and timely delivery of mail in Delhi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (f) While reviewing mail delivery system of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his Audit Report on the Department of Posts for the year ending 31st March, 1998, has observed that operational performance in some of the metro cities had not been satisfactory including timely delivery of mails. That metro mail delivery had shown poor performance in 3 out of 6 metros in timely delivery caused due to non-sorting of mail by Post offices as well as improper sorting in sorting offices. It is submitted in this regard that the Department has made elaborate arrangements for timely delivery of letters from one destination to another, fixing norms of transit and also of delivery. For achieving these objectives mail sorting pattern has been segmented into various channels, called, Green Channel (local), Metro Channel, Rajdhani Channel, Business Channel, Bulk Mail Channel and Patrika Channel. Delivery system at post offices has been restructured and rationalized so that letters are delivered on the same day as the day of their receipt. Regular monitoring of mail processing and delivery system both at the field level as well as at the headquarters level has been introduced. Continuous efforts are also being made for better coordination amongst various agencies and ensure their timely delivery. The incidence of off-loading of mail by the airlines authorities has also been contained. It is also stated that 980 additional Posts of Postmen have been sanctioned during 1997-98; 980 during 1998-99; 600 during 1999-2000 in the country as a whole. In cities, some Postmen have also been provided with mopeds to facilitate delivery. Delivery system in Delhi has been rationalized and streamlined. The requirement of delivery staff has also been thoroughly examined and additional 51 posts of postmen sanctioned for this Circle. Strict monitoring of delivery has been put in place to ensure smooth and timely delivery of mail. Simultaneously, the Department has introduced all-India live mail survey as also metro live mail

survey to assess delivery performance during the years 1997, 98, 99. As a result of these actions, the all-India average of success rate in delivery of mail went up to 72% in 1997, to 75% in 1998 and to 79.5% during the year 1999. The delivery performance of metro mail as revealed by metro mail survey of 1998 was as follows :

Name of Metro City	Percentage of Mails Delivered within the Norms
Bangalore	99.6%
Chennai	98.1%
Calcutta	100%
Delhi	99.1%
Hyderabad	91.3%
Mumbai	96.4%

[English]

White Paper on ISI Activities

*115. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- whether the Government propose to release a white paper on the ISI activities in the country;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Government proposes to present a 'White Paper' on the activities of Pak ISI as soon as it is ready.

Privatisation of Transmission Lines

*116. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- whether the Union Government have been seriously considering the privatisation of Power Grid transmission lines and also of the State Electricity Boards which are not working satisfactorily; and
- if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) The Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 (Act No. 22 of 1998) recognizes transmission as a separate activity and provides for grant of transmission license to any person. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. as the Central Transmission utility has identified transmission lines for private sector

participation. The decision in respect of transmission lines in the State sector will be taken by the appropriate agency in the States.

[Translation]

Atrocities on SC/ST

*117. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :
DR. V. SAROJA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- the number of incidents of atrocities committed against the persons belonging to SCs/STs in various parts of the country since 31st March, 1998 to 31st October, 1999;
- the number of murders and rapes out of the total incidents; and
- the steps being taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Available information about the incidents of atrocities committed against persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is given in the enclosed Statements I and II.

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focussed attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system to ensure prevention of atrocities against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable sections of the society. The advisories issued by the Government include, inter alia, sensitisation of police personnel in the matter of implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, recruitment of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the police force, identification of atrocities prone area with a view to preventing crimes, creating awareness among the weaker sections about their rights, etc. etc.

According to available information, all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, except Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, have specified, for each district, a Court of Session to be a Special Court for the trial of offences under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Some State Governments have also set up exclusive Special Courts.

Statement-I

Number of Incidence of Atrocities Committed against Scheduled Castes from April 1998 to Oct. 1999 (As shown in last column)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Murder	Hurt	RAPE	Kidnaping & abduction	Dacoity	Robbery	Arson	PCR ACT	SC/ST (P) of Atrocities Act 1989	Other offences	Total	Remarks (Figs. are upto the Months of)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pr.	37	519	71	8	3	5	7	255	712	599	2216	June
2.	Arunachal Pr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	June
3.	Assam	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	July
4.	Bihar	5	206	19	3	3	1	8	8	231	170	654	Dec. 98
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	August
6.	Gujarat	30	430	29	25	8	34	19	15	723	1245	2558	July
7.	Haryana	8	56	27	13	2	13	1	0	25	39	184	July
8.	Himachal Pr.	3	4	10	0	0	0	0	4	31	27	79	July
9.	J & K	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	16	July
10.	Karnataka	13	25	11	1	1	0	31	136	1281	44	1543	July
11.	Kerala	6	296	98	3	0	1	11	3	335	142	895	June
12.	Madhya Pr.	79	896	363	51	2	30	66	22	584	3707	5800	July
13.	Maharashtra	7	115	62	8	5	7	13	225	215	254	911	July
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sep.
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	July
16.	Mizoram	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	Sep.
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	August
18.	Orissa	9	180	16	7	0	3	5	5	318	360	903	May
19.	Punjab	7	10	5	4	0	0	0	1	7	10	44	Sep.
20.	Rajasthan	65	255	204	11	0	5	78	2	1371	5579	7570	July
21.	Sikkim	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	July
22.	Tamil Nadu	40	672	14	14	0	3	24	170	551	540	2028	Sep.
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	August
24.	Uttar Pradesh	351	943	327	180	42	73	181	4	3463	2513	8077	June
25.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	June
Total (States)		660	4618	1260	328	66	176	444	851	9849	15243	33495	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
26. A & N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	July
27. Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	June
28. D. & N. Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	August
29. Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	July
30. Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	7	21	August
31. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	August
32. Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	2	0	18	Sep.
Total (UTS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	12	7	39	
Total (All India)	660	4618	1260	328	66	176	444	871	9861	15250	33534		

Source : Monthly Crime Statistics.

Note : 1. Figures are Provisional,
2. NA Stands for not available.

Statement-II

*Number of Incidence of Atrocities Committed against Scheduled Tribes from
April 1998 to Oct. 1999 (As shown in last column)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Murder	Hurt	RAPE	Kidna- pping & abduc- tion	Dacoity	Robbery	Arson	PCR ACT	SC/ST (P) of Attro- cities Act 1989	Other offences	Total	Remarks (Figs. are upto the Months of)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pr.	5	187	46	15	3	6	4	13	69	66	414	June
2.	Arunachal Pr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	June
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	July
4.	Bihar	0	18	4	1	0	0	1	0	39	34	97	Dec. 98
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	August
6.	Gujarat	6	68	35	9	2	1	7	0	71	342	541	July
7.	Haryana	0	19	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	1	27	July
8.	Himachal Pr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	July
9.	J & K	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	July
10.	Karnataka	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	2	71	22	104	July
11.	Kerala	0	56	21	0	0	1	3	0	23	52	156	June
12.	Madhya Pr.	45	225	299	36	1	5	26	5	118	1346	2106	July

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13. Maharashtra		3	23	36	8	0	1	2	21	41	112	247	July
14. Manipur		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sep.
15. Meghalaya		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	July
16. Mizoram		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sep.
17. Nagaland		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	August
18. Orissa		3	125	9	2	0	2	0	6	114	135	396	May
19. Punjab		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	Sep
20. Rajasthan		18	71	44	3	0	1	19	0	281	1098	1537	July
21. Sikkim		2	9	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	13	30	July
22. Tamil Nadu		2	74	1	0	0	0	0	13	18	13	121	Sep.
23. Tripura		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	August
24. Uttar Pradesh		3	22	1	0	0	0	0	0	26	45	97	June
25. West Bengal		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	June
Total (States)		90	901	499	79	6	22	66	60	878	3283	5884	
26. A & N Islands		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	July
27. Chandigarh		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	June
28. D. & N. Haveli		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	August
29. Daman & Diu		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	July
30. Delhi		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	August
31. Lakshadweep		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	August
32. Pondicherry		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	4	Sep.
Total (UTS)		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	6	
Total (All India)		90	901	500	79	6	22	66	63	879	3284	5890	

Source : Monthly Crime Statistics.

- Note :
1. Figures are Provisional,
 2. NA Stands for not available.
 3. Data of Bihar 1999 in not included.

[English]

Multi Purpose Identity Cards

*118. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the purpose for which multi-purpose identity cards are proposed to be used;

(b) whether the Union Government have consulted the State Governments in this regards;

(c) if so, the reactions of the State Governments thereto;

(d) the amount likely to be incurred thereon;

(e) whether a part of the expenditure in this regard is likely to be borne by the State Governments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (g) There is a proposal under consideration to issue Multipurpose National Identity Cards (MNICs) based on compulsory registration of all citizens and non-citizens in the country. The MNICs are perceived to serve the following important purposes among others :

- (i) A credible identification system for multifarious socio-economic uses, like, issuing of passports, driving licences, ration cards, health care, admission in educational institutions, employment in public/private sector, life and general insurance, maintenance of land records and urban property holdings;
- (ii) A reliable mechanism for identification of persons residing unauthorisedly in the country;
- (iii) A deterrent against future illegal immigration.

At present, the scheme is at a conceptual stage and the Government are having a detailed Feasibility Study carried out which would cover a comprehensive examination of the feasibility of creation of an Integrated Data Base of the population and for the issue of Identity Cards to the citizens. The feasibility report is expected by March, 2000.

An Advisory Committee, comprising of senior officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs and other concerned Central agencies has been constituted to interact, from time to time during the period of preparation of feasibility report. Various districts and State capitals in the country would be visited for discussions with State and District level officials of all related departments as a part of the preparation of the Detailed Feasibility Report.

The details of the scheme, including sources of funding and the time schedule will be finalised and formal consultation with the State Governments would be taken up after receipt of the feasibility report.

[Translation]

Sale of NTPC Units

*119. SHRI J.S. BRAR :
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to sale some units of National Thermal Power Corporation to mobilize additional resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government have adopted any criteria for the selection of such units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal at present to hive off any of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) plant. The matter of disinvestment/re-organisation of Public Sector Undertakings in the power sector has been under the consideration of Government of India. NTPC has been examining various means for mobilising additional resources for financing new projects. NTPC has appointed M/s ICICI as a Consultant to examine various options of mobilising additional resources for investment in the power sector. Their report is awaited.

[English]

Custodial Deaths in Country

*120. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have urged that the State Governments should take stringent action against erring cops and pay adequate compensation to the kin of those killed in the police lock-up;

(b) if so, the total number of custodial deaths during the last three years in various States, State-wise;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh has the dubious distinction of having the highest number of custodial deaths so far;

(d) whether the Human Rights Commission has also drawn attention of the Union Government towards the large scale custodial deaths in various States; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government there to ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) The Government of India has written to the State Governments about the need for taking effective measures for prevention of violation of human rights, particularly, the incidents of custodial crimes and the need for taking prompt and deterrent action against persons found guilty of human rights violations.

'Police' being a State Subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is primarily for the

State Governments to consider payment of compensation to the families of victims of custodial deaths.

(b) and (c) According to information received from the National Human Rights Commission, 535 deaths took place in police custody in the country during the three years ending 31 October, 1999. Statewise/UT wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The attention of the Government has been drawn towards custodial deaths by the National Human Rights Commission through its Annual Reports. The Government is of the view that unnatural custodial deaths have no place in a civilised society governed by the rule of law.

Statement

*Custodial deaths reported by the State Governments/
Union Territories during the period November
1996 to October 31, 1999.*

S. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	Police Custody
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6
3.	Assam	38
4.	Bihar	29
5.	Goa	3
6.	Gujarat	34
7.	Haryana	9
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3
10.	Karnataka	19
11.	Kerala	15
12.	Madhya Pradesh	50
13.	Maharashtra	61
14.	Manipur	5
15.	Meghalaya	3
16.	Mizoram	-
17.	Nagaland	3
18.	Orissa	13
19.	Punjab	27

1	2	3
20.	Rajasthan	19
21.	Tamil Nadu	29
22.	Sikkim	-
23.	Tripura	4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	49
25.	West Bengal	35
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	1
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-
30.	Delhi	17
31.	Lakshadweep	-
32.	Pondicherry	2
Total		535

Ganga Action Plan

963. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to cover the area between Bangladesh and Katwa in West Bengal under the Ganga Action Plan to check the devastation erosion of Bhagirathi;

(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 BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The objective of the Ganga Action Plan is to improve the river water quality of the Ganga and some tributaries by taking up pollution abatement measures. Control of erosion does not fall under the purview of the Ganga Action Plan.

Rehabilitation of Surrendered Militants

964. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of extremist outfits and militants in different North-East States that relinquished armed insurgency during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of surrendered extremists in each of the State and the expenditure incurred in this regard during the last three years till date, State-wise, year-wise; and

(c) the number of militants apprehended during the said period in the North-East Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Out of Order Public Telephones
in Rural Areas**

965. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of public telephones out of order in the rural areas of the country as on October, 1999, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Number of Village Public Telephones out of order State-wise is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) (i) Frequent and prolonged power failure in rural areas.

(ii) Typical geographical constrains due to which VPTs become unapproachable in difficult weather.

(iii) In case of O/H (over head) there are frequent theft and break down of O/H lines.

(iv) Due to misuses of battery system by the holder of VPTs.

(v) Poor response from the manufacturers in attending to the faults.

(vi) Fault in MARR units.

(c) (i) Testing of VPTs are carried out daily by dialling from the exchange. Any VPT not responding on two consecutive days are being treated as faulty.

(ii) Testing of MARR links are carried out daily from the Base Station.

(iii) Meter readings are checked fortnightly and low reading is taken as an indication of the system not performing properly and are being specially checked.

(iv) VPT holders have been asked to book their fault at Telephone exchange/JTO Incharge.

(v) Repair Centres are in the process of being setup in each circle.

(vi) Sufficient spare units wherever not available are being procured.

(vii) Annual Maintenance Contract is entered into with the supplier of the systems.

(viii) Different inspection schedules have been designed.

(ix) Monthly/Weekly performance reports (suggested by NPC) have been implemented.

(x) SSA Heads are holding meetings with villagers to sort out the grievances.

(xi) Flying Squads have been constituted at circle/TCHQ level.

(xii) Repair of faulty units.

Statement

The number of public Telephones out of order in the rural areas of the country as on October, 99, State-wise

Sl. No.	Name	VPTs out of order as on Oct., 99
1	3	2
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	24
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2786
3.	Assam	672
4.	Bihar	4746
5.	Gujarat	366
6.	Haryana	709
7.	Himachal Pradesh	583

1	3	2
8.	J & K	360
9.	Karnataka	554
10.	Kerala	Nil
11.	Madhya Pradesh	11218
12.	Maharashtra	1120
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	197
14.	Manipur	360
15.	Meghalaya	276
16.	Mizoram	163
17.	Nagaland	114
18.	Tripura	187
19.	Orissa	12254
20.	Punjab	286
21.	Rajasthan	2200
22.	Tamil Nadu	801
23.	U.P.	5757
24.	West Bengal	1814
25.	Sikkim	30

(English)

Committee on Investor Protection Fund

966. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a committee on the Investor Protection Fund to look after ways to safeguard and protect the investors from the unscrupulous players in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has, in exercise of powers conferred by subsection 4 of section 205C of Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956), has constituted a committee under Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Company Affairs with ten other members to administer the Investor Education and

Protection Fund and to maintain separate accounts and other relevant records in relation to that Fund in such form as may be prescribed in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The members of the Committee shall hold office for a period of two years. The Fund shall be utilized for promotion of investor awareness and protection of the interest of investors in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled to be held on 17th December 1999.

CRZ Notification

967. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision on the concessions in the provision of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification and CRZ Management Plans sought by the Kerala Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Taking into account the difficulties faced by the coastal States and Union Territories including Kerala due to certain provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991, a draft amendment to the CRZ Notification has been issued vide S.O.629(E) dated 5th August, 1999. The issues addressed in the draft Notification are (i) Criteria for relaxation of CRZ from 100 to 50 metres for construction of dwelling houses along tidal influenced water bodies (ii) criteria for construction of dwelling units by local inhabitants in no development zone, (iii) facilities for storage of certain petroleum products wholly or partially outside the port limits, (iv) facilities for receipt, storage and regasification of liquified natural gas in CRZ area, (v) Construction or reconstruction of dwelling units between 200-500 metres for local inhabitants in CRZ-III (vi) construction of public amenities in no development zone CRZ, (vii) harvesting of salt in inter-tidal zone.

(c) As per the provisions of Environmental Protection Act, 1986, the above draft amendment S.O.692(E) dated 5th August, 1999 has to be finalised within 365 days from the date of issue of the draft notification.

Non-Functioning of PCOs in Hyderabad

968. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of public telephone booths working in Hyderabad as on date;

(b) whether these booths are not functioning properly and satisfactorily;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of public telephone booths closed in Hyderabad during the last three years;

(e) the loss suffered on this account; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the smooth functioning of public telephone booths in the city particularly in Char Meenar area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 18044 public telephones booths are working in Hyderabad.

(b) No, Sir. All these booths satisfactory.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 548 booths have been closed during the last three years.

(e) There is no loss on account of closure of these booths since new booths are allotted from time to time.

(f) The steps taken for smooth functioning of public telephone booths include frequent vigilance checks, quick action on the complaints, opening of more booths etc.

[Translation]

Land Acquired by ONGC in Raigarh, Maharashtra

969. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers and extent of their land acquired by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation unit at Raigarh district in Maharashtra;

(b) the policy adopted by Government for the rehabilitation of affected farmers;

(c) the number of farmers rehabilitated so far and the time by which the remaining farmers are likely to be rehabilitated;

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide employment to the affected farmers in ONGC; and

(e) if so, the number of farmers given employment so far and the time by which the remaining farmers are likely to be given employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (e) ONGC has acquired a total of around 236 hectares of land belonging to 188 families in the Raigarh district, Maharashtra for setting up its installation, institutes, hospital and residential complex. The rehabilitation of displaced persons is governed by guidelines issued by Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India on 3rd February, 1986. Accordingly to these guidelines, the basic responsibility of initiating schemes for rehabilitation of persons whose lands are acquired, is that of the State Government concerned. However, prior to issue of these guidelines, ONGC had provided the employment to 301 persons belonging to 188 such affected families.

[English]

Freedom Fighters in Chandigarh

970. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the freedom fighters residing in Chandigarh have been pressing for acceptance of their some demands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The Freedom Fighters' Association, Chandigarh has made a representation for enhancement of pension and payment of pension through banks, which is under consideration of the Chandigarh Administration.

"Air and Noise Pollution in Delhi"

971. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Pollution Control Committee had constituted a special team to monitor air and noise pollution levels in Delhi during Diwali;

(b) if so, the findings of that team and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check air and noise pollution in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The monitoring results have revealed reduction in the levels of sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and suspended particulate matter. No action was called for as the pollution levels had declined compared to previous years.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to control air and noise pollution in Delhi include the following :

- The standards for firecrackers had been evolved and notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in October, 1999.
- Anti-fire crackers campaign was launched to communicate the message to the masses including school children.
- An appeal was made to children to refrain from bursting fire crackers.

Exploration of Petroleum and Natural Gas

972. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the locations in Himachal Pradesh and in Jammu and Kashmir where exploration work for the petroleum and natural gas is being carried out and the time since when the exploration work is being carried out;

(b) the locations where drilling was conducted and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the latest position of exploration and drilling work for natural gas in Jawalamukhi town of Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) Exploration for hydrocarbons i.e. crude oil and natural gas is being carried out in Himachal Pradesh (H.P.) and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) since 1956 and 1957 respectively. In the year 1998-99, seismic surveys for exploration of hydrocarbons were conducted in Sarkaghat-Lambagroan area of H.P. and Poonch-Rajauri area of J & K.

(b) The Locations where exploratory wells were drilled in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are as follows:

Himachal Pradesh - Jwalamukhi - 1, 2, 3, 6, B, Balh - 1, Ramshahr - 1, Cheri - 1, Nurpur - 1, and Changartalai - 1.

In addition, five shallow wells were drilled in Jwalamukhi area for collecting subsurface information.

Jammu and Kashmir - Surinsar - 1 and 2, Chattergam - 2 and Narbal - 1.

The exploratory efforts so far in both the states have not yielded any commercial accumulation of hydrocarbons.

(c) The seismic data acquired in the area adjoining Jwalamukhi sector is currently under evaluation and further steps will depend on the results.

Introduction of Low Sulphur Diesel

973. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether low Sulphur diesel has been introduced in Delhi and some other Metros in the country.

(b) whether the air pollution in capital towns and small towns exceed the norm of WHO due to use of diesel having higher Sulphur content; and

(c) if so, the plans of the Government to supply low Sulphur diesel throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Supply of Low Sulphur Diesel containing 0.5% sulphur by weight was started w.e.f. April 1996 in all metros and in the Taj Trapezium. Subsequently upgraded fuel with Extra Low Sulphur Diesel containing 0.25% sulphur has been introduced in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. 1.4.1998.

(b) The levels of sulphur dioxide on account of use of high sulphur diesel have not exceeded the limits prescribed in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, notified under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(c) Supply of diesel with 0.25% sulphur content has been envisaged w.e.f. January, 2000 in the entire country.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Bidar

974. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Humnabad Telephone Exchanges in Bidar district of Karnataka into an electronic one;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Already an electronic exchange is working at Humnabad.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of reply (a) above.

Profit Earned by MTNL

975. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of profit earned by MTNL during the last two years; and

(b) the amount of profit earned by various telecom circles of State during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) During the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 the Profit before Tax of MTNL was Rs. 1671.98 crores and Rs. 1889.86 crores respectively.

(b) Telecom Circles are administrative entities responsible for operating only a part of a single integrated national telecom network. Their individual operations and operating results are thus not comparable with those of a corporate entity like MTNL set up under the Companies Act.

Bar on Contesting from more than One Constituencies

976. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce any Bill regarding proposal to bar candidates from contesting elections from more than one Lok Sabha Constituency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The proposal to bar candidates from contesting elections from more than one Lok Sabha Constituency was discussed in the all-party meeting on electoral reforms held on 22.5.1998 and the consensus in the meeting was in favour of maintaining status-quo. The view also found endorsement from the Election Commission of India.

Better Road Traffic on NHs in A.P.

977. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NGOs will be entrusted with supervising the road traffic on some sections of the National Highway in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the demand to better monitor the speeding vehicles on the National Highways;

(d) whether the Government propose to tackle this problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Over speeding of vehicles on National Highways are monitored by State Police Department.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Enactment of Law to Curb Consumption of Power

978. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact any law to curb the excess consumption of power in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) There is enormous potential for reducing energy consumption by adopting energy efficiency measures in various sectors of our economy. Energy Efficiency not only reduces the need to create new capacity requiring mobilization of huge resources but also results in substantial environmental benefits in terms of reduced green house gas emissions. Therefore, there is a need for certain statutory measures which could promote conservation of energy and facilitate its efficient use in various sectors of economy. The Government is accordingly formulating a Comprehensive Legislation on Energy Conservation. The legal framework envisaged includes establishment of an apex level Central body for laying down standards and norms on energy consumption for equipments and appliances, energy labelling of equipments and appliances, and for energy auditing to promote the efficient use of Power/energy and for its conservation.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connection in Gurgaon

979. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections under Non-OYT category in Gurgaon City of Haryana State during each of the last three years as on date alongwith the reasons therefor, exchange-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide telephone connections quickly to applicants having waiting list numbers atleast upto December, 1997 under the Non-OYT category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections under NON-OYT category in Gurgaon year-wise and exchange-wise are given in enclosed Statement. As and when new telephone connections are given new registrations for telephones take place and so the waiting list remains until telephone is made available on demand.

(b) Waiting list in OYT and NOYT Special are current in Gurgaon. However for NOYT General Category, laying of cable in the areas are under progress and it is expected to clear the wait list of December, 1997 under NOYT General category in Gurgaon by March, 2000.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting list under NOYT category as on			
		31.3.97	31.3.98	30.11.99	30.11.99
1.	Gurgaon (Main)	4401	5884	6394	6741
2.	Gurgaon, DLF	949	647	171	Nil
3.	Sector-18	823	37	632	220
4.	Palam Vihar	409	78	27	406
5.	Sector-37 Gurgaon	Nil	Nil	132	21
6.	South City	37	262	633	Nil
7.	Sushantlok	322	11	337	46
Total		6941	6919	8326	7434

[Translation]

Telecom Districts

980. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of district in the country which have been declared as telecom-districts so far; and

(b) the number of districts proposed to be declared as telecom districts in the country during 1999-2000 and the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Department of Telecom, has created 325 Telecom Districts as per list enclosed Statement. As per the existing policy of the Department, Telecom. Districts are normally not bifurcated because of administrative and operational reasons. The existing Telecom. Districts are being upgraded to the level of telecom. District Managers/General Managers/Principal General Managers depending upon the workload of the Telecom. District.

Statement

List of Telecom Districts

Sl.No.	CIR	TELDIST.
1	2	3
1.	AN	Portblair
2.	AP	Adilabad
3.	AP	Anantpur (Guntkal)
4.	AP	Chittoor (Tirupati)
5.	AP	Cuddapah
6.	AP	E. Godavari (Rajamundry)
7.	AP	Guntur
8.	AP	Hyderabad
9.	AP	Karimnagar
10.	AP	Khammam
11.	AP	Krishna (Vijayavada)
12.	AP	Kurmool
13.	AP	Mahaboobnagar
14.	AP	Medak (Sangareddy)
15.	AP	Nalgonda
16.	AP	Nellore
17.	AP	Nizamabad
18.	AP	Prakasam (Ongole)
19.	AP	Srikakulam
20.	AP	Vijainagaram
21.	AP	Visakhapatnam
22.	AP	W. Godavary (Eluru)
23.	AP	Warangal
24.	AS	Dibru Garh (Lakhimpur)
25.	AS	Guwahati (Kamrup)
26.	AS	Jorhat (Sibsagar)

1	2	3
27.	AS	Kokrajhar (Bongaigaon)
28.	AS	Nagaon
29.	AS	Silchar (Cachar)
30.	AS	Tejpur (Sonitpur)
31.	BH	Arrah
32.	BH	Bhagalpur
33.	BH	Chapra
34.	BH	Daltonganj
35.	BH	Darbangha
36.	BH	Deoghar (Dumka)
37.	BH	Dhanbad
38.	BH	Gaya
39.	BH	Hazaribagh
40.	BH	Hazipur
41.	BH	Jamshedpur
42.	BH	Katihar
43.	BH	Monghyr
44.	BH	Motihari
45.	BH	Muzaffarpur
46.	BH	Patna
47.	BH	Ranchi
48.	BH	Sahasra
49.	BH	Sasaram
50.	GJ	Ahmedabad
51.	GJ	Amreli
52.	GJ	Bharuch
53.	GJ	Bhavnagar
54.	GJ	Bhuj (Kutch)
55.	GJ	Godhra (Panchmahal)
56.	GJ	Himatnagar (Sabarkantha)
57.	GJ	Jamnagar
58.	GJ	Junagarh
59.	GJ	Mehsana
60.	GJ	Nadiad (Kheda)
61.	GJ	Palanpur (Banaskantha)
62.	GJ	Rajkot
63.	GJ	Surat

1	2	3
64.	GJ	Surendernagar
65.	GJ	Vadodara
66.	GJ	Valsad
67.	HP	Hamirpur
68.	HP	Kangra (Dharamsala)
69.	HP	Kulu
70.	HP	Mandi
71.	HP	Simla
72.	HP	Solan
73.	HR	Ambala
74.	HR	Gurgaon (Faridabad)
75.	HR	Hissar
76.	HR	Jind
77.	HR	Karnal
78.	HR	Namul (Rewari)
79.	HR	Rohtak
80.	HR	Sonepat
81.	JK	Jammu
82.	JK	Leh
83.	JK	Rajouri
84.	JK	Srinagar
85.	JK	Udhampur
86.	KL	Alleppey
87.	KL	Cannanore
88.	KL	Ernakulam
89.	KL	Javaratt (Lakshdweep)
90.	KL	Kottayam
91.	KL	Kozhikode (Calicut)
92.	KL	Palghat (Palkkad)
93.	KL	Quilon
94.	KL	Tiruvalla (Pathanamthitta)
95.	KL	Trichur
96.	KL	Trivendrum
97.	KT	Bangalore
98.	KT	Belgaum
99.	KT	Bellary
100.	KT	Bidar

1	2	3	1	2	3
101.	KT	Bijapur	138.	MH	Nasik
102.	KT	Chickmangalore	139.	MH	Osmanabad
103.	KT	Devanagere	140.	MH	Panaji (Goa)
104.	KT	Gulbarga	141.	MH	Parbhani
105.	KT	Hassan	142.	MH	Pune
106.	KT	Hubli (Dharwad)	143.	MH	Raigarh
107.	KT	Karwar (U. Kannada)	144.	MH	Ratnagiri
108.	KT	Kolar	145.	MH	Sangli
109.	KT	Mandya	146.	MH	Satara
110.	KT	Mangalore (Dakshina Kanada)	147.	MH	Solapur
111.	KT	Merchara (Madikerikodagu)	148.	MH	Wardha
112.	KT	Mysore	149.	MH	Yeotmal
113.	KT	Raichur	150.	MP	Ambikapur (Sarguja)
114.	KT	Shimoga	151.	MP	Balaghat (Mahakoshal)
115.	KT	Tumkur	152.	MP	Betul
116.	MET	Bombay	153.	MP	Bhopal
117.	MET	Calcutta	154.	MP	Bilaspur
118.	MET	Delhi	155.	MP	Chhatarpur
119.	MET	Madras	156.	MP	Chhindwara
120.	MH	Ahmednagar	157.	MP	Damoh
121.	MH	Akola	158.	MP	Dewas
122.	MH	Amravati	159.	MP	Dhar
123.	MH	Aurangabad	160.	MP	Durg
124.	MH	Bhandara	161.	MP	Guna
125.	MH	Bhir (Beed)	162.	MP	Gwalior
126.	MH	Buldana (Khamgaon)	163.	MP	Indore
127.	MH	Chandrapur	164.	MP	Itarsi (Hoshangabad)
128.	MH	Dhulia (Dhule)	165.	MP	Jabalpur
129.	MH	Gadchuroli (In Chandrapur)	166.	MP	Jagdalpur (Bastar)
130.	MH	Jalgaon	167.	MP	Jhabua
131.	MH	Jalna	168.	MP	Khandwa
132.	MH	Kalyan	169.	MP	Khargone
133.	MH	Kolhapur	170.	MP	Mandla (In Balaghat)
134.	MH	Kudal (Sindhudurg)	171.	MP	Mandsaur
135.	MH	Latur	172.	MP	Morena
136.	MH	Nagpur	173.	MP	Narsinghpur
137.	MH	Nanded	174.	MP	Panna (In Satna)

1	2	3	1	2	3
175.	MP	Raigarh	212.	PB	Hoshiarpur
176.	MP	Raipur	213.	PB	Jalandhar
177.	MP	Raisen	214.	PB	Ludhiana
178.	MP	Rajgarh	215.	PB	Pathankot
179.	MP	Ratlam	216.	PB	Patiala
180.	MP	Rewa	217.	PB	Ropar
181.	MP	Sagar	218.	PB	Sangarur
182.	MP	Satna	219.	RJ	Ajmer
183.	MP	Seoni	220.	RJ	Alwar
184.	MP	Shahdol	221.	RJ	Banswara
185.	MP	Shajapur	222.	RJ	Barmer
186.	MP	Shivpuri	223.	RJ	Bharatpur
187.	MP	Sidhi	224.	RJ	Bhilwara
188.	MP	Ujjain	225.	RJ	Bikaner
189.	MP	Vidisha (Raisen)	226.	RJ	Bundi
190.	NE	Agartala (Tripura)	227.	RJ	Chittorgarh
191.	NE	Aizwal (Mizoram)	228.	RJ	Churu
192.	NE	Imphal (Manipur)	229.	RJ	Jaipur
193.	NE	Kohima (Dimapur)	230.	RJ	Jaisalmer
194.	NE	Shillong (Meghalaya)	231.	RJ	Jhalawar
195.	NE	Zero (Itanagar)	232.	RJ	Jhunjhunu
196.	OR	Balasore	233.	RJ	Jodhpur
197.	OR	Baripada (In Balasore)	234.	RJ	Kota
198.	OR	Berhampur	235.	RJ	Nagaur
199.	OR	Bhuvaneshwar	236.	RJ	Pali
200.	OR	Bhwanipatna	237.	RJ	Sawaimadhopur
201.	OR	Bolangir	238.	RJ	Sikar
202.	OR	Cuttack	239.	RJ	Sirohi (Abu Road)
203.	OR	Dhenkanal	240.	RJ	Sriganganagar
204.	OR	Koraput	241.	RJ	Tonk
205.	OR	Phulbani (Mayurbhanj)	242.	RJ	Udaipur
206.	OR	Rourkela	243.	TN	Coimbatore
207.	OR	Sambalpur	244.	TN	Cuddalore
208.	PB	Amritsar	245.	TN	Dharmapuri
209.	PB	Bhatinda	246.	TN	Erode
210.	PB	Chandigarh	247.	TN	Kancheepuram (Chingipet)
211.	PB	Ferozepur	248.	TN	Karaikudi

1	2	3
249.	TN	Kumbakonam
250.	TN	Madurai
251.	TN	Nagarcoil
252.	TN	Ooty (Nilgiri-Coonoor)
253.	TN	Pondicherry
254.	TN	Salem
255.	TN	Thanjavur
256.	TN	Tirunelveli
257.	TN	Trichy
258.	TB	Tuticorin
259.	TB	Vellore
260.	TB	Virudunagar
261.	UPE	Allahabad
262.	UPE	Azamgarh
263.	UPE	Bahraich
264.	UPE	Ballia
265.	UPE	Banda
266.	UPE	Barabanki
267.	UPE	Basti
268.	UPE	Deoria (MAU)
269.	UPE	Etawah
270.	UPE	Faizabad
271.	UPE	Farrukhabad
272.	UPE	Fatehpur
273.	UPE	Ghaziपुर
274.	UPE	Gonda
275.	UPE	Gorakhpur
276.	UPE	Hamirpur
277.	UPE	Hardoi
278.	UPE	Jaunpur
279.	UPE	Jhansi
280.	UPE	Kanpur
281.	UPE	Lakhimpur
282.	UPE	Lucknow
283.	UPE	Mainpuri
284.	UPE	Mirzapur
285.	UPE	Orai
286.	UPE	Pratapgarh

1	2	3
287.	UPE	Raibareilly
288.	UPE	Shahjahanpur
289.	UPE	Sitapur
290.	UPE	Sultanpur
291.	UPE	Unnao
292.	UPE	Varanasi
293.	UPW	Agra
294.	UPW	Aligarh
295.	UPW	Almora
296.	UPW	Badaun (Rampur)
297.	UPW	Bareilly
298.	UPW	Bijnore
299.	UPW	Chamoli (Kotdwara)
300.	UPW	Dehradun
301.	UPW	Etah
302.	UPW	Ghaziabad
303.	UPW	Mathura
304.	UPW	Meerut
305.	UPW	Moradabad
306.	UPW	Muzaffamagar
307.	UPW	Nainital
308.	UPW	Pilibhit
309.	UPW	Rampur
310.	UPW	Saharanpur
311.	UPW	Uttarkashi (Srinagar)
312.	WB	Asansol
313.	WB	Bankura
314.	WB	Berhampur
315.	WB	Calcutta (Hawrah)
316.	WB	Coochbehar
317.	WB	Gangtok
318.	WB	Jalpaiguri
319.	WB	Kharagpur
320.	WB	Kriehnagar
321.	WB	Malda
322.	WB	Purulia
323.	WB	Raiganj
324.	WB	Siliguri
325.	WB	Suri (Birbhum)

[English]

**Over Bridge at Railway
Crossing on NH-5**

981. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a request for sanctioning 2 Road over Bridges at Railway crossings on the National Highway-5 between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada is pending with the Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) This portion of National Highway No. 5 being part of "Golden Quadrilateral" is proposed to be widened to 4-lane. This will include replacement of existing two Nos. of Railway Level Crossing by ROB's.

Review of Performance of SEBs

982. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of State Electricity Boards;

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

(c) the details of major policy initiatives taken/proposed to be taken to restructure them for their better performance; and

(d) the time schedule and details of action plan formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The performance of SEBs for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 reviewed is given in enclosed Statement. The performance for the year 1998-99 has not yet been reviewed since the accounts for the said year have not been received.

(c) and (d) In the Chief Ministers' conference held on 18th December, 1998, a Plan of Action viz. 'Power Reforms Initiative' was adopted for implementation. This included inter-alia setting up of regulatory commissions, unbundling/corporatisation of SEBs, facilitating orderly securitisation of SEB debts of central PSUs and privatisation of distribution. As a reform initiative the Central Government has enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 paving way for the establishment of regulatory commission in the Centre and in the States. The Central Government has already constituted the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

It is for the State Governments to set up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra and Karnataka have constituted/notified constitution of SERCs.

The State electricity Boards of Orissa, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh have been unbundled and corporatised. Orissa is the first state which has privatised the entire Distribution network.

Statement

Financial Performance of SEBs during 1996-97

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEBs	Capital Base i.e. value of fixed assets in service at start of 1996-97	Surplus/Deficit with subsidy	Subsidy as in A/Cs	Surplus/Deficit without Subsidy	ROR (%) with subsidy	ROR (%) without subsidy
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	APSEB (A)	4306.49	129.19	850.45	-721.26	3.00	-16.75
2.	ASEB (A)	823.22	-358.72	52.33	-411.05	-43.58	-49.93
3.	BSEB (A)	1523.97	-327.40	491.80	-819.20	-21.48	-53.75
4.	GEB (A)	3662.00	109.90	1179.58	-1069.88	3.00	-29.21
5.	HSEB (A)	1591.83	47.75	641.73	-593.98	3.00	-37.31
6.	HPSEB (A)	477.20	24.80	0.00	24.80	5.55	5.55

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	KEB (A)	1802.21	54.07	705.92	-651.85	3.00	-36.17
8.	KSEB (A)	799.78	23.99	278.02	-254.03	3.00	-31.76
9.	MPEB (A)	4220.60	126.62	596.35	-469.73	3.00	-11.13
10.	MSEB (A)	7701.78	346.58	258.71	87.87	4.50	1.14
11.	MESEB (A)	196.42	-33.52	8.50	-42.02	-17.07	-21.39
12.	PSEB (A)	2733.20	107.87	403.78	-295.91	3.95	-10.83
13.	RSEB (A)	2107.34	63.22	563.14	-499.92	3.00	-23.72
14.	TNEB (A)	4413.70	329.83	586.51	-256.88	7.47	-5.82
15.	UPSEB (A)	9657.90	170.80	1556.77	-1385.97	1.77	-14.35
16.	WBSEB (A)	608.29	18.25	245.52	-227.27	3.00	-37.36
ALL SEBS		46637.00	833.03	8419.11	-7586.08	1.79	-16.27

A - Audited

U - Un-audited

Financial Performance of SEBs during 1996-97

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEBs	Capital Base i.e. value of fixed assets in service at start of 1996-97	Surplus/Deficit with subsidy	Subsidy as in A/Cs	Surplus/Deficit without Subsidy	ROR (%) with subsidy	ROR (%) without subsidy
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	APSEB (A)	4051.78	121.55	1258.01	-1134.46	3.00	-28.00
2.	ASEB (U)	965.59	387.25	52.33	439.58	-40.11	-15.52
3.	BSEB (U)	1437.92	326.88	552.30	225.42	22.73	15.68
4.	GEB (U)	3976.00	119.48	1393.00	-1273.52	3.01	-32.03
5.	HSEB (A)	1545.79	19.66	732.45	-712.79	1.27	-46.11
6.	HPSEB (A)	554.79	29.45	0.00	29.45	5.31	5.31
7.	KEB (A)	1949.13	58.47	380.24	-321.77	3.00	-16.51
8.	KSEB (A)	820.56	24.61	321.31	-296.70	3.00	-36.16
9.	MPEB (A)	4083.46	122.50	875.51	-753.01	3.00	-18.44
10.	MSEB (A)	7606.07	342.27	305.66	36.61	4.50	0.48
11.	MESEB (A)	187.27	-43.00	9.00	-52.00	-22.96	-27.77
12.	PSEB (A)	2511.61	49.40	604.67	-555.27	1.97	-22.11
13.	RSEB (A)	2178.33	65.35	704.88	-639.53	3.00	-29.36
14.	TNEB (A)	5665.14	-67.70	250.05	-317.75	-1.20	-5.61
15.	UPSEB (A)	9990.18	291.64	1839.61	-1547.97	2.92	-15.49
16.	WBSEB (A)	670.19	20.11	184.29	-184.18	3.00	-24.50
ALL SEBS		48193.72	1093.42	9461.31	-8367.89	2.27	-17.36

A - Audited

U - Un-audited

Incoming Mobile Calls

983. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incoming mobile calls are not yet free from November, 1999 as announced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the new tariffs are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) As per the Telecommunication Tariff (Fifth Amendment) Order 1999 and Telecommunication Interconnection (Charges and Revenue Sharing - First Amendment) Regulation 1999, both issued by TRAI on 17-09-1999, the Calling Party Pays Regime (CPP) was to be implemented with effect from 1st November, 1999. A petition was filed by an independent organisation named 'watchdog' against 'Calling Party Pays Regime (CPP)' and MTNL filed petition against the revenue sharing arrangement as prescribed in the regulation. Department of Telecommunication Services has also got itself impleaded in the petition of MTNL, as the implementation of the CPP regime as per the proposed regulation is expected to cause huge revenue loss to DTS as well. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has stayed the implementation of the CPP regime. Presently the matter is sub-judice.

Hirma Power Project in Andhra Pradesh

984. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of construction of Hirma Power Project in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the share of the Government in the project; and

(c) the details of power generation likely to be shared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) As per available information, there is no project by this name coming up in the state of Andhra Pradesh. However, a thermal power project by this name with a provisional capacity of 6 x 660 MW is being developed in the state of Orissa under the revised mega power projects policy announced by the Government in November, 1998. Construction on this project has not started.

(b) Nil.

(c) Proposals for purchase of power from this project have been received from some states. However,

final allotment of the power generated to these States would depend on several factors, particularly, the acceptance by them, of the conditions prescribed under the policy and final firm up capacity of the project, etc.

Pending Cases in High Courts

985. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of cases involving employees of Government, Public Sector Undertaking and members of Judicial Services in the matters of Pension, retiring benefits, gratuity, promotion are pending for judgement in High Courts all over the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases in the High Courts all over the country pending for judgement, State-wise;

(c) the number of such cases in which judgement has been reserved but not yet pronounced by the judges in the High Court of Delhi;

(d) whether the inordinate delay in pronouncing judgement is violation of the Code of Conduct, to which all 500 odd judges of High Courts are signatories; and

(e) if so the steps the Government propose to enforce the Code of Conduct?

THE MINISTER FOR LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Atrocities on Christian Community

986. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the incidents of atrocities on Christian Community after Pope's visit of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the organisation responsible for the same; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the minorities from such attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) As per available information, there have been no serious incidents of atrocities on Christians after Pope's visit to India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. Although 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per provisions of the Constitution of India, the Central Government is taking

following steps to maintain communal harmony and peace in the country;

1. Providing assistance to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure, besides sharing intelligence with them.
2. It has also constituted a special force, called Rapid Action Force, for assisting the State Governments in controlling communal situations. Guidelines have also been issued, from time to time, drawing the attention of the State Governments to the need for taking action against persons spreading ill-will, hatred or disharmony between members of different communities.
3. The Chief Secretaries of some sensitive States have been advised recently to issue suitable instructions to the district law and order authorities to respond immediately to the complaints of atrocities/harassment of the minorities and initiate prompt and effective action to identify and punish the guilty persons.

The Government is firm that acts of violence against the minority communities, whenever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators.

Public Telephone Under MARR System

987. SHRI ANADI SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the VPT telephone system under MARR system introduced in Ganjam district of Orissa has been given up;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to establish communication system in the far flung rural areas of said district;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any steps to provide alternative communication system in place of the malfunctioning/disused VPT systems of Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (e) No Sir. Existing MARR equipment, wherever, faulty, is being repaired. For future VPT Programme, however, alternate technologies i.e. Wireless In Local Loop and CDOT TDMA/PMP are being introduced. VPTs will also continue to be provided on landlines from near by exchanges.

Restructuring of North Eastern Council

988. SHRI SANSUMAKHUNGGURBWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to restructure the North Eastern Council for faster social economic development of the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to nominate the elected members of Parliament from the entire North Eastern region of NEC to ensure due justice to the people living on neglected and discriminated regions especially the areas like Bodoland territory etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) Yes.

(b) The North Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 1998 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on December 8, 1998. The salient features of the restructuring are

1. Sikkim shall be included in the council.
2. The Governors, who are the Constitutional Heads, shall cease to be Members of the Council.
3. Besides the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States, the Council shall consist of three Members to be nominated by the President of India.
4. The Council shall function as a Regional Planning Body for the North-Eastern Area. Instead of being merely an advisory body, the Council shall have such powers as may be delegated to it by the Central Government.
5. While formulating regional plans, the Council shall give priority to schemes and projects benefitting two or more States, except in the case of Sikkim which does not have common geographical boundary with other member states of the Council. The Council shall formulate and implement State specific projects and schemes for Sikkim.
6. No scheme shall be placed before the Council unless it has been recommended by a screening Committee consisting of the Secretary of the Council as Chairman and the Planning Secretaries of the States of the North-Eastern area as members. This provision is intended to ensure that the schemes selected by the Council

for implementation have a regional character and reflect the felt needs of the member States of the Council.

(c) There is no proposal before the Government for nominating Members of Parliament to the NEC.

Coastal Express Highway

989. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANGA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to construct Coastal Express Highway passing through Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up Joint Venture Power Project with NTPC

990. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ABB Alstom Power is setting up a joint venture with National Thermal Power Corporation to refurbish and modernise power stations in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any contract/agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has set up a Joint Venture Company with ABB Alstom Power named "NTPC-ABB Alstom Power Services Pvt. Ltd." to take up renovation and modernisation of power plants in India and in the SAARC countries.

(c) and (d) The Memorandum of Understanding with ABB was signed on 10th December, 1998 and the Promoters' Agreement was signed on 24th August, 1999. The equity structure in the Joint Venture Company of NTPC and ABB-Alstom is 50% of the equity for each company.

[Translation]

Renaming India as Bharat

991. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether suggestion and memoranda from different parts of the country regarding the renaming 'India' as 'Bharat' have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (e) Requests are received in this regard, from time to time, from various quarters. The Government has not taken any decision to rename the country. The name of our country 'India', that is Bharat' was adopted by the Constituent Assembly after extensive debates.

Misuse of Religion

992. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an atmosphere of tension, violence and insecurity has been prevailing in the country due to use of religion for gaining political mileage; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check such misuse of religion for political gains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Alleged Demographic Changes in Ladakh

993. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "NC changing Ladakh demography" appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated November 9, 1999;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) As intimated by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the news item published in 'Indian Express' dated November 9, 1999 is not based on facts. The issue has been blown out of proportion. The Budhists of Leh are voicing their demand for stopping the alleged conversion of Budhist girls to Islam. The matter actually owes its origin to the instances of marriages contracted by Budhist girls with Muslim boys on two occasions in the recent past. No coercion has been used and the parties have entered into the marriage on their own free will. In one case the girl has been restored back to her parents. The issue of mass conversion is not based on facts. The local administration is seized of the matter and necessary steps being taken to keep a close watch on the situation.

[Translation]

Bomb Explosion in Pooja Express

994. COL (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a bomb exploded in Pooja Express on November 11, 1999;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) the number of persons died and injured in the explosion and the value of Government property damaged therein;
- (d) the assistance provided to the families of victims and injured;
- (e) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;
- (f) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) A powerful blast took place at around 2010 hours on 11.11.1999 in the general bogie of Delhi bound Pooja Express coming from Jammu when it was near Danttal (Himachal Pradesh). 14 persons were killed and 47 persons injured in the blast. Railway property worth Rs. 11 lakhs approximately was damaged.

(d) Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 15000/- each to the families of those killed; Rs. 5000/- each to those seriously injured; and Rs. 500/- each to those who suffered minor injuries is being given by the Ministry of Railways. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has also disbursed

Rs. 25000/- each to the families of those killed and Rs. 45000 to the nine persons seriously injured.

(e) and (f) A case under section 302/307 IPC and 4/5 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 has been registered at PS Indora, District Kangra. A Special Investigation Team headed by SP, Kangra has been constituted.

(g) The Central Government has been regularly sensitising the State Government to undertake appropriate preventive measures by way of gathering of tactical intelligence, close surveillance of vulnerable areas, regular patrolling of sensitive areas and installations, and anti-sabotage checks, etc. Specific intelligence inputs received from time to time are shared with the State Governments.

[English]

Deportation of Bangladeshis

995. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have assessed the presence of Bangladeshis in Bihar, U.P. and other States at present;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for their staying illegally in the country;
- (d) the number of Bangladeshis held for committing crimes in the country during the last three years, till date; and
- (e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken for their deportation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) No assessment of the presence of Bangladeshis in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other States has been made by the Central Government. The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been directed from time to time to detect and deport Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally.

(c) Most Bangladeshis reportedly infiltrate into India for economic reasons.

(d) The number of Bangladeshis held for committing crimes is not maintained Centrally.

(e) Ground arrangements exist between Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles for deportation of those illegal Bangladeshi migrants detected in India.

"Bio-Diversity Board"

996. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to set up Bio-diversity Board for the comprehensive management of Man and Wild Life in the country;

(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 Ministry of Environment and Forests is formulating a legislation on biodiversity. The broad objectives of this proposed legislation are conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. This legislation, *inter alia*, provides for setting up of a National Biodiversity Authority.

The Government has approved establishment of a National Bioresource Development Board in the Department of Biotechnology. The main objective of this Board is to decide the broad policy framework for effective application of biotechnological and related scientific approaches for research and development and sustainable utilisation of bioresources specially for development of new products and processes.

Setting up A Separate Port Trust

997. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for keeping Haldia Port as a part of Calcutta Port Trust and the Bombay Port Trust as a separate corporate entity;

(b) whether the Government propose to separate Haldia from the Calcutta Port Trust and set up a separate Port Trust with a view to generate employment opportunities for the people of Midnapore region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Due to gradual decrease of draught in the river Hooghly, bigger vessels with a deeper draft were unable to come to Calcutta for loading/unloading at its existing two Dock Systems viz. Kidderpore Dock and Netaji Subhas Docks and, hence, a deep water third Dock System of

Calcutta Port was set up at Haldia in the name of Haldia Dock Complex as a supplementary Dock System. The situation as existing at Mumbai was, however, different and not comparable to Calcutta Port Trust.

(b) and (c) In order to improve efficiency and provide autonomy in operations, it has been decided to examine the feasibility of corporatising the Haldia Dock Complex.

Harassment by BSF Personnel

998. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that the innocent people and traders on the Indo-Bangladesh border areas of Karimganj, Assam are facing harassment at the hands of B.S.F. personnel;

(b) if so, whether this is resulting in artificial crisis of essential commodities in the border areas; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check the occurrence of such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) One complaint had been received by BSF from 6 retail traders of Fakira Bazaar, Karimganj district for release of non-essential commodities seized by BSF personnel.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Dolphinarium and Marine Complex

999. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a dolphinarium and a Marineland complex under a Joint Venture project likely to be constructed in Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the contributions to be made by the Zoo Authority of India therein; and

(c) the target date for completion of the project?

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

(b) The Project envisaged construction of sea water pool for Dolphins, enclosures for turtles and sea birds and aquarium for other marine fauna at a capital cost of Rs. 360 lakhs. Out of this, Rs. 300 lakhs was proposed to be met through loan from Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority and the balance to be met by State Government and Central Zoo Authority.

(c) The State Government submitted a proposal in 1996 for seawater intake system for Commissioning Dolphin pools under 50 : 50 scheme. Scheme for Rs. 52.00 lakhs was approved by Central Zoo authority and Central Zoo Authority share of Rs. 26.00 lakhs was released to the State Government. Since the State Government has neither been able to utilise the funds released by Central Zoo Authority nor been able to work out modalities of getting loan and its repayment with Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority, it is not possible to give any completion date.

Imposition of President's Rule in Orissa

1000.SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether requests have been received to impose President's rule in Orissa in view of the total breakdown of the state administration machinery; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal before the Government to place the State of Orissa under President's rule by invoking the provisions of article 356 of the Constitution of India.

Sectarian Conflicts

1001.SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of communal riots that took place in the country during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of attacks on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes during the same period, State-wise;

(c) the number of attacks on women during the same period, State-wise; and

(d) steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop such atrocities and attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) The available information is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Although 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State Subjects as per the Constitution of India and it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to prevent crimes, the Central Government is providing assistance to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure, and also shares intelligence with the States. It has also constituted a Special Force, called Rapid Action Force, for assisting the State Governments in controlling the communal situation. The Central Government has been issuing advisories to State Governments during disturbances

and also issuing guidelines from time to time to the State Governments for promoting communal harmony among different communities. The Union Government has also requested the State Governments to issue instructions to District authorities to respond quickly to the complaints of minorities and that they would be held personally responsible to ensure communal harmony within their jurisdiction. The Government is firm that acts of violence against the minority communities and against weaker section or society whenever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators.

Statement

Sectarian conflicts (January'97 to till date)

Name of the State (s)	No. of communal riots	No. of attacks on Scheduled Castes and Tribes
Andhra Pradesh	1	36
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
Assam	-	-
Bihar	2	134
Goa	-	-
Gujarat	2	29
Haryana	-	7
Himachal Pradesh	-	2
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-
Karnataka	3	58
Kerala	-	1
Madhya Pradesh	-	33
Maharashtra	-	86
Manipur	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-
Mizoram	-	-
Nagaland	-	-
Orissa	-	42
Punjab	-	5
Rajasthan	-	96
Sikkim	-	-
Tamil Nadu	4	745
Tripura	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	3	271
West Bengal	-	-
Total	15	1545

Name of the Union Territory(s)	No. of communal riots	No. of attacks on Scheduled Castes and Tribes
Andaman & Nicobar	-	-
Chandigarh	-	-
D & Nagar Haveli	-	-
Daman & Diu	-	-
Delhi	-	1
Lakshadweep	-	-
Pondicherry	-	-
Total	-	1

Incidence of Crime Against Women in States and UTs

Name of the State(s)	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	9607	10757	8793 (up to Aug.)
Arunachal Pradesh	106	104	43 (up to July)
Assam	2793	3407	1246 (up to July)
Bihar	5349	5888	Not available
Goa	82	187	89 (up to Sept.)
Gujarat	5139	5809	3939 (up to Aug.)
Haryana	2335	2314	2095 (up to Sept.)
Himachal Pradesh	803	801	628 (up to Sept.)
Jammu & Kashmir	1210	1523	672 (up to June)
Karnataka	5379	5879	4151 (up to Sept.)
Kerala	2916	4134	2899 (up to Aug.)
Madhya Pradesh	14959	16170	11192 (up to Sept.)
Maharashtra	16567	16270	10332 (up to Sept.)
Manipur	94	85	52 (up to Sept.)
Meghalaya	72	87	31 (up to Aug.)
Mizoram	104	110	91 (up to Sept.)
Nagaland	43	44	13 (up to Sept.)
Orissa	4163	4453	2290 (up to June)
Punjab	910	951	906 (up to Sept.)
Rajasthan	10575	11221	8593 (up to Aug.)

	1	2	3	4
Sikkim		65	50	30 (up to Sept.)
Tamil Nadu		9232	9044	4422 (up to June)
Tripura		313	375	231 (up to Sept.)
Uttar Pradesh		13614	11849	9179 (up to July)
West Bengal		6453	7023	4294 (up to Aug.)
Total		112883	118535	76211

Name of the Union Territory(s)	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar	25	27	14 (up to Sept.)
Chandigarh	70	83	85 (up to July)
D & Nagar Haveli	21	15	12 (up to Sept.)
Daman & Diu	3	1	1 (up to Sept.)
Delhi	2673	2725	1660 (up to Aug.)
Lakshadweep	-	-	1 (up to Oct.)
Pondicherry	48	79	47 (up to Sept.)
Total	2840	2930	1820

Linguistic Survey

1002.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any linguistic survey in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of people speaking vernacular languages is on the decline;

(d) if so, the factual position in this regard indicating the number of people speaking vernacular languages, language-wise in 1971 and 1991; and

(e) the steps being taken to arrest the declining trend of vernacular speakers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The comparison of 1971 and 1991 Census language figures does not indicate any declining trend in general among the vernacular languages except six vernacular languages.

(d) Language-wise figures as per the 1971 and the 1991 Censuses for vernacular languages where the number has declined are given below :

S. No.	Name of the Language	Number of Speakers	
		1971 Census	1991 Census
1.	Bhumij	51,651	45,302
2.	Dogri	12,99,143	89,681 *
3.	Jatapu	36,450	25,730
4.	Konda	33,720	17,864
5.	Lahnda	41,935	27,386 *
6.	Parji	73,912	44,001

* Decrease in speakers strength in 1991 Census for Dogri and Lahnda can be attributed due to non inclusion of figures of speakers of these two languages of Jammu & Kashmir as 1991 Census was not conducted in this State.

(e) Since the general declining trend is not evident from the census data, the question of taking remedial steps does not arise.

Illegal Migration

1003.SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether people are migrating to other countries on forged documents;

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have come to notice during the last three years;

(c) whether some senior Delhi Police officers have been arrested in this connection; and

(d) If so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to plug the loopholes in the system to check such illegal migrations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Construction of Road Bridge on Ganga River

1004.SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether approval has been granted to construct road bridge on river Ganga flowing between National

Highway Number 31 and National Highway Number 80 in Mungher;

(b) if so, the cost likely to be incurred on the construction of this bridge;

(c) whether any survey for railway-cum-road bridge has been conducted; and

(d) 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

"Non-Execution of Development Projects"

1005.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the provisions of the existing Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are causing hinderance in the sanction and execution of development projects in the States, such as Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa, where large part of land is covered with thick forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to non-execution of development projects in these areas the activities of naxalites have increased and they take shelter in these forests;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to make suitable amendments in the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 so that the development projects submitted by these States under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are sanctioned speedily;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 being regulatory in nature aims at sanction of only such developmental projects which are ecologically sustainable. This is evident from the fact that out of a total of 672 development projects received from the States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa during last three years (1996, 1997 and 1998) for clearance under the said Act, 465 projects have been approved.

A statement showing State-wise status of proposals received during the last three years from the above mentioned states under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is enclosed.

(c) to (f) The development projects submitted by the State Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, are processed in accordance with the provisions of

the Act, Rules and guidelines thereof and decision is taken in the minimum possible time. The execution part of the project is the responsibility of the respective State Government.

There is no proposal to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the reasons given in reply to part (a) & (b) of this question.

Statement

Non-Execution of development Project

S.No.	State	No. of proposals received	Sanctioned	Rejected on merit	Rejected for want of information	Returned/withdrawn by States	Under Consideration of Ministry	Pending with States for want of information
1.	Andhra Pradesh	82	47	22	8	2	1	2
2.	Bihar	72	43	2	4	2	1	20
3.	Orissa	110	87	10	4	1	3	5
4.	Madhya Pradesh	158	114	12	16	1	9	6
5.	Maharashtra	250	174	16	36	1	5	18
Total		672	465	62	68	7	19	51

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Power

1006.SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of demand and supply of power in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to the demand of power in the country;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bridge the increasing gap between the demand and supply of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) State-wise power supply position during October, 1999 and April-Oct.99 is given in enclosed Statement-I

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, the 15th Power Survey Committee was constituted by the Government of India in March, 1994 to project the electricity demand during 9th Plan period, upto 2001-02, and to project the perspective demand upto 2011-12 on State-wise basis. The Committee's report was published in July, 1995. The State-wise energy requirement and peak loads as estimated by the Committee for the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 is given in enclosed statement-II and III respectively.

(d) In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in the country the following measures have been taken :

- A. Expeditions implementation of capacity addition programme.
- B. Promotion of measures for demand side management, such as flattening of load curve by staggering weekly off day of industrial consumers and regulation of power supply to consumers through grouping restrictions.
- C. Renovation and modernisation (R & M) of existing generating stations.
- D. Disbursement of loans of Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under accelerated generation programme.
- E. Promotion of inter-state and inter-regional power transfers.
- F. Coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.
- G. Augmentation of transmission, transformation capacity in the power system and installation of capacitors to improve the voltage.
- H. Reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

Statement-I
Actual Power Supply Position

(All figures in MU net)

Region/State/ System	October'99				April'99-October'99			
	Requi- rement	Avail- ability	Shortage	%	Requi- rement	Avail- ability	Shortage	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Northern Region								
Chandigarh	85	85	0	0.0	659	659	0	0.0
Delhi	1415	1370	45	3.2	10935	10668	267	2.4
Haryana	1355	1277	78	5.8	9590	9350	240	2.5
H.P.	270	269	1	0.4	1751	1745	6	0.3
J & K	440	368	72	16.4	3255	2847	408	12.5
Punjab	2165	2152	13	0.6	17435	17344	91	0.5
Rajasthan	1980	1872	108	5.5	13820	13397	423	3.1
U.P.	3685	3281	404	11.0	25720	22839	2881	11.2
N.R.	11395	10674	721	6.3	83165	78849	4316	5.2
Western Region								
Gujarat	4003	3781	222	5.5	28664	26862	1802	6.3
M.P.	2620	2602	18	0.7	18676	17990	686	3.7
Maharashtra	5522	5350	172	3.1	40587	38889	1698	4.2
Goa	148	116	32	21.6	1026	793	233	22.7
W.R.	12293	11849	444	3.6	88953	84534	4419	5.0
Southern Region								
A.P.	3669	3484	185	5.0	25476	24125	1351	5.3
Karnataka	1804	1683	121	6.7	15083	13921	1162	7.7
Kerala	1056	985	71	6.7	7168	6655	513	7.2
Tamil Nadu	2885	2671	214	7.4	22314	20717	1597	7.2
S.R.	9414	8823	591	6.3	70041	65418	4623	6.6
Eastern Region								
Bihar	736	676	60	8.2	5063	4680	383	7.6
D.V.C.	763	780	-17	-2.2	4840	4973	-133	-2.7
Orissa	844	869	-25	-3.0	6271	6487	-216	-3.4
West Bengal	1463	1493	-30	-2.1	10706	10957	-251	-2.3
E.R.	3608	3818	-12	-0.3	26880	27097	-217	-0.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
North-Eastern Region								
Arunachal Pradesh	9.7	10.2	-0.5	-5.2	67.2	67.5	-0.3	-0.4
Assam	248.8	263.0	-14.2	-5.7	1666.3	1706.0	-39.7	-2.4
Manipur	35.6	38.3	-2.7	-7.6	246.4	219.6	26.8	10.9
Meghalaya	41.1	44.5	-3.4	-8.3	267.3	284.0	-16.7	-6.2
Mizoram	18.0	19.2	-1.2	-6.7	117.6	118.1	-0.5	-0.4
Nagaland	17.3	18.6	-1.3	-7.5	111.8	111.7	0.1	0.1
Tripura	48.5	52.2	-3.7	-7.6	335.4	338.1	-2.7	-0.8
N.E.R.	419.0	446.0	-27	-6.4	2812.0	2845.0	-33.0	-1.2
All India	37327	35610	1717	4.6	271851	258743	13108	4.8

Statement-II

*All India Energy Requirement at Power
Station Busbars Public Utilities*

In million kwh

Region/State/UT	1999-00	2000-01 Estimated	2001-02
1	2	3	4
Northern Region			
Delhi	18039	19352	20735
Haryana	21112	22644	24182
Himachal Pradesh	3240	3517	3826
Jammu & Kashmir	5912	6463	7074
Punjab	28551	30233	31997
Rajasthan	27543	29655	31881
Uttar Pradesh	52410	56440	61066
Chandigarh	810	850	888
Total	157617	169154	181649
Western Region			
Goa	1290	1373	1461
Gujarat	43467	46049	48777
Madhya Pradesh	37856	39931	42028
Maharashtra	73349	78586	82921
D & Nagar Haveli	817	876	946
Daman & Diu	521	560	599
Total	157300	167375	176732

	1	2	3	4
Southern Region				
Andhra Pradesh	40689	42710	45226	
Karnataka	27879	29543	31208	
Kerala	13617	14632	15756	
Tamil Nadu	36526	38447	40456	
Pondicherry	1784	1908	2025	
Total	120495	127240	134671	
Eastern Region				
Bihar	18605	19894	21184	
Orissa	16041	17859	18836	
Sikkim	116	124	133	
West Bengal	24876	26481	28090	
Total	59638	64358	68243	
North-Eastern Region				
Arunachal Pradesh	273	307	346	
Assam	4427	4710	4976	
Manipur	563	629	703	
Meghalaya	561	600	638	
Mizoram	396	449	505	
Nagaland	235	251	268	
Tripura	579	642	712	
Total	7034	7588	8148	

1	2	3	4
A & Nicobar Islands	147	163	180
Lakshadweep	23.2	25.3	27.4
Total all India	502254	535903	569650

Statement-III*All India Peak Load at Power Station
Busbars Public Utilities***In MW**

Region/State/UT	1999-00	2000-01 Estimated	2001-02
1	2	3	4
Northern Region			
Delhi	3037	3253	3481
Haryana	3977	4259	4540
Himachal Pradesh	698	750	809
Jammu & Kashmir	1350	1476	1615
Punjab	5228	5515	5814
Rajasthan	4850	5218	5606
Uttar Pradesh	9712	10442	11280
Chandigarh	162	170	177
Total	27632	29603	31735
Western Region			
Goa	262	278	296
Gujarat	7191	7618	8070
Madhya Pradesh	6263	6606	6953
Maharashtra	11629	12460	13147
D & Nagar Haveli	130	139	150
Daman & Diu	86	92	98
Total	25308	26924	28430
Southern Region			
Andhra Pradesh	6732	7064	7483
Karnataka	4859	5141	5422
Kerala	2763	2983	3226
Tamil Nadu	5957	6270	6598
Pondicherry	304	325	345
Total	19633	20746	21975

1	2	3	4
Eastern Region			
Bihar	3490	3739	3988
Orissa	2616	2912	3072
Sikkim	40	43	46
West Bengal	4729	5030	5333
Total	10357	11166	11846
North-Eastern Region			
Arunachal Pradesh	74	84	94
Assam	884	937	986
Manipur	156	174	193
Meghalaya	124	132	140
Mizoram	119	130	141
Nagaland	60	64	68
Tripura	153	169	186
Total	1495	1610	1722
Islands			
A & Nicobar	34	37	41
Lakshadweep	6.5	7.1	7.7
Total all India	84466	90093	95757

Note 1. Regional Peak Load indicated above are simultaneous.

2. All India Peak Load is the sum of Regional Peak Loads, A&N Islands and Lakshadweep.

[English]

Adulteration in Petroleum Products

1007.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Petrol/Diesel outlets found indulging in adulteration and malpractices in Rajasthan during the last three years including current financial year;

(b) whether some petrol pump owners at District Jaisalmer have been found indulging in malpractices a number of times and their outlets were closed;

(c) if so, the reasons for allowing them to restart their petrol pumps everytime;

(d) whether it is done with the connivance of high ranking officials; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to plug loop holes to avoid adulteration and such malpractices in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a)

Year	No. of cases
1996-97	79
1997-98	94
1998-99	64
1999-00 (till Sept, 99)	43

(b) to (e) In District Jaisalmer two cases of retail outlet indulging in malpractice were detected. In one case concerned oil company had suspended the sales and supplies of retail outlet for 30 days and imposed penalty of Rs. 5000. In other case the concerned oil company had imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000. Oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural

doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

1008. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants on the waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra till date, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted in the State during the last three years till date, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government have evolved any scheme for speedy allotment of telephone connections in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government have planned to make telephone connections available on demand by the end of March, 2002. 6.31 lakhs of new telephone connections are planned to be provided in Maharashtra State including MTNL, Mumbai during 1999-2000.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Districts	Name of Revenue Districts	Waiting list as on 31.10.1999	Telephone connections provided during 1996-97	Telephone connections provided during 1997-98	Telephone connections provided during 1998-99	Telephone connection provided during 1999-2000 upto (31.10.99)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar	20915	10101	9509	10060	4510
2.	Akola	Akola & Washim	4207	5231	5749	8043	1074
3.	Amravati	Amravati	5940	5909	5192	6455	408
4.	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	10737	10288	9473	7257	2210
5.	Beed	Beed	4845	2678	1972	2800	842
6.	Bhandara	Bhandara, Gondia	2962	2555	2844	3400	925
7.	Buldana	Buldana	2530	1685	2331	4810	2302
8.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur	2871	2095	5494	6450	1079
9.	Dhule	Dhule & Nandurbar	6855	2500	9005	7011	1832

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10. Gadchiroli	Gadchiroli		624	358	608	1201	88
11. Jalgaon	Jalgaon		14758	7450	10040	13000	3372
12. Jalna	Jalna		1379	1504	1763	2251	1005
13. Kalyan	Kalyan		24736	24014	40200	50515	10271
14. Kolhapur	Kolhapur		11659	14015	12721	15001	1878
15. Latur	Latur		4582	4991	2084	4800	2374
16. Nagpur	Nagpur		8435	17526	16107	18200	2563
17. Nander	Nander		3636	4416	4578	7018	1335
18. Nasik	Nasik		15086	19120	19129	25125	11485
19. Osmanabad	Osmanabad		2022	1501	4293	2310	478
20. Parbhani	Parbhani, Hingoli		2791	2037	2616	4000	565
21. Pune	Pune		54200	50113	55684	65400	14814
22. Raigad	Raigad		2516	12010	13704	9210	1333
23. Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri		3446	2716	6418	7587	1445
24. Sangli	Sangli		8518	10584	13509	16002	3105
25. Satara	Satara		7087	5205	7257	10051	3819
26. Sindhudurg	Sindhudurg		2100	2407	3061	3604	245
27. Solapur	Solapur		14419	11015	5841	6813	2245
28. Wardha	Wardha		2726	2719	1631	3320	610
29. Yeotmai	YeotmaL		3657	2648	2861	5030	688
30. M.T.N.L. Mumbai	Mumabi, Thane & Part of Raigad		NIL	201369	213475	156781	57373

[Translation]

Investment Opportunities to NRI

1009.DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have called upon the Non-Resident Indians (NRI) to avail the benefit of new opportunities of investment in the telecommunication sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) With the announcement of New Telecom Policy '99, Telecom Service sector offers enormous investment opportunities for investors including NRIs, within the sectoral guidelines,

which permit 49% foreign equity including NRI equity. In the area of telecom equipment manufacturing, 100% foreign equity is allowed. However, there is no specific policy for NRIs for making investment in the Telecom Sector.

[English]

Maintenance of NH-52

1010.SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for the utterly poor maintenance of National Highway-52, especially the tract as it passes through Darang, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur, Dhamaji districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this National Highway besides serving North Assam is the gateway to Arunachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, the amount of funds set apart and spent on the upkeep of this National Highway during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) the reasons for the slow pace of repair, maintenance and augment action work of this National Highway; and

(f) 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) and (b) Several representations have been received regarding poor condition of National Highway-52 in Assam.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Ministry allocates funds state-wise. As informed by Assam Public Works Department amount of funds set apart and spent on the upkeep of NH-52 during the last three years is as under :

Year	Improvement (Rs. in lakh)	Maintenance and Repairs (Rs. in lakh)
1996-97	133.00	207.00
1997-98	151.00	241.00
1998-99	312.00	434.75

(e) Main reasons for the slow pace of repair are :

- (i) Heavy and long spell of rains in the region (viz. May to Spetember).
- (ii) Frequent floods resulting in road breaches, change in river courses etc.
- (iii) In-adequate supply of Bitumen to Public works Department.

(f) Maintenance and Repair is a continuous process and National Highways are, as far as possible, maintained in a traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

Expansion of Capacity of Telephone Exchange in Sikkim

1011.SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing capacity of telephone exchanges in Sikkim has been expanded during 1999-2000 with a view to bring about improvement in Telecom Services in the State;

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

(c) the total expenditure thereon during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Exchange-wise details of capacity expansion made during 1999-2000 (till 31-10-99) is given below :

S. No.	Name of Exchange	Capacity expanded in lines
1.	Rangpo	152
2.	Rhenock	152
3.	Singtam	400
4.	Tadong Bazar	488
5.	Sambana	152
6.	Dentam	152
7.	Chungthung	32
8.	Mangan	152
9.	Temi Bazar	152

(c) Rs. 1,66,43,382.00

Free Legal Services and Lok Adalats

1021.SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL .
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

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

(a) whether the Government are extending free legal services to the people in various States;

(b) if so, the persons eligible for free legal aid and the number of people in Karnataka who received free legal aid during last three years;

(c) the number of Lok Adalats organised in various States of the country during each of the last three years and current year till-date, State-wise;

(d) the number of cases disposed of and the number of persons benefited through Lok Adalats during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the targets fixed for organising such Adalats during the period December 1,1999 to December 31,2001?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Free legal Services to the eligible persons in accordance with section

12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, are being provided in all the States and Union Territories in the country.

(b) The criteria for giving legal services is contained in Section 12 of the said Act. The text of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, as amended, is contained in enclosed Statement.

With regard to number of people in Karnataka who received free legal aid during the last 3 years, information is being collected from the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected from the State Legal Services Authorities throughout the country and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) No specific targets have been fixed. However, the State Legal Services Authorities are being asked to organise as many Lok Adalats as possible.

Statement

Text of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as Amended

S.12. **Criteria for giving Legal Services** - Every person who has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services under this Act if that person is :

(a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;

(b) a victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution;

(c) a woman or a child;

(d) a person with disability as defined in clause (i) of Section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;

(e) a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or

(f) an industrial workman; or

(g) in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of Section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, (104 of 1956); or in a Jvenile home within the meaning of clause (j) of Section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 (53 of 1986); or in a psychiatric hospital of psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of Section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or

(h) in receipt of annual income less than rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

Public Sector Oil Companies Venture with Private Sector Companies

1013. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies such as Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited have made any tie-up with the Private Sector Oil Companies for marketing of the products produced by the private Sector Oil Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tie up includes marketing of Diesel produced by the Private Sector Oil Companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited has executed marketing agreement with Reliance Petroleum Ltd (RPL) for marketing of controlled products (Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel, Superior Kerosene Oil (PDS), Aviation Turbine Fuel and Liquefied Petroleum Gas for domestic use) during the transition period. Indian Oil Corporation has also entered into a marketing agreement with RPL for marketing of the controlled products during post transition period. The agreements inter-alia include the period for which it will be valid, the products that will be covered, quantities, price and other issues.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited have signed "Operating Procedure Manual" with M/s RPL for evacuation of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) products namely High Speed Diesel Liquefied Petroleum Gas for domestic use, Motor Spirit, Kerosene (PDS) and Aviation Turbine Fuel during the transition period i.e. till March, 2002 based on monthly supply plan.

Visit of Officials of ONGC Abroad

1014. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of officers and Members of ONGC visited abroad during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of times the Chairman, Members and officers of ONGC visited abroad during the same-period; year-wise, and the purpose of their visits; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred year-wise, on such visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (c) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Poor Performance of Calcutta Telephone District

1015.SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the latest Comptroller and Auditor General's Reports of the telecom sector for the financial year 1997-98 has revealed that the performance of the Calcutta Telephone District was the poorest in all respects among the metros and also compared to the other parts of the country with respect to operational costs customer service, trunk and local call efficiencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) In Para 13 of Chapter 4 of the Report of C&AG of India for the year ended March 1998, which was placed before the House on 29.10.99, CAG of India has made certain observations about performance parameters of Calcutta Telephone District. Facts and figures mentioned in the report are being verified with Calcutta Telephone District and their comments sought so that remedial measures may be initiated where necessary.

Trunk Dialing Telephone Connections In Tamil Nadu

1016.SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of villages in Tamil Nadu are without trunk dialing telephone connections; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to connect villages with urban areas, by providing telephone connections in villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Out of

total 17991 villages, 17839 villages are having the facility for trunk booking.

(b) Out of the remaining 152 villages, 61 villages have been proposed to be provided with the facility for which action has been initiated to procure the equipments etc. The rest 91 villages are not being proposed to be provided with the facility for the present, since these are having zero population.

Sarkaria Commission Report

1017.SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had initiated action on the Sarkaria Commission Report;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations contains 247 recommendations. Out of these, the Inter-State Council has already taken decisions in respect of 125 recommendations.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridges on Agra-Mumbai NH-3

1018.SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the National Highways in the country proposed for conversion into four or six lanes;

(b) the total number of bridges under construction over Agra-Mumbai National Highway No. 3;

(c) the time by which the construction of bridges falling in Madhya Pradesh on the National Highway is likely to be completed;

(d) the total expenditure incurred to improve the dilapidated condition of National Highway during last three years and current year; and

(e) the details of action plan formulated to improve the dilapidated condition of a section of the said highway between Shajapur-Dewas and Indore in Madhya Pradesh, if any?

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

(a) National Highways falling on the alignment Golden-Quadrilateral connecting the four metropolitan cities, North-South and East-West Corridors connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silcher to Porbandar respectively and Salem-Cochin section of NH-47 are planned to be widened to 4/6 lanes.

(b) There are 25 number of bridges under construction on Agra-Mumbai National Highway No. 3.

(c) The bridges under construction on N.H. No.3 in Madhya Pradesh are targetted to be completed by June 2001.

(d) An allocation of Rs. 1419.3 crores was made during the last three years for expenditure on maintenance of national highways. The allocation for the current year is Rs. 703 crores.

(e) Development of all National Highways is a continuous process.

[English]

Crude Oil Production

1019.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether crude oil production is likely to decline during the current fiscal year (1999-2000); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) The production of crude oil during April-October, 1999 was 19.08 million metric tonne (MMT) as compared to the level of production of 18.92 MMT achieved in the corresponding period during the year 1998-99 and this positive trend is likely to continue.

[Translation]

"Steps to Check Pollution"

1020.DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the various steps being taken by the Government to check pollution in Delhi;

(b) the directives given by Delhi High Court and Supreme Court of India to check the pollution; and

(c) the extent to which the directives have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The steps taken by the Government to check pollution in Delhi include the following :

1. Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check air, water and noise pollution.
2. Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment and action is taken against the defaulting units.
3. A scheme under the World Bank for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small scale industrial units has been implemented.
4. Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of 29 specified categories of developmental projects.
5. Environmental Guidelines have been evolved for siting of industries.
6. National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) has been launched to check water pollution in the Yamuna river.
7. Emission standards for vehicles have been notified under the Motor vehicles Act. Auto fuel quality has also been upgraded.
8. Ambient noise standards in respect of industrial, commercial, residential areas and silence zone have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
9. All the Hot Mix Plants have been closed down in Delhi.
10. A number of hazardous and noxious industrial units have been closed down in Delhi.
11. All the brick kilns have been closed down in Delhi.
12. An Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been set up for the National Capital Region to monitor the progress of the Action Plan drawn by the Ministry of Environment & Forests on pollution in Delhi as contained in the 'White Paper on Pollution with an Action Plan' issued on 3rd December, 1997.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Construction of Four Lane By-Pass
between Kandla and Khari**

1021. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kandla Port Trust (KPT) has agreed to a proposal for the construction of four lane by-pass road between Kandla and Khari;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the scheme; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Kandla Port Trust has agreed to a proposal for construction of four lane by-pass road between Kandla and Kharirohar.

(b) The scheme consists of widening the Kandla-Kharirohar road into four lane from the junction of National Highway No. 8A at Gandhidham to oil jetties area at Kandla, construction of bridge over the Nakti Creek and construction of 1 No. of Rail-over-Bridge (ROB) on the said road, in a length of 12 Kilometers at an estimated cost of nearly Rs. 40.00 crores.

(c) The project is likely to be commenced by January, 2000.

[Translation]

Setting up of Benches of High Courts

1022. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any requests for setting up of benches of different High Courts from various States have been received by the Union Government during the last three years as well as current year;

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

(c) the time by which these benches are likely to be set up; and

(d) the proposals considered by the Union Government during the said period but the benches not set up so far alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (d) No specific, complete proposal has been received from any State

Government for establishing a permanent Bench of High Court away from its principal seat, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, in keeping with the broad principles and criteria recommended by the Jaswant Singh Commission. However, the Government of West Bengal have sent a proposal with the consent of the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court for establishing a Circuit Bench of the High Court at Jalpaiguri in North Bengal. It is not possible to indicate the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard.

[English]

Denial of Voting Rights to Citizens

1023. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government officials who are instrumental to causing 'Denial of voting rights to citizens' are liable to be punished;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several persons whose names were in the voting lists and who were duly issued identity cards could not vote in the recently held elections as their names were deleted from voters list;

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

(e) whether complaints of rigging booth capturing and large scale bogus (Fraudulent) voting in recent Parliament elections have been reported from Kerala; and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Natural Gas

1024. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to import natural gas;

(b) if so, the quantity of gas to be imported, country-wise;

(c) whether a portion of imported gas would be provided to each State; and

(d) if so, the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) Government has explored the possibility of importing natural gas through pipeline from Oman and Iran. However, due to techno-economic and geo-political reasons, these initiatives have not met with any success so far.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Issuing of Telephone Directories in Rajasthan

1025. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone directories have not been issued in Rajasthan during the last two year;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in this regard and the names of cities for which directories have not been issued; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely issuance of telephone directories alongwith corrigenda thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, out of 24 secondary switching areas (Telecom Districts) of Rajasthan, directories have been issued in 19 areas in the last two years.

(b) the places where directories not issued during last two years are Barmer, Churu, Sriganganagar, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar. The delay is on account of non finalisation of tenders.

(c) The directory printing policy has been revised recently to facilitate timely Direcotry printing. The revised features include vendor pre-qualification, stringent penalty clause, performance bank guarantee, staged bidding, delegation of powers to Chief General Managers to decide printing of telephone directories even on negative royalty basis and providing directory on Internet and CD-ROM also in major cities etc.

[English]

Research and Development Schemes in Road Sector

1026. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes related to the research and development completed during the last three years; and

(b) the schemes proposed to be launched during 1999-2000 in this regard?

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

(a) *List of Research Schemes completed during last three years*

Sl.No.	Scheme No.	Description
1	2	3
A : Roads		
1.	R-16	Studies for flexible pavement under different traffic and climatic conditions.
2.	R-18	Geometric design studies on horizontal friction factors, perception and brake reaction time of drivers and sight distance requirements.
3.	R-57	Case study and environmental impact of highway projects and its control.
4.	R-60	Development of portable electronic device for measuring field CBR.
5.	R-65	Improvement of computer aided system for high embankment.
6.	R-66	Automation of Benkelman Beam.
B : Bridges		
1.	B-14 Ext.	Development of computer based standard designs and drawings for Highway Bridges.
2.	B-19	Study of seismic designs for Highway Bridges.
3.	B-21	Preparation of State-Of-Art Report on "Under Water Scanning".
4.	B-22	Preparation of State-Of-Art Report on "Development of Bridge Bearings".
C : Traffic and Transportation		
1.	R-40	Development of paints and Road Marking Material.
2.	R-47	Estimate of short haul urban and sub-urban freight traffic.
3.	R-62	Evolving guidelines on infrastructural facilities for freight traffic movement of multi-axle vehicles along National Highways.

1	2	3
4.	R-64	Establishment of system for identification and rectification of accident black spot and appropriate safety improvement scheme for National Highways and their privatisation.
5.	R-79	Evaluation of Road accident costs.

(b) *New R & D Schemes Proposed to be Sanctioned during 1999-2000*

Description

A. Roads

1. Development of guidelines for maintenance management of Primary, Secondary and Urban Roads.
2. Geo engineering landslide hazard evaluation studies for riskless road network and probable mitigation mapping for the hill roads in Himalayan terrain.
3. Studies on affect of hard shoulders on performance of flexible pavments.

B. Bridges

1. Rationalisation of live loads for highway bridges.
2. Determination of scour depth in bouldery river.
3. Preparation of draft specification for usage of High Performance Concrete for pavement and bridges by available indigenous material.
4. Recommended types of bridges for hill roads.

C. Traffic and Transportation

1. Development of policy on Hoardings.
2. Development of Guidelines for traffic calming Techniques for Indian conditions.
3. Development of Guidelines for Safety Audit.
4. Development of Intelligent Transport Systems for Indian Conditions.
5. Development of a Highway Management System for National Highways in India.

Shortage of Power in U.P.

1027. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to remove the acute shortage of power in Uttar Pradesh during the last 3 years and more; and

(b) the steps taken by the Corporations like National Hydel Power Corportion, National Thermal Power Corpora-

tion and the Power Grid Corporation etc. in conjunction with Government of the State towards this end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During the last three years 1996-97 to 1998-99, Uttar Pradesh has faced energy shortage varying from 10 to 14%. In the current year it has been 11%. In order to supplement the overall availability of power in the State, allocation is made from the unallocated quota of the Central Sector Generating Stations, in addition to the States share in these Stations. Assistance has also been provided to the state from the neighbouring Eastern Region by allocating 60 MW of power from NTPC stations in Eastern Region. UPSEB, however, needs to improve its financial position to avail of additional power that it needs to overcome its energy shortfall.

The following steps have been taken in the last three years to improve the availability of power in Uttar Pradesh by National Hydro Power Corporation, National Thermal Power Corporation and Power Grid Corporation :

NHPC

- (i) Construction of Dhauliganga HE Project (Stage-I) 280 MW.

NTPC

- (i) Improved performance of Unchahar TPS after its take over by NTPC in Feb' 92. The plant achieved PLF of 82.2% during the year 1998-99 compared to 20.77% in February 1992.
- (ii) Addition of two units of 210 MW each at Unchahar TPS during calendar year of 1999. Uttar Pradesh have a share of 144 MW.
- (iii) NTPC is implementing three coal based Mega Power Projects in Bihar namely North Karanpura STPP (4x500 MW), Kahalgaon Stage-II (3x500MW) and Barh STPP (4x500 MW) for benefits in 10th Plan. UPSEB has asked for allocation of 180 MW from North Karanpura, 140 MW from Kahalgaon-II and 180 MW from Barh.

Powergrid

- (i) Construction of evacuation system associated with various central sector generation projects including Tehri Hydro Project.
- (ii) A 500 MW HVDC back to back link alongwith its associated AC transmission system between Sasaram (Bihar) in Eastern Region (ER) and Allahabad (U.P.) in Northern Region (NR) is under execution. This will enable import of 500 MW surplus power from ER to NR.

Calcium Carbide

1028. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Calcium Carbide has been declared as a Petroleum product or an explosive substance;
- (b) if so, whether any licence is required to sell Calcium Carbide in Karnataka; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (c) Calcium Carbide is declared as dangerously inflammable substance under the Inflammable Substances Act, 1952 to which Petroleum Act, 1934 is made applicable. The Calcium Carbide Rules, 1987 framed under the petroleum Act, 1934 govern import, storage, transportation etc. of Calcium Carbide. Licence to import and storage Calcium Carbide is required to be obtained from the Department of Explosives, however, for the quantity not exceeding 500 Kg. District Authority is empowered to grant a licence. No licence shall be required if quantity not exceeding 200 kgs, is stored subject to certain conditions stipulated under the Rules. The Rules are applicable throughout the country including Karnataka.

[Translation]

Construction Work on the Vacant Land of Door Sanchar Colony

1029. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the former Communication Minister had laid the foundation stone of Door Sanchar Colony, Udyan Marg, Gole Market, New Delhi during April, 1999;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Hon'ble Minister had also announced that the colony would also have a Central Park, Community Centre, a Post Office, a Bank and a Primary School;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the reasons for not undertaking the construction work by the Government on the vacant land so far; and
- (f) the time by which all these construction work is likely to be undertaken and completed?

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

(b) Foundation stone was laid by Shri Jagmohan, the then MOC on 14-4-99 for construction of staff quarters for DOT Udyan Marg.

(c) and (d) on the occasion of the foundation stone laying ceremony, the then Hon'ble MOC announced that along with the new quarters planned to be constructed, other amenities like Park, Community hall etc., will be provided. The work of Central Park is in progress and Community hall is being planned.

(e) and (f) The activities for approval/revalidation of plans by NDMC and sanction of the estimate etc. are in progress. The time fixed for construction is 36 months after approval of plans by NDMC and sanction of estimate.

[English]

Training to Village Defence Committees

1030. DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there exists any scheme to impart arms training and supply of modern weapons to the members of Village Defence Committees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such Committees, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government propose to extend the scheme throughout the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (d) 'Public order' and 'Police' are State subjects and scheme such as Village Defence Committees are constituted by State Governments as per their own requirements. No data is maintained in this regard at Government of India level for the country as a whole. However, in so far as the State of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the State Government has a scheme of Village Defence Committees to help tackle the militancy in Jammu and Kashmir and as per available information 1700 village Defence Committee are in existence in the State. Village Defence Committee members are volunteers, who are given training and supplied with arms and ammunition by the State Government. As per available information, similar institutions in the form of village Guards exist in two district of Nagaland.

It is for the State Governments to decide about introducing any Village Defence Committee scheme in their respective State.

**Delay In Distribution of Mail
in Rural Areas**

1031. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the department of post's own norms, the mail has to be delivered within one to three days following the day of posting;

(b) if so, whether 60% of mail delivery in the country is being delayed;

(c) whether the mail delivery in rural areas records the highest percentage of delays; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the timely distribution of mail in the country particularly in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The Department has set different norms for different category of mails, from one day to 5 days after the lay of posting according to distance, transport link and geographical location of the area.

(b) No, Sir. As per the All India Live Mail Survey Results, 1998, 75% of mails are delivered within norms.

(c) No. The delivery of mail in rural areas is generally satisfactory. As per the All India Live Mails Survey the position of delivery of mails in rural areas is as follows:

Home District	79.7%
Home State	71.7%
Neighbouring State	64.6%
Distant State	59.0%

(d) The delivery of mail in the country as a whole and the rural area in particular is regularly monitored both at the field and headquarters level and necessary corrective steps are taken wherever delay is noticed.

Tender Mafia

1032. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Tender mafia controls construction" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated October 22, 1999.

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There were complaints that a 'tender Mafia' was operating in Municipal Corporation of Delhi which threatened bonafide contractors of dire consequences if they tendered for various works advertised by the Corporation. Delhi Police investigated into the matter and arrested several persons connected with this malpractice. It is also correct that in a raid conducted on 13th October, 1999 Delhi Police unearthed a fake cement factory operating from Geeta Colony area of Delhi. The owner alongwith his four other associates was arrested.

(c) the steps taken by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to ensure that tendering process is not vitiated by unscrupulous elements include :

(a) publication of booklets of regular intervals containing information about NITs issued by the Zonal/Divisional Offices;

(b) issuance of tender forms simultaneously from the Headquarters, Zonal Offices and Divisional Offices;

(c) opening of tender boxes at the Zonal Office instead of a Divisional Offices; and

(d) construction of permanent tender boxes at the entrance of the Zonal Offices preferably in the Control Room.

[Translation]

**Opening of Telephone
Exchanges in M.P.**

1033. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges being opened in Vidisha, Sihore and Raisen districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges functioning as on September 30th, 1999 and the number of villages in these districts provided with the telephone connections through these exchanges;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide telephone connections to all the villages of these districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these villages are likely to be provided with the telephone facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Remaining villages 627 in Vidisha, 215 in Sihore and 465 in Raisen are to be provided with telephone connections by M/s. Bharati Telenet Ltd., the basic service provider for MP Telecom Cricle.

(e) M/s. Bharati Telenet Ltd., has reported that launch of services in Vidisha, Sihore and Raisen districts is planned for next year.

Statement

Number of Exchanges being Opened/functioning and Villages being provided with Telephone connections in Vidisha, Sihore and Raisen districts of Madhya Pradesh

	Vidisha	Sihore	Raisen
The number of telephone exchanges being opened	03	Nil	03
The number of telephone exchanges functioning as on September 30th, 1999	49	51	58
The number of villages provided with the telepphone connections through these exchanges	937	813	964

Establishment of Petrochemical Unit at Barauni Refinery

1034. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken to establish Petro-chemicals units at Barauni Refinery in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the modernisation or expansion of Barauni Refinery is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The schedule of completion for the Barauni Refinery Expansion Project is February 2002.

[English]

New Telephone Connections in Bangalore

1035. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registrations made for new telephone on the reduced registration fee in Bangalore Telecom District;

(b) the details of reduced registration fee for the urban and rural areas;

(c) the difference between the new and the old registration fees; and

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be given new connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, 1,13,986 persons have registered for new telephones on reduced registration fee in Bangalore Telecom District.

(b) The details of the Reduced registration fee applicable only for the period 01.11.1999 to 05.11.1999 are :

- i. Urban Areas - Rs.1000/-
- ii Rural Areas - Rs. 500/-

(c) Difference between new (reduced) and old registration fee were as under :

Exchange System of 10,000 lines and above

	Urban	Rural
Old rate	Rs. 3,000	Rs. 3,000
New rate	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 500

Exchange System below 10,000 lines

	Urban	Rural
Old rate	Rs. 2,000	Rs. 1,000
New rate	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 500

(d) Efforts are afoot to provide telephone connections to 90% of these applicants by 31.12.2000.

Construction of Phulo Khari Refinery

1036. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of Phulo-Khari Refinery of Bhatinda district in Punjab; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) About 2,000 acres land has been acquired for the project. The detailed pipeline route survey

of the proposed Crude Oil Pipeline from Gujarat to Bhatinda has been completed. Various environmental approvals for the project have also been obtained except the environmental approval for the Crude Oil Terminal, Pipeline and Single Point Mooring.

(b) The project is expected to be completed within 48 months after firming up of the joint venture partner for the project.

[Translation]

LPG Connections in Betul District of Madhya Pradesh

1037. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up LPG agencies at those places where there are Nagar Panchayats/ Municipalities;

(b) if so, whether LPG agencies would be provided in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including in places where there are Nagar Panchayats/ Municipalities :

- (i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.
- (ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.
- (iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.
- (iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having populations of 1 lakh and above.

(b) and (c) Three locations viz Mutai, Bhainsdehi and Betul Bazar in Betul District of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the current LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98.

[English]

Village Public Telephone facility in Maharashtra

1038. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee for selecting the right technology for providing the telephones in the villages;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) the number of villages in Jalna District of Maharashtra where telephones have been provided;

(e) the time by which the telephones are likely to be provided in the remaining villages of the District;

(f) Whether a large number of telephones in Maharashtra are not functioning properly;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and to achieve the target of connecting 45,000 villages by telephones particularly in the Parbhani District of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. A committee has been constituted to look into the problems related to the operation and development of telecom services in rural areas especially Village Public Telephone technology options and material requirement, and to suggest strategy to achieve govt. objective in this regard. The committee is headed by MOS (C). Secretary (DTS), all Members of the Telecom Commission and few other concerned officers are the members of the committee. The committee is likely to submit its report within a month.

(d) and (e) There are 966 villages in Jalna district. By 31.10.1999 VPTs have been provided in 855 villages. Remaining villages are proposed to be covered by March 2002.

(f) to (h) No Sir. Less than 5% of total No. of VPTs are out of order. Faulty equipment is being repaired departmentally and also with the help of suppliers, wherever necessary. To achieve the target of 45,000 VPTs during the current year, equipment available in stock and underground cable will be used. Remaining 350 villages in Parbhani district of Maharashtra are expected to be covered by 2002.

Subsidy on Petroleum Products

1039. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more subsidy on petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG (Domestic) and SKO (PDS) will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% and 33.33% of the import parity price by 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively. As per this decision, the subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

Barring Independent Candidates from Contesting Elections

1014. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended to the Union Government that independent candidates be barred from contesting elections to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the proposal are available in the 170th report of the Law Commission laid before the Lok Sabha on 27.10.1999. Government has not formed any view in the matter so far.

[Translation]

"Irrigation Projects Pending Clearance"

1041. SHRI AMIR ALAM :
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

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

(a) the number and names of developmental irrigation projects pending for the environmental and forestry approval in the country, States-wise;

(b) the requirement of area of forest land for each project; and

(c) the time by which all these projects are likely to be granted approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) A statement giving state-wise details of the irrigation projects which are complete in all respects and are under active consideration with Ministry for environmental and forestry clearances under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 respectively is appended.

Statement

Irrigation Projects Pending Clearance

A. Pending for Environmental Clearance

1. Pipalpanka Dam Project of Orissa

B. Pending for Forestry Clearance

S. No.	Name of Project	State	Area (ha.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Dhansingh Toli Irrigation Project in Gumla distt.	Bihar	53.62
2.	Construction of Nimmavagu project in Gundala RF, Khammam distt.	Andhra Pradesh	19.82
3.	Formation of reservoir across Palemvagu in Khammam distt.	Andhra Pradesh	273.04
4.	Dodipada Irrig. Scheme in Dangs	Gujarat	92.28
5.	Sidumbar Reservoir in Valsad	Gujarat	427.13
6.	Chaukia Irrigation Project, Dangs	Gujarat	122.50
7.	Andhra Valley Medium irrigation project in Pune distt.	Maharashtra	131.40
8.	Kolhapur type storage Bhandara of Khairkuti	Maharashtra	0.94
9.	Kolhapur type storage Bhandara of Sangvi	Maharashtra	0.97
10.	Urmodi irrigation project in Satara district	Maharashtra	28.62
11.	Construction of Ghosikhurd Right Bank Canal Km. 11-25	Maharashtra	121.37
12.	Construction of Madan Tank in Wardha	Maharashtra	13.90

1	2	3	4
13.	Sengulam Augmentation Scheme	Kerala	9.78
14.	Reservoir across Kamandalar river in Shenbagathope village in Thiruvannamala distt.	Tamilnadu	99.62
15.	Construction of reservoir across Cheyyar river near Kuppanatham in Thiruvannamalai district	Tamilnadu	13.35
16.	Bhogpur canal, Hardwar	Uttar Pradesh	15.63
17.	Nalakulaghai Minor Irrigation Project	Orissa	7.91

[English]

Cellular Telephone Service

1042. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have plans to set-up satellite linkage to cover each and every part of the country, particularly for providing cellular telephone services to the people residing in the interiors such as Konkan Region of Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the task has been allotted to any expert agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) There is no plan with the Government to set-up Satellite linkage Cellular Telephone Service in the country.

However, the Government has given a licence to the Private operator M/s Iridium India Telecom Ltd. to provide Global Mobile Personal Communication Service (GMPCS) by satellite linkage to cover the whole of the country including Maharashtra. This service has already been started.

Meeting between Officials of India and Pakistan

1043. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether officers of Border Security Force and their Pakistani counterparts held a meeting in Lahore in November, 1999 to ease tension along the Indor-Pak

border and check incidents of firing and smuggling of contraband across the border;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether there is any perceptible change in the situation along the border after this meeting;

(d) if so, whether more such meetings are likely to be held in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During this meeting, both sides agreed to establish peace and tranquility along the border and not to resort to unprovoked firing. It was also decided to share intelligence regarding smuggling of contraband with a view to check it.

(c) This meeting was held recently. Any change in the situation has not yet been noticed.

(d) and (e) Such meetings are held between officials of BSF and Pak Rangers bi-annually on regular basis and hence will continue. Next such meeting will be held after six months at Jalandhar.

Criteria for Freedom Fighters Pension

1044. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) The criteria for granting 'freedom fighters' pension under the 'Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme';

(b) the number of freedom fighters awaiting pensions in each State at present;

(c) the number of applications pending with the Government for the grant of pension from each State; and

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared by the Government particularly of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) For the purpose of grant of pension under the 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 freedom fighter means :

(A) A person who had suffered imprisonment for a minimum period of six months in the mainland jails before independence. Ex-INA personnel are also eligible for pension if the imprisonment/

detention suffered by them outside India was for six months or more. In case of women and SC/ST freedom fighters, the minimum period of actual imprisonment for eligibility of pension is three months.

- (B) A person who remained underground for six months or more, provided he was :
- (i) a proclaimed offender;
 - (ii) one on whom an award for arrest/ head was announced, or
 - (iii) one whose detention order was issued but not served.
- (C) A person who was interned in his home or externed from his district under the orders of the competent authority for six months or more.
- (D) A person whose property was confiscated or attached and sold due to participation in the National Freedom Struggle.
- (E) A person who was permanently incapacitated during firing or lathi charge.
- (F) A person who lost his Government job (including job in a local body) for participation in the National Freedom Struggle.
- (G) A person who was awarded the punishment of 10 strokes of caning/ flogging/ whipping.

(b) to (d) No case, complete in all respects, eligible for Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension is pending. However, 3152 review applications from various States are pending in respect of cases which have been rejected once or more times in the past. State-wise details are as under :

Andhra Pradesh	86
Assam	88
Bihar	706
Gujarat	24
Haryana	10
Himachal Pradesh	6
Jammu and Kashmir	22
Karnataka	122
Kerala	119
Madhya Pradesh	147
Maharashtra	140

Orissa	55
Punjab	284
Rajasthan	13
Tamil Nadu	31
Uttar Pradesh	207
West Bengal	1077
Delhi	15

All efforts are made to dispose of review applications expeditiously.

Visa To Tourists

1045. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to grant visa on arrival to tourists from certain countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the names of such countries;
- (c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in the matter; and
- (d) the extent to which it is likely to increase tourist arrivals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Development of National Park in Kerala

1046. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of Kerala have submitted any scheme for the development and maintenance of National Park and forests reserves; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Kerala Government submitted proposals seeking assistance of Rs. 277.41 lakhs under 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' Rs. 7231.87 lakhs under 'Project Elephant' Rs. 106.3 lakhs under 'Project Tiger' and Rs. 769.27 lakhs under 'India Eco-development project' Subject to the availability of funds following amounts have been approved.

S. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project	Amount approved (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	73.37
2	Project Elephant	65.20
3	Project Tiger	42.12
4	India Eco-development Project	769.27

The details of amount released to Kerala Government under various schemes of afforestation are as follows :

S No.	Name of the Project/Scheme	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project Scheme	245.56
2.	Area oriented fuel wood and fodder project scheme	39.77
3.	Non timber forest produce including medicinal plants	3.55

Training Centre For Jawans, Widows

1047.SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSF has planned a training center for rehabilitation of widows of Jawans who laid down their lives in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) and (b) BSF has set up a Rehabilitation and Resettlement Centre at BSF Academy Tekarapur to provide vocational training to the widows of jawans. At present this Centre is providing training in tailoring, nursing, making of home products, mushroom growing, computer application and Office procedure.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections on Priority basis in Bihar

1048.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants on the waiting list under the Priority category for telephone connection in Patna, Begusarai, Lakhisarai Shekhpura and Jamui districts of Bihar;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted on priority basis in the said districts during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide telephone connections to the applicants on the waiting list and also to maintain the quality of telephone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) the number of applicants on the waiting list under the priority category for telephone connection in Patna, Begusarai, Lakhisarai, Shekhpura and Jamui districts of Bihar is given below :

Patna	NIL
Begusarai	30
Lakhisarai	NIL
Shekhpura	NIL
Jamui	NIL

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted on priority basis in the above said districts during the last three years is given below :

	1996-97	97-98	98-99
Patna	1317	1860	1651
Begusarai	178	189	260
Lakhisarai	10	12	24
Shekhpura	5	7	10
Jamui	7	10	13

(c) the steps taken by the Department to provide telephone connections to the applicants on the waiting list are :

1. Opening of new telephone exchanges
2. By expanding the capacity of exchanges
3. By expanding the external plant by laying underground cables.

[English]

Plan for Improvement in Power Situation

1049.SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an action plan to improve the power situation in the country;

- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) the date on which such plan formulated; and
- (d) the progress made in the implementation of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Ninth Plan envisages a capacity addition of 40245 MW with a target of increasing the power generation from 394.5 BU at the end of Eighth Five Year Plan to 606 BU by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. March, 2002.

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan was approved by the National Development Council in February, 1999.

(d) 9427 MW additional capacity has been added upto 31.10.1999 which has enabled to reduce energy deficit and peaking deficit from 11.5% and 18%, respectively at the beginning of the Ninth Five Year Plan to 4.8% and 13% respectively during 1999.

LPG Agencies in Maharashtra

1050. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) the places selected for LPG agencies in Maharashtra and the number of agencies set up during the last three years; and

(b) the places in the state where LPG agencies were announced but consumer services could not be started during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) 324 LPG distributorships from various approved marketing plans are pending for selection of distributors in Maharashtra. Oil Companies have advertised 213 locations. Advertisement of the locations and selection of dealers/distributors is a continuous process.

During the last three years i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, Oil Companies have commissioned 61 LPG distributorships in Maharashtra.

Disinvestment by MTNL

1051. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has decided to disinvest and sell its stock in the foreign market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal of the Government to disinvest 19 Million Shares of the MTNL Stock in the GDR market. It is expected to be implemented depending upon suitable market conditions for the launch of the issue.

Development of Minor Port at Gangavaram

1052. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have urged the Andhra Pradesh Government to consider developing of the minor port at Gangavaram as a joint venture with the Visakhapatnam Port Trust;

(b) if so, whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has considered the proposal;

(c) if so, the extent to which it has agreed for implementing the proposal; and

(d) the steps being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The proposal for the integrated development of port facilities at Gangavaram, prepared by Visakhapatnam Port Trust, is under consideration of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Worli-Bandra Sea Link Project

1053. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Worli-Bandra Sea Link Project was initially conceived in 1992 :

(b) if so, whether MMRDA has conducted Techno Economic feasibility study for the project in 1992 and the report was submitted to Ministry of Environment and Forests for the environmental clearance in October, 1993;

(c) if so, whether the project has since been pending for the want of environmental clearance;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The Worli-Bandra Sea Link Project along

the present alignment was originally conceived in 1985-86.

(b) MMRDA had conducted Techno Economic Feasibility Study for the project in 1992 and the report was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests in June, 1993 for environmental clearance.

(c) No, Sir. The project was accorded environmental clearance in January, 1999;

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Collaboration in Oil Refinery Projects with Foreign Companies

1054. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Public Sector Oil companies have prepared any scheme relating to oil refinery projects in collaboration with some foreign oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the progress made in this regard so far;

(d) the equity share of foreign companies, Government and other parties under the scheme separately; and

(e) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) The following two refinery projects are to be set up in collaboration with foreign oil companies :

(i) Central India Refinery Project (CIRP) at Bina (Madhya Pradesh) through a Joint Venture Company namely, Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd. between Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Oman Oil Copany (OOC).

(ii) Eastern India Refinery (EIR) at Paradeep a Joint Venture Company between Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

(c) Land has been acquired for the Refinery at Bina. The Process Packages have been received for the licensed Units of Refinery and Front End Engineering Design has been completed. Project Management Consultant for Refinery at Paradeep (EIRP) and various licensors for licenced process units have already been appointed.

(d) The proposed equity participation in CIRP and EIRP would be as under :

CIRP :

BPCL 26%

OOC 26%

Public and others 48%

EIRP :

IOCL 26%

KPC 26%

Public including 3rd parties 48%

(e) Anticipated completion of CIRP is 48 months after receipt of all approvals. The completion of EIRP is estimated at June, 2002.

Development of Communications System in W.B. and M.P.

1055. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent for the development of communication system in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, separately;

(b) whether the telecommunication is not working properly in these States particularly in Wasin region of District Raipur, Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Wasin region; and

(f) the time by which the telephone connection are likely to be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a)

(In crores of Rs.)

State	96-97	97-98	98-99
W.B.	168.08	227.54	306.58
M.P.	307.87	329.84	390.55

(b) No, Sir The Telecom. system in these States are working satisfactorily including Basin region of Raipur SSA.

(c) Does not arise in view of 'b' above.

(d) To further improve the telecom. services, transmission media is being upgraded.

(e) There are 299 persons in the waiting list in Basin region in Raipur SSA.

(f) The telephone connections are likely to be provided by March, 2000.

[English]

Telephone Lok Adalat in West Bengal

1056.SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any telephone Lok Adalat has been held in West Bengal Telecom Circle during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of cases settled during the said period in these Adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Telephone Adalats have been held in West Bengal Telecom Circle. The district-wise data including cases settled has been given in the inclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Telephone Adalats held during 1997-99

Sl. No.	Name of the District	1997-98			1998-99			1999-Nov'99		
		Number of T.A. held	Cases recd.	Cases settled	Number of T.A. held	Cases recd.	Cases settled	Number of T.A. held	Cases recd.	Cases settled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	24 Pargana (N)	1	5	5	1	11	2	1	3	-
2.	24 Pargana (S)	1	6	5	1	12	2	1	-	
3.	Bankura	1	10	7	1	8	7	1	7	5
4.	Birbhum	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	12	10
5.	Burdwan	1	13	13	1	18	18	1	19	10
6.	Coochbehar	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
7.	Darjeeling	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Dinajpur (N)	2	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Dinajpur (S)	2	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Hoogly	1	4	4	1	10	1	1	-	
11.	Howrah	1	5	5	1	11	2	1	-	
12.	Jalpaiguri	1	-	-	1	30	15	1	15	13
13.	Malda	1	1	1	1	5	5	-	-	-
14.	Midnapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Murshidabad	-	-	-	2	18	18	1	3	3
16.	Nadia	1	4	4	1	3	3	1	3	3
17.	Purulia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Alleged Errant Traffic Cop

1057.SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Drunk on duty, traffic cop in gypsy terrorises car driver on Ring Road" appearing in the Times of India, dated November 16, 1999;

- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Delhi Police have reported that Shri Vineet Arora was challaned on 10th November, 1999 for driving without (i) driving licence; (ii) pollution control certificate; and (iii) the vehicle not having been insured as also for dangerous driving and disobeying lawful directions. It has been denied that the officer who challaned him was either drunk or had any intention of misbehaving with his wife.

Free Telephone Facility

1058.SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided free telephone facility to the retired employees of its Departments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide such facility to the inservice employees as well on the same lines;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Concessional telephone facility with no rental charges and limited number of free calls has been extended in recognition of long service put in by an employee in the Department of Telecom and to give a sense of satisfaction and belonging to the organisation.

(c) to (e) Serving employees of the DOT are being provided service telephones on functional requirements in service interest, wherever deemed essential by the Competent Authority.

[Translation]

Communication Facility by Private Operators

1059.SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take any action against those private operators who have not been able to provide communication facility within the stipulated time as per norms fixed by the Government so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The Licence Agreement for basic private operators provides for imposition of liquidated damages on the licensees for late commissioning of service, non provision of committed telephone lines and Village Public Telephones. The liquidated damages have been imposed on the licensees on these grounds.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Liquidated Damages Imposed on Private Basic Telephone Service Operators

Name of the Circle	Name of the Licensee	Liquidated Damages for late commissioning of Service (Rs. crores)	Liquidated Damages for Non Provision of Direct Exchange lines and Village Public Telephones (Rs. crores)
Madhya Pradesh	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Nil	4.00
Maharashtra	Hughes Ispat Ltd.	1.25	6.50
Andhra Pradesh	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	6.50	6.50
Punjab	Essar Commission Ltd.	4.00	4.00
Gujarat	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	6.50	6.50
Rajasthan	Shyam Teletelink Ltd.	3.30	4.00

[English]

Kaziranga National Park

1060. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the annual amount spent on the conservation and protection of Rhinos in the Kaziranga National Park other than salary of Staff.

(b) whether the amount is adequate for the maintenance of the park damaged every year by floods; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed for the better and effective management of the Park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) According to the reports received from the state government, the total expenditure incurred on protection and conservation of Rhinos and other species of Wildlife in Kaziranga National Park during 1998-99 was Rs. 136.25 lakhs. The amount has been stated to be inadequate for the physical targets to be achieved.

(c) Rhino is placed in schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, thus getting the highest level of protection against hunting and commercial exploitation. Preventive measures are taken against poaching by arranging regular and intensive patrolling by forest staff. Highlands are constructed to provide shelter to marooned animals during floods.

Visakhapatnam-Vijaywada Oil Pipeline

1061. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Visakhapatnam-Vijaywada oil pipeline of HPCL has been completed;

(b) if so, the total costs thereof;

(c) the quantum of oil carried by this pipeline;

(d) whether the transport of oil has been upto expectations; and

(e) if so, the details of the economics of operation of this HPCL pipeline in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) Visakh-Vijaywada oil pipeline was commissioned on 11.5.1998.

(b) Total expenditure on this pipeline is Rs. 451.02 crores till date.

(c) the quantum of oil transported through this pipeline is 2.767 million tonnes till 31.10.1999.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The project has been completed within approved time and cost. Economic Rate of Return of the project works out to 20.6%.

Demand and Supply of LPG In Aurangabad

1062. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of LPG agencies of various oil companies presently functioning in the Aurangabad District of Bihar;

(b) the number of L.P.G. connections with each one of them;

(c) whether there are proposal to set up more LPG agencies there;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the estimated monthly requirement of LPG for Aurangabad at present and the position thereof;

(g) the steps taken by the Government to meet the full requirement of LPG in the district;

(h) whether the rural areas of the district have been neglected in respect of supply of LPG; and

(i) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) As on 1.10.1999 there was one LPG distributorship at Aurangabad with customer holding of 5923.

(c) to (i) To meet the increased demand of LPG of the above district including rural areas, 6 locations viz. Daudnagar, Jamhaur, Umga, Rafiganj, Aurangabad and Nabinagar, are included in the various Marketing Plans for setting up LPG distributorships in district Aurangabad. Out of the above Daudnagar is in the urban area and the remaining five locations fall in the rural and the urban-rural areas.

Maintenance of National Highway

1063.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hajipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Bhiththamore road in Bihar has been declared National Highway by the Union Government and the State Government is not taking any measures for the upkeep and maintenance of the road as a result thereof, the said road is in a bad shape and there are lot of difficulties in the movement of traffic;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take necessary action for the reconstruction of this road as per the norms prescribed for National Highways;

(c) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Hajipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi road is part of newly declared National Highway-77 and has been taken over by National Highway Wing, Bihar Road Construction Department in November, 1999. The portion Sitamarhi-Bhitamore is not on National Highway. After recent floods, there have been damages in some stretches and repairs to keep the National Highway portion in traffic worthy condition have since been taken up.

(b) to (d) Planned development of this National Highway shall be considered after necessary survey, investigations and projects preparation subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds. However, as an interim measure special repair estimates (3 Numbers) have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 209.42 lakh in this reach besides improvement of riding quality in a length of 20 km at an estimated cost Rs. 319.11 lakh under special repair crash programme. These special repairs have been targeted for completion by 31st March, 2000.

Dispensing with Procedure of Visa for NRIs

1064.SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to do away with the procedure of issuing visa to the Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) Non-Resident Indian residing abroad are citizens of India. They do not require visa for visiting India.

[Translation]

Rape of Women of Weaker Sections

1065.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in the incidents of rape of the women of weaker sections during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) Available information in regard to cases of rape of women belonging to SCs/STs during the relevant period is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

Statement

Incidence of Rape on Women Belonging to SCs/STs Reported during 1996 to 1998

S.No.	States/UTs	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30	31	30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0
5.	Goa	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	20	25	25
7.	Haryana	4	7	11
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	4	0

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	7	3	6
11.	Kerala	19	49	46
12.	Madhya Pradesh	228	286	292
13.	Maharashtra	55	26	24
14.	Manipur	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	5	11	12
19.	Punjab	4	2	4
20.	Rajasthan	104	107	97
21.	Sikkim	1	2	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	3	8	4
23.	Tripura	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	166	179	124
25.	West Bengal	0	0	0
Total (States)		652	743	682
26.	A & N Islands	0	1	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
28.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	0	0	0
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
32.	Pondicheery	0	0	0
Total (UTs)		0	1	0
Total (All India)		652	744	682

§ Source : Monthly Crime Statistics

Note : Figures are Provisional.

* Source : Crime in India

Note : 1. 1997 Figures of Orissa in 1998 repeated due 1

2. Figures of 1998 are Provisional

[English]

LPG Connections in Karnataka

1067. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the villages in Karnataka have been provided with L.P.G. connections;

(b) if not, the number of villages covered so far;

(c) the number of villages not covered by LPG connections in the State and the reasons therefore; and

(d) the time by which those villages are likely to be covered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the Marketing Plan of 1996-98, Oil Industry will cover 155 Urban/Rural locations in the Karnataka State for setting up of LPG distributorships.

(c) and (d) In order to increase the penetration of LPG in rural areas, PSU Oil Companies propose to cover :

(i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 kms.

(ii) Urban locations having population of 5000 and above surveyed for setting up a distributorship and the viability to be ascertained by taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 kms. Radius.

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 kms. Radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 (ten thousand) and above, surveyed for setting up rural distributorship and included in the plan depending upon the viability.

(iv) Villages with 15 kms. Radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above to be surveyed for opening of rural distributorship.

More LPG connections are planned to be released in future and it is expected to clear the entire waiting list across the country by the year 2001-2002.

[Translation]

Complaints Against Police Officials

1068. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government and senior officers of Delhi Police have received complaints against SHO's/ASHO's of various Police stations of Delhi particularly west district from the public representatives during 1.1.99 to 20.11.99;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly in regard to the west district Police; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the period in question, two such complaints, one against the ASHO of Punjabi Bagh Police Station (West District) and the other against the SHO of Sultanpuri Police Station (North-West District), were received. Whereas it was alleged in the former complaint that a particular individual was being harassed by the ASHO, the complainant in the second case had demanded transfer of the SHO, Sultanpuri Police Station on the ground that the law and order situation in the area had deteriorated. Both the complaints were enquired into by Delhi Police and closed as the allegations made against the two officials could not be substantiated.

[English]

Expansion of Haldia Port

1069. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Haldia Port is being expanded to increase its share in the container handling market;

(b) if so, the details of its investment plan in this regard; and

(c) the target date for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Reorganisation of States

1070. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI AJIT SINGH :

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI :

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have accepted in Principle to reorganise the existing States;

(b) if so, whether the Government have already identified some States for the purpose;

(c) if so, the names of such states; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (d) The Government is not contemplating any general reorganisation of States. However, the Government proposes to reorganise the existing States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh so as to provide for the creation of Vananchal, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal as new States.

[English]

Reliance Petroleum Limited

1071. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the commencement of production by Reliance Petroleum Limited at its Jamnagar refinery, India stands on the threshold of self-reliance in respect of the country's need for diesel;

(b) if so, the production capacity of diesel, kerosene and other petroleum products of this plant; and

(c) the extent to which the country would be self-reliant in respect of these items with the added production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) With the commencement of production at Reliance Petroleum Limited's Jamnagar Refinery the deficit between demand and production of High Speed Diesel (HSD) has reduced considerably.

(b) Estimated production of controlled petroleum products of this refinery during 1999-2000 are as follows:

	Thousand Metric Tonne
Liquefied Petroleum Gas	951
Motor Spirit	1258
Aviation Turbine Fuel	265
Superior Kerosene Oil	1030
High Speed Diesel	5418

(c) If all the refinery capacity additions as per the current assessment materialise, indigenous production of petroleum products would by and large meet the total demand on overall basis by the terminal year of 9th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Strengthening of Intelligence Machinery

1072. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to strengthen the intelligence machinery to check the subversive activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs has been coordinating with Central and State Police and Intelligence organisations to strengthen their intelligence gathering mechanism which necessarily has to be a continuous process.

[English]

Custodial Deaths In Delhi

1073. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of custodial deaths is increasing day by day in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of custodial deaths that took place in various Police Stations in Delhi during the past 3 years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Delhi Police have sought to dismiss such custodial deaths as the natural ones; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of persons who died during the last three years, year-wise, while in the custody of Police was as follows :

Year	Number
1997	07
1998	02
1999 (upto 30.11.1999)	02

These included four cases of suicide and one case in which the report of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate concerned has not been received.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The measures to prevent incidents of custodial deaths include providing an opportunity to persons under custody to inform their friends, relatives or other known persons; surprise visits by senior police officers to check violation of human rights and misbehaviour with women; periodical inspection of police stations and other police establishments by a Central Checking Team of Delhi Police to prevent cases of illegal detention, illegal use of handcuffs, etc.; and strict disciplinary action against officials found involved using third degree methods against persons under custody. Further, a statutory inquest in custodial death cases is conducted by the SDM under section 176 Cr. PC and post mortem is also conducted by a panel of Doctors. Incidents in which Police officers are found involved in custodial deaths, are immediately registered and entrusted for investigation to an independent agency.

Thermal Power Project in Haryana

1074. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had laid the foundation stone of Thermal Power Plant in Yamunanagar, Haryana;

(b) if so, whether the construction work has been started on the said plant;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to complete the work on the said project expeditiously; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI METHA) : (a) Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, the then Prime Minister, had laid the foundation stone for this project on 28.3.1993 by remote control from Faridabad.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A proposal for the establishment of 2x210 MW Thermal Power Station at Yamuna Nagar by Haryana State Electricity Board (HSEB) had been techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority. However, due to financial constraints being faced by HSEB, the project was transferred to National Thermal Power Corporation. It was subsequently decided to implement the project in private sector and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Government of Haryana and Eisenberg Group of Companies on 5.4.1994 for the setting up of a 2x350 MW coal based power plant at Yamuna Nagar. However, due to failure by the company to achieve

financial closure by the contracted date, the Government of Haryana terminated the agreement in November, 1996 and decided to select the new promoter through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route. The State Government of Haryana is presently in the process of selecting the project developer through ICB. Construction on a project generally starts only after the developer is finally selected and all the necessary clearances/inputs are tied up and financial closure is achieved.

(d) and (e) Work for expeditious development of the project has to be done by the finally selected bidder. So far as the Central Government clearances, if any, are concerned, all efforts will be made to expedite the clearances, to the extent feasible.

Construction of Jetty Port Near Haldia

1075. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether six-jetty port is proposed to be constructed near haldia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) time by which the autonomy is likely to be granted to Haldia Dock Complex to increase its earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Haldia Dock Complex is already enjoying functional autonomy in establishment and financial matters.

[Translation]

Cost of Hydel and Thermal Power Generation

1076. SHRI J.S. BRAR :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of hydel power generation capacity presently being utilised in the country;

(b) whether the cost of hydel power generation is less than that of the thermal power generation; and

(c) if so, the facts in this regard and the estimated average cost incurred in thermal and hydro power generation in the country separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Out of the

total installed hydro generation capacity of 23025 MW as on 1.11.1999, 91.39% is being utilised.

(b) and (c) Based on the information from 10 State Electricity Boards in 1997-98, the average cost of hydel power generation in most of the cases is less than that of thermal power generation in 1997-98 as is evident from the following table :

Name of SEB	Cost of generation	
	Average Thermal P/Kwh	Average Hydro P/Kwh
1. APSEB	117.71	19.92
2. MSEB	124.10 **	31.95
3. Haryana Vidyut Parasaran Nigam	212.56	28.34
4. GEB	162.02	22.69
5. MPEB	122.59	75.64
6. TNEB	175.60	22.84
7. UPSEB	160.14	36.89
8. WBSEB	135.10	151.23
9. PSEB	164.11	32.30
10. RSEB	169.60	27.73

** Avg. Cost of Thermal and Gas.

The estimated average cost of hydel and thermal power generation for the year 1997-98 for the above 10 SEBs taken together is of the order of 44 P/kwh and 154 P/Kwh, respectively.

[English]

Militancy and Terrorist Activities In J & K

1077. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether militancy and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir by Pak-terrorists and mercenaries have increased with the advent of the military rule in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the comparative figures of incidents of militancy during preceding and following the imposition of military rule in that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) and (b) There have been continued efforts on the part of Pak ISI and Pro-Pak militant outfits to induct more mercenaries from across the border into J&K with a view to escalate violence.

The monthwise details of terrorist related violent incidents. Security Force personnel killed, terrorists killed and Civilians killed from May 1999 onwards are as below :

	Year 1999						
	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov. (Upto 15th)
No. of incidents	220	244	292	323	438	258	110
No. of SF personnel killed	24	26	22	70	28	18	31
No. of terrorists killed	94	58	68	114	145	127	56
No. of civilian killed	73	81	102	86	80	57	20

Action Against Corrupt Delhi Police Officials

1078. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Police officials in Delhi have accumulated wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income;

(b) if so, whether the Government have inquired into the same;

(c) If so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (d) There have been some isolated cases in which individual Police officials are alleged to have acquired assets disproportionate to their known sources of income. These cases have been put to trial or are at various stages of investigation. The officials found guilty are liable to punitive action as per law.

[Translation]

Programme for Improvement of NHS

1079. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any comprehensive programme for the improvement of National Highways on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Ministry have sent any proposal to Ministry of Finance to enhance the amount for the Central Road Fund;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the response of the Finance Ministry therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A programme for special repairs has been lunched for resurfacing of 1/5th of National Highway length every year to improve road conditions. The NHs falling on the alignment of Golden Quadrangle connecting the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta and North-South and East-West corridors from Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silcher to Saurashtra respectively and also the Salem Cochin's Highway will be upgraded to 4/6 lane facility subject to availability of adequate funds.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) Cess of Re one per litre on petrol and half the cess of Re one per litre on diesel is to accrue to this fund. Ministry of Finance have agreed for the same in principle.

[English]

Works Entrusted To Border Roads Organisation

1080. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the State Governments have offered/entrusted works to Border Roads Organisation; and

(b) if so, the details of the works entrusted to the Border Roads Organisation by different States during the last three years, State-wise and likely schedule for completion thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Details of works offered/entrusted to Border Roads organisation by State Government are not available with this Ministry as the Ministry of Surface Transport is primarily concerned with National Highways only.

[Translation]

Cost Escalation Due to Delay in Construction of Power Projects

1081. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is cost escalation due to delay in construction of many power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such projects which have been under construction for more than five years;

(c) the extent to which the construction cost have increased from their original cost of construction till date; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check further delay in the construction of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement giving name of the project, capacity, original cost, latest actual cost and percentage cost escalation is enclosed. The following steps are being taken to check further delay in construction of these projects :

1. Review meetings are held with project authorities for identifying bottlenecks and taking corrective measures.
2. Visits are made by MOP and CEA officers to the various projects under construction and various

bottlenecks are identified and solutions thereof are decided in consultation with the project authorities.

3. High level meetings are held for major projects with the state authorities.
4. Meetings are held with major equipment suppliers and other major contractors executing the major works of dam, head race tunnel, power houses etc. , for solving the major constraints delaying the execution of projects.
5. Detailed investigation are being carried out before the project is taken for execution to minimise delays etc. at the time of actual execution of projects.
6. Steps are being taken for tying up allocation of necessary funds before commencement of the project execution so that there is no delay in project execution during construction.
7. Efforts are being made to minimise contractual problems to avoid delays in project execution.

Separately, to incentivise early completion of on going projects, Government of India has launched a scheme in 1997-98 called the Acceleration Generation and Supply Programme. Under this scheme funds are provided to power utilities on subsidised interest rates for on-going thermal generating schemes which can be completed by March 2002 and hydel projects which can be completed by March 2004.

Statement

Cost Escalation due to delay in Construction of Power Projects

Name of the Project	Original Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Latest Actual Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Cost Esc. (%)
1	2	3	4
Thermal			
1. Khaperkheda Extn. St.II U-3 & 4 (2 x 210 MW) - MSEB	454.42	1545.00	239.99
2. Sanjaygandhi Extn U-3 & 4 (2 x 210 MW) - MPEB	493.00	980.00	98.78
3. Suratgarh U-1 & 2 (2 x 250 MW) - RSEB	1253.31	2282.49	82.12
4. Panipat St. IV U-6 (210 MW) HPG Corporation Ltd.	238.27	854.30	258.54
5. Bakreshwar U-1, 2 & 3 (3 x 210 MW) WBPDC	1921.22	2694.14	40.23
6. Talcher St. II U-1 to 4 (4 x 500 MW) -NTPC	6532.61	6665.22	2.03
7. Anguri CCGT GT 1 to 8 and ST 1 to 4 (12 x 30 MW) - ASEB	408.25	1200.00	193.94
Hydro			
8. Rangit H.E. Project (3 x 20 MW) - NHPC	163.49	361.86	121.33.8A
Dulhasti HEP (3 x 130 MW) - NHPC	1262.97	3559.77	181.86

1	2	3	4	
Hydro (Contd.)				
9.	Dhauliganga HEP (4 x 70 MW) NHPC	601.98	1881.49	212.55
10.	Koel-Karo HEP (710 MW) NHPC	1286.22	2917.05	126.79
11.	Nathpa Jhakri HEP (6 x 250 MW) NJPC	1678.02	7666.31	356.87
12.	Ranganadi HEP (3 x 135 MW) NEEPCO	312.78	1479.63	373.06
13.	Doyang HEP (3 x 25 MW) NEEPCO	166.66	758.70	355.24
14.	Kopili St. II (1 x 25 MW) NEEPCO	76.09	76.09	0.00
15.	Tehri HEP (4 x 250 MW) THDC	3391.40	5678.09	67.43
16.	Ghanvi (2 x 11.25 MW) HPSEB	28.32	94.64	234.18
17.	Largi (3 x 42 MW) HPSEB	168.85	689.06	308.09
18.	Uhl - III (2 x 50 MW)	713.00	713.00	0.00
19A.	Upper Sindh II (2 x 35 MW) J & K PDC	76.46	302.00	294.98
19B.	Upper Sindh Extn. (1 x 35 MW) J & K PDC	20.69	42.27	104.30
20.	Sewa St. III (3 x 3 MW) J & K PDC	16.92	60.00	254.61
21.	Chenani III (3 x 2.5 MW) J & K PDC	20.92	46.23	120.98
22.	Ranjit Sagar (4 x 150 MW) PIB/PSEB	760.00	3032.00	298.95
23.	Shahpurkandi (168 MW) PIW/PSEB	895.08	1310.00	46.36
24.	Lakhwar Vyasi (420 MW) UPSEB/UPID	140.97	1446.00	925.75
25.	Maneri Bhall II (4 x 76 MW) UPSEB/UPID (3 X 52 MW)	82.63	824.00	897.22
26.	Srinagar (5 x 66 MW)	372.32	1270.63	241.27
27.	Katapather	27.58	27.58	0.00
28.	Jakhm (2 x 2.5 MW) RSEB	12.93	43.00	232.56
29.	Sardar Sarovar HEP (1450 MW) SSNNL	1551.86	3248.77	109.35
30.	Bansagar Tons Ph. II & III (90 MW) MPEB	301.17	895.44	197.32
31.	Bansagar Tons Ph. IV (20 MW) MPEB	41.88	80.93	93.24
32.	Indra Sagar (1000 MW) NVDA	1163.12	2325.70	99.95
33.	Koyna St. IV (4 X 250 MW) Govt. Mah.	378.76	1140.86	201.21
34.	Ghatghat PSS (250 MW) ID/Govt. Mah.	485.96	830.00	70.80
35.	Bhivpuri PSS (90 MW) Tata Ele. Corp.	89.10	89.10	0.00
36.	Srisaillam LB HEP (6 X 150 MW) APGENCO	418.00	2324.55	456.11
37.	Singur HE Scheme (15 MW) APGENCO	24.45	40.58	65.97
38.	Brindavan HEP (12 MW) Karnataka PCL	15.23	51.24	236.44
39.	Sharavathy TR (4 X 60 MW) Karnataka PCL	160.59	408.57	154.42
40.	Malankara HEP (3 x 3.5 MW) Kerala SEB	7.80	41.57	432.95
41.	Kuttiyadi TR (3 X 1.25 MW) Kerala SEB	3.97	13.38	237.03
42.	Kuttiyadi Extn. HEP (1 x 50 MW) Kerala SEB	33.33	113.71	241.16

1	2	3	4	
43.	Parson's Valley (30 MW) TNEB	13.73	98.12	614.64
44.	Pykara Ultimate (3 x 50 MW) TNEB	70.16	373.06	431.73
45.	Chandil (2 x 4 MW) Bihar HPC	12.95	32.49	150.89
46.	North Koel (2 x 12 MW) Bihar HPC	21.94	47.34	115.77
47.	Upper Indravati (4 x 150 MW) Orissa HPC	130.49	875.42	570.87
48.	Potteru (6 MW) Orissa HPC	5.46	18.83	244.87
49.	Balimela Extn. (2 x 75 MW) Orissa HPC	90.75	229.50	152.89
50.	Balimela Dam Toe (2 x 30 MW) Orissa PCL	17.17	69.30	303.61
51.	Rammam St. I (36 MW) WBSEB	77.00	176.59	129.34
52.	Purulia PSS (4 x 225 MW) WBSEB	1456.56	3188.90	118.93
53.	Karbi Langpi (2 x 50 MW) Assam SEB	36.36	288.37	693.10
54.	Dhansiri (5 x 3 x 1.33) Assam SEB	10.53	71.89	582.72
55.	Likun - Ro (24 MW)	33.84	186.59	451.39
56.	Baspa II (300 MW) (Pvt.) M/s JHPL	949.23	949.23	0.00
57.	Boothathankettu (16 MW) Kerala (Pvt.)	32.83	35.65	8.59

[English]

Privatisation of Power Generation and Distribution

1082. SHRI SADASHIVARO DADOBA MANDLIK :
DR. V. SAROJA :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made with regard to handing over the work of generation and distribution of power to the private sector by the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Electricity Boards have been incurring heavy losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa has divested its stake in the Orissa Power Generation Corporation to the extent of 49% in favour of a private sector entity. Apart from this some of the State Govts. such as Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are allowing private sector to

establish new generation projects in their states. As regards distribution Orissa is the only state which has privatised the entire distribution system. Uttar Pradesh has privatised distribution in Greater Noida. Other states like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh plan to privatise their distribution system.

(c) Yes, Sir, most of the SEBs are incurring heavy losses.

(d) State-wise surplus/deficit of the SEBs during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in enclosed Statement I and II. The accounts for the year 1998-99 from most of the SEBs have not been received.

Statement-I

Statement indicating the surplus/deficit of the SEBs during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 with subsidy as booked in the accounts for the years.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	SEB	With Subsidy		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	APSEB	131	129	122
2.	ASEB	-116	-359	-387 *
3.	BSEB	-28	-327	-327 *

1	2	3	4	5
4.	GEB	108	110	119 *
5.	HPSEB	36	25	29
6.	HSEB	78	48	20
7.	KEB	51	54	58
8.	KSEB	23	24	25
9.	MESEB	-13	-34	43
10.	MPEB	134	127	123
11.	MSEB	350	347	342
12.	OSEB	27	N.A.	N.A.
13.	PSEB	143	108	49
14.	RSEB	81	63	65
15.	TNEB	339	330	-68
16.	UPSEB	22	171	292
17.	WBSEB	17	18	20

*Un audited

Statement-II

Statement indicating the surplus/deficit of the SEBs during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 without subsidy as booked in the accounts for the years

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	SEB	With Subsidy		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	APSEB	-1129	-721	-1134
2.	ASEB	-261	-411	-440 *
3.	BSEB	-28	-819	-225 *
4.	GEB	-1003	-1070	-1274 *
5.	HPSEB	36	25	29
6.	HSEB	-537	-594	-713
7.	KEB	-499	-652	-322
8.	KSEB	-30	-254	-297
9.	MESEB	-22	-42	-52
10.	MPEB	-458	-470	-753
11.	MSEB	-280	88	37

1	2	3	4	5
12.	OSEB**	-231	-231	N.A.
13.	PSEB	-326	-296	-555
14.	RSEB	-344	-500	-640
15.	TNEB	-76	-257	-318
16.	UPSEB	-1495	-1386	-1548
17.	WBSEB	-64	-227	-164

* Un audited

** Provisional

Law and Order Situation in Metropolitan Cities

1083.SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the law and order situation is deteriorating and crimes are on the rise in the country particularly in Delhi and other Metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last six months, till-date, State-wise and crime-wise;

(c) whether the Centre has the responsibility under the Constitution to protect States against internal rebellion and situation of gross public disorder; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to keep constant vigil/monitoring on ground realities in the entire country to fulfil their constitutional obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) . Despite some areas of concern, the law and order situation in the country is under control. The major concerns centre around Pak-sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, interlinked and externally supported subversive activities of militant groups in the North-East and the violence perpetrated by the Left Wing Extremist groups.

The law and order situation in Delhi remained normal. The crime situation has also been under control and showed a declining trend during the current year. A total of 49,137 IPC cases were registered during the period from 1.1.1999 to 31.10.1999 as against 52516 cases registered during the corresponding period of 1998 showing an overall decline of 6.43%.

(b) Public Order and Police are State subjects and maintenance of law and order is the primary responsibility of the concerned State Governments, the crime records/ statistics etc. are maintained by the concerned State Governments.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Government keeps a close watch on the developments in the internal security scenario of the country, with a view to taking appropriate remedial measures wherever necessary.

Construction of Drain and Bridge at Chowkighat

1084. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to augment the National Highway passing through Dhekiajuli Town by the construction of drain on its both sides and construction of a bridge at Chowkighat;

(b) if so, the details and cost of the project; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same so far and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal for construction of drain through Dhekiajuli Town on both sides of National Highway. However, there is a proposal for construction of bridge over river Jiabharali at Chowkighat with a length of about 2298 m flanked with Guide bunds and approaches including realignment of NH-52 from NH-37A to Jamuguri via Chowkighat. Cost has not been estimated as the river has changed its course.

Ranjit Hydro-Electric Power Project in Sikkim

1085. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ranjit Hydro-Electric Power Project in Sikkim has been commissioned;

(b) if so, the date on which it was commissioned and the total amount incurred thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Rangit Hydro-Electric Project (3x20 MW) in Sikkim is under execution by the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation (NHPC), in the Central Sector. The total expenditure incurred on the Project till October 1999 is Rs. 419.85 crores. The Project is now expected to be commissioned during 1999-2000. The Project has been delayed due to unprecedented floods, slow progress of works because of contractual problems, Gorkha National Liberation Front

(GNLF) 'Bundhs', poor geological strata and the collapse of the Rishi Khola Bridge on the Sikkim State PWD Road en-route the Project site.

Review of CRZ Notification

1086. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to review the Coastal Regulations Zone (CRZ) notification;

(b) If so, the steps taken in this direction;

(c) whether World Bank assistance has been sought for better management of Coastal Areas; and

(d) the other steps being taken for the proper and better disaster management in the Coastal areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Taking into account the difficulties faced by the coastal States and the Union Territories regarding implementation of certain provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991, a draft amendment to the CRZ Notification has been issued vide S.O. 629 (E) dated 5th August, 1999.

(c) Assistance from World Bank has been sought for preparing integrated coastal zone management plans for some selected coastal stretches.

(d) To minimise environmental damage, loss of life and property due to natural calamities such as cyclones, the work programme proposed includes the following :

(i) Plantation in coastal areas by rehabilitation of mangroves, coastal shelter belt Plantation, plantation in private and vacant land.

(ii) Avenue and city plantations.

(iii) Restocking of forest areas.

Marketing of LPG in Towns and Cities

1087. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Public Sector Oil Companies have concentrated for marketing of LPG in cities and towns so far and left out rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to direct the oil companies to formulate policies for marketing of LPG in the rural areas of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (c) In order to increase the penetration of LPG in rural areas, PSU Oil Companies have been advised to prepare new LPG Marketing Plan to cover the following :

- (i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 kms.
- (ii) Urban locations having population of 5000 and above surveyed for setting up a distributorship and the viability to be ascertained by taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 kms. Radius.
- (iii) Cluster of villages within 15 kms. Radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 (ten thousand) and above, surveyed for setting up rural distributorship and included in the plan depending upon the viability.
- (iv) Villages with 15 kms. Radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above to be surveyed for opening of rural distributorship.

Chaukzya Irrigation Scheme

1088.SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the environmental approval has been given to the Chaukzya Irrigation scheme in Dangs District of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which approval of the Scheme is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Proposal for Chaukzya Irrigation Scheme for environment clearance has not been received from State Government of Gujarat.

However, a proposal for diversion of 122.50 hectares of forest land for Chaukia Irrigation scheme in district Dangs of Gujarat received from State Government of Gujarat under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 29.11.1999 is under consideration with the Ministry.

Bill on Amendment In Section 125 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

1089.DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had proposed to amend section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 with a view to increase the maintenance allowance, fixed many years ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be amended; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the depreciation of value of money, section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has been proposed to be amended to enhance the maximum limit for payment of maintenance allowance from Rs. 500/- per month to Rs. 1, 500/- per month vide clause 17 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 which was introduced in Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 1994 and is at present pending for consideration and passing.

Subsidy on LPG

1090.SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) whether there are any proposal to withdraw subsidy being given on LPG and other Petroleum products to consumers in the near future;

(b) if so, to what extent the subsidy is likely to be withdrawn; and

(c) the likely impact on poor people of the withdrawal of subsidy on Petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (c) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG (Domestic) and SKO (PDS) will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% and 33.33% of the import parity price by 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

Telephone Connections by Private Basic Telecom Operators

1091.SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections given by the private Basic Telecom Operators during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections given by DOT or MTNL during the same period; and

(c) the expected period for achieving the aim of telephone on demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The service by Private basic telecom operators has been started in three telecom circles namely Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The expected period of achieving the target of telephone on demand is by the end of 9th five year plan.

Statement

Number of Telephone Connections given by the Private Basic Telecom operators and DOT/MTNL in the Last Three Years Statewise

Name of the Circle	Telephone Connections Provided by Private Telecom Operator	Telephone Connections Provided by DOT/MTNL (From 1996-97 to 1998-99)
Madhya Pradesh	42260 (from 4.6.98 to 31.10.99)	318585
Maharashtra	15929 (from 30.10.98 to 31.10.99)	1471830
Andhra Pradesh	8525 (from 31.3.99 to 31.10.99)	975073

Modernisation of Delhi Police

1092.SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernise the Delhi Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated amount to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (d) The modernisation of the Police Force in Delhi is a continuing process. As a part of this exercise,

several measures were taken in recent months to strengthen and modernise Delhi Police, which included the following :

- (i) A state-of-the-art UHF Digital Trunked Radio System was procured for Delhi Police at a cost of approximately Rs. 14.21 crores as a replacement for the existing VHF-based communication network between the Central Police Control Room and the PCR Vans;
- (ii) An order has been placed for procurement of "Area Traffic Control System" at a cost of approximately Rs. 3.69 crores for installation at 47 selected traffic points. The installation of this system will help reduce journey time and bring about improvement in traffic flow; and
- (iii) Consequent upon the upgradation of Police Training school at Jaroda Kalan to Police Training College, Delhi Police has installed a Firing Simulator at a cost of about Rs. 58.48 lakhs, a Multi Media Projector at an estimated cost of Rs. 81.81 lakhs and a Computer Lab at a cost of Rs. 22 lakhs to serve as modern training aids for the benefit of the trainees.

Besides, the Bureau of Police Research and Development has been assigned the task of, inter-alia, evaluating the adequacy of equipment and infrastructure available with Delhi Police and make recommendations about its upgradation, replacement and modification, etc.

Crime Detection Rate

1093.SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether crime detection rate is low in several parts of the country including Delhi and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) Available information in this regard is given in the enclosed Statements I and II.

(c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

Statement-I

Crime Detection Rate

Disposal of IPC cases by Police during 1998 (State and UT-Wise)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total No. of cases for investigation including pending cases	No. of cases in which Investigation was completed					No. of cases Pending Investigation	Pendency Percentage	Percentage of Pendency to all India Total	Charge Sheet Rate ((col.7)/(col.6+7) x 100)
			Investigation was refused	Charge found false/ Mistake of fact or Law etc.	Final Report true submitted	Charge Sheets were submitted	Total {(5) + (6) + (7)}				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
States :											
1.	Andhra Pr.	167641	407	15280	14782	95714	125776	41458	24.7	7.6	86.6
2.	Arunachal Pr.	2461	0	1	632	1122	1755	706	28.7	.1	64.0
3.	Assam	75267	49	3379	12945	15965	32289	42929	57.0	7.9	55.2
4.	Bihar	179749	11	5347	29789	83051	118187	61551	34.2	11.3	73.6
5.	Goa	4083	5	4	1680	1698	3382	696	17.0	.1	50.3
6.	Gujarat	144261	245	3582	28175	98893	128650	15366	10.7	2.8	79.1
7.	Haryana	45172	58	1722	7672	26210	35604	9510	21.1	1.8	77.4
8.	Himachal Pr.	13552	0	1116	1403	7977	10496	3056	22.6	.6	85.0
9.	J & K	23309	0	2243	4323	10848	17414	5895	25.3	1.1	71.5
10.	Karnataka	143769	3971	5753	23204	74900	103857	35941	25.0	6.6	76.3
11.	Kerala	116619	952	6858	8046	77816	92720	22947	19.7	4.2	90.6
12.	Madhya Pr.	211435	693	1051	39215	158955	199221	11521	5.4	2.1	80.2
13.	Maharashtra	228517	63	1757	52868	122239	176864	51590	22.6	9.5	69.8
14.	Manipur	6790	76	0	2255	79	2334	4380	64.5	.8	3.4
15.	Meghalaya	3501	0	18	657	759	1434	2067	59.0	.4	53.6
16.	Mizoram	6070	0	0	319	1914	2233	3837	63.2	.7	85.1
17.	Nagaland	2697	1	0	537	605	1142	1554	57.6	.3	53.1
18.	Orissa	65528	116	2322	7194	43701	53217	12195	18.6	2.2	85.2
19.	Punjab	23489	83	833	2542	11950	15325	8081	34.4	1.5	82.5
20.	Rajasthan	174610	84	36002	25941	106442	168385	6141	3.5	1.1	80.4
21.	Sikkim	734	0	1	173	204	378	356	48.5	.1	54.1
22.	Tamil Nadu	195624	2135	14913	13154	123661	151728	41761	21.3	7.7	90.4
23.	Tripura	5269	50	13	1853	1804	3670	1549	29.4	.3	49.3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	211175	10	15061	51381	119448	185890	25275	12.0	4.7	69.9
25.	West Bengal	99838	3	762	26073	32849	59684	40151	40.2	7.4	55.7
Total (States)		2151160	9012	118018	354813	1218804	1691635	450513	20.9	83.1	77.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Union Territories											
26. A & N Islands		812	0	0	143	286	429	383	47.2	.1	66.7
27. Chandigarh		2726	0	60	878	802	1740	986	36.2	.2	47.7
28. D. & N. Haveli		604	0	5	119	273	397	207	34.3	.0	69.6
29. Daman & Diu		420	0	0	142	201	343	77	18.3	.0	58.6
30. Delhi		145925	0	731	6711	48502	55944	89981	61.7	16.6	87.8
31. Lakshadweep		95	0	0	25	9	34	61	64.2	.0	26.5
32. Pondicherry		2736	0	33	321	2245	2599	137	5.0	.0	87.5
Total (UTs)		153318	0	829	8339	52318	61486	91832	59.9	16.9	86.3
Total (All India)		2304478	9012	118847	363152	1271122	1753121	542345	23.5	100.0	77.8

Statement-II*Crime Detection Rate**Disposal of SLL cases by Police during 1998 (State and UT-Wise)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total No. of cases for Investigation including pending cases	No. of cases in which Investigation was completed				No. of cases Pending Investigation	Pendency Percentage	Percentage of Pendency to all India Total	Charge Sheet Rate	
			Investigation was refused	Charge found false/ Mistake of fact or Law etc.	Final Report true submitted	Charge Sheets were submitted					Total ((5) + (6) + (7))
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
States :											
1.	Andhra Pr.	310221	73	644	14389	283334	298367	11761	3.8	1.8	95.2
2.	Arunachal Pr.	90	0	0	21	41	62	28	31.1	.0	66.1
3.	Assam	8659	0	145	1034	1932	3111	5548	64.1	.9	65.1
4.	Bihar	14872	31	471	859	8563	9893	4948	33.3	.8	90.9
5.	Goa	843	0	0	57	730	787	56	6.6	.0	92.8
6.	Gujarat	162836	51	172	568	137386	138126	24659	15.1	3.9	99.6
7.	Haryana	48718	27	287	1287	40933	42507	6184	12.7	1.0	97.0
8.	Himachal Pr.	5424	0	68	80	3920	4068	1356	25.0	.2	98.0
9.	J & K	6512	0	68	1205	2379	3652	2860	43.9	.4	66.4
10.	Karnataka	1852996	2238	843	5611	1421964	1428418	422340	22.8	66.3	99.6
11.	Kerala	20096	192	367	664	13607	14638	5266	26.2	.8	95.3
12.	Madhya Pr.	246367	7	35	374	231411	231820	14540	5.9	2.3	99.8
13.	Maharashtra	364445	2063	151	6217	334014	340382	22000	6.0	3.5	98.2
14.	Manipur	1725	34	0	401	147	548	1143	66.3	.2	26.8
15.	Meghalaya	343	0	0	14	125	139	204	59.5	.0	89.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16. Mizoram		1528	0	0	2	1247	1249	279	18.3	.0	99.8
17. Nagaland		1001	0	0	74	495	589	432	43.2	.1	87.0
18. Orissa		4910	0	81	149	4038	4268	642	13.1	.1	96.4
19. Punjab		27865	2	59	255	20452	20766	7097	25.5	1.1	98.8
20. Rajasthan		22424	25	3122	343	18001	21466	933	4.2	.1	98.1
21. Sikkim		827	0	0	0	820	820	7	.8	.0	100.0
22. Tamil Nadu		740951	34356	46781	31979	566095	644855	71740	9.7	11.3	94.7
23. Tripura		3512	0	0	0	3423	3431	81	2.3	.0	99.8
24. Uttar Pradesh		417282	16	865	4726	403075	408666	8600	2.1	1.3	98.8
25. West Bengal		783537	0	0	1583	768492	770075	13462	1.7	2.1	99.8
Total (States)		5047984	29115	54159	71900	4266624	4392683	626186	12.4	98.2	98.3

Union Territories :

26. A & N Islands		2750	0	0	2	2627	2629	121	4.4	.0	99.9
27. Chandigarh		353	0	6	1	227	234	119	33.7	.0	99.8
28. D. & N. Haveli		19	0	0	1	12	13	6	31.6	.0	92.3
29. Daman & Diu		17	0	0	0	5	5	12	70.6	.0	100.0
30. Delhi		21601	0	19	22	10723	10764	10837	50.2	1.7	99.8
31. Lakshadweep		4	0	0	1	2	3	1	25.0	.0	66.7
32. Pondicherry		2865	0	3	11	2788	2802	63	2.2	.0	99.6
Total (UTS)		27609	0	28	38	16384	16450	11159	40.4	1.8	99.8
Total (All India)		5075593	29115	54187	71938	4283009	4409133	637345	12.6	100.0	98.3

**National Highways Affected
by Natural Calamities**

1094. SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways affected by the natural calamities in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) whether the condition of National Highways in these States is very bad;

(c) if so, the total expenditure involved in repairing these Highways during the last three years;

(d) the total fund allocated by Union Government to the State Governments for this purpose during 1999-2000; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for the upkeep of the National Highways?

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

(a) All the National Highways in the three States were damaged in natural calamities.

(b) No sir,

(c) Details are as follows :

State	Rs in crores
West Bengal	34.49
Orissa	12.25
Andhra Pradesh	19.04
Total	65.78

(d) State	Rs in crores
West Bengal	16.0000
Orissa	10.0000
Andhra Pradesh	4.9826
Total	30.9826

(e) National Highways are maintained in traffic worthy condition by regular maintenance and repair.

Automatic Digital Telephone Exchanges

1095. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the Automatic Digital Telephone Exchanges functioning in the country particularly in Bihar State, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the number of villages proposed to be connected with telephones and the such exchanges proposed to be set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The digital telephone exchanges functioning in the country and in Bihar are 25161 and 901 respectively. The state-wise and Union Territory-wise information is given in Statement-I and II respectively.

(b) (i) 339659 villages are to be provided with telephone facilities during the Ninth Plan period.

(ii) The plans for setting up rural telephone exchanges for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 have not yet been finalised. For the remaining years, the achievements are given below :

1997-98	=	415
1998-99	=	928
1999-2000	=	296 (as on 30-9-99)
(Target for 1999-2000 = 2000)		

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of State	Nos. of automatic digital telephone exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2123
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	81
3.	Assam	359
4.	Bihar	901
5.	Delhi	186
6.	Goa	70

1	2	3
7.	Gujarat	1580
8.	Haryana	852
9.	Himachal Pradesh	651
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	265
11.	Karnataka	2258
12.	Kerala	846
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2791
14.	Maharashtra	3150
15.	Manipur	33
16.	Meghalaya	54
17.	Mizoram	46
18.	Nagaland	37
19.	Orissa	802
20.	Punjab	1106
21.	Rajasthan	1806
22.	Sikkim	36
23.	Tamil Nadu	1617
24.	Tripura	55
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2402
26.	West Bengal	991
Total		25078

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of Union Territory	Nos. of automatic digital telephone exchanges
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	31
2.	Chandigarh	11
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6
4.	Daman & Diu	3
5.	Lakshadweep	10
6.	Pondicherry	22
Total		83

[Translation]

Decline in Telephone Services

1096. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is continuous decline in the quality of telephone services and the behaviour of the staff of the Department;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by Government to improve the quality of telephone services ;

(c) the details of the scheme in regard to the requirement of staff and mobilising resources for the maintenance of telephone services in comparison to expansion of the telephone network; and

(d) the reasons for not achieving desired improvement in telephone services after the formation of TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above. However, efforts are being made to further improve the services by taking following steps :

- (i) The electro-mechanical exchanges are being replaced by electronic exchanges.
- (ii) The reliable transmission media is being provided in a phased manner to exchanges which are connected by over head lines.
- (iii) Fault repair services are being computerised.
- (iv) Opening of more and more RLU/RSU for reducing the service areas of the exchange; and corresponding reduction in cable laying.
- (v) Upgradation of outdoor plant.
- (vi) Customer interface training to Operators and line staff.

(c) Limited recruitment has been permitted in the cadre of TTA and Driver recently. A Committee has already been constituted to examine the issue of staff shortage in Punjab, Haryana and UP (W) Circles where the staff shortage is more acute and staff telephone ratio is below the All India average.

(d) The Telecom services are steadily improving every year. Close monitoring and review of the performance in this regard is being done at all levels for further improving the performance.

[English]

Forest Fires

1097. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the damage caused by forest fire in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared, as to avoid the forest fires especially in the hill areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save the flora and fauna in the hill region from the devastating forest fires?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) It has been estimated by Forest Survey of India that a forest area of about 3.73 million ha. of the country is affected annually by forest fires and annual loss due to forest fires has been estimated to be atleast Rs. 440 crores.

(b) The responsibility of forest fire prevention and control lies with the state Governments. The details of forest fire affected areas for the three hilly states where significant fire damage was reported is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) A scheme "Modern Forest Fire Control Methods" is under implementation in 11 states of the country viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, under which assistance is provided to the state governments for fire prevention and control activities. During 9th Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 15 crore has been approved by Planning Commission under this scheme. To prevent and control forest fires especially in the hilly areas, project proposals for the states of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Haryana were prepared by the state governments and Planning Commission has approved additional central assistance of Rs. 15 crores to these states during 1999-2000.

Statement

Area affected by forest fires for the states where significant fire damage was there during last three years

(In ha.)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Year		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Himachal Pradesh	2621	558	5491
2.	Uttar Pradesh	5865	29964	3392
3.	Sikkim	2300	2550	-

Introduction of Cellular Telephone Facility by DOT

1098. SHRI RAJALAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Cellular Telephone facility by the DOT in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the proposed tariff structure and the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) There is a proposal to provide Cellular Telephone Facility as a Pilot Project in following major cities of Andhra Pradesh

1. Hyderabad
2. Vijayawada
3. Tirupati
4. Guntur
5. Vishakapatnam
6. Warangal

Based on the experience gained and determination of economic parameters and cost details etc., the case for wider introduction of Cellular Service shall be considered.

The tariff structure for the proposed service is being considered. The proposed service is likely to be introduced during the next financial year.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts

1099.DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts T.T.A. lying vacant in all circles of the country and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in Delhi and Mumbai as on November 30, 1999 and since when;

(b) whether the Department has framed the rules for recruitment for the post of T.T.A.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for not initiating action by the Department to fill up these vacancies so far as per the said rules; and

(e) the time by which the Government propose to fill up the vacancies of T.T.A. in various circles and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in Delhi and Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Informa-

tion from field units has been sought for and receipt of data is likely to take time. The same shall be provided on receipt from filed units.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Principal Recruitment Rules for Telecom Technical Assistants were framed and published in Gazette of India on 31-7-1991 and amended subsequently from time to time. Last amendment made was on 26-10-1999.

(d) Recruitment for Telecom Technical Assistant is being done regularly as per Recruitment Rules. Last exam to fill up Technical Assistant posts was conducted between 1-1-1999 to 15-1-1999 in various Circles/Secondary switching Areas.

(e) Recruitment is a continuous process and Telecom Technical Assistant is a Secondary Switching Areas Cadre. All efforts are being made to fill up Telecom Technical Assistant vacancies at the earliest.

[English]

Pager Industry

1100.SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pager industry introduced few years back is suffering huge losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive this industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, the Paging Service Industry has reported about poor financial Viability of the projects.

(c) some of the major steps taken by the Government are :

(i) The licences have been made assignable/transferable to facilitate funding of private telecom projects.

(ii) Import duty on infrastructure equipment for Paging industry is allowed at concessional rate of custom duty.

(iii) Licence fee paid by teleocm service providers is eligible for amortisation for tax purposes.

(iv) Telecom services companies enjoy 100 percent tax holiday for a period of five years and 30% for further period of five years during the first 15 years from commencement of business.

- (v) Rental on Paging service have been permitted to be enhanced w.e.f. 1.4.99.

Non-Delivery of Money Orders

1101. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the cases of non-delivery, missing of money orders are on the increase in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases noticed during 1998-99 till date; and
- (c) the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The number of complaints relating to non-Delivery, missing of money orders, received during 1998-99 till the quarter ending 30.9.99 are as under :

Period	Number of complaints received for non-delivery and missing of money orders
1.4.98 to 31.3.99	77,373
1.4.99 to 30.9.99	25,973

The complaints received show a decreasing trend, an account of the steps taken by the Department to reduce the instances of public complaints is indicated below :

- (i) Transmission of money orders through V. SAT has been introduced with a view to expedite the same. An upgraded software version 3.0 has been installed to have faster and fault free transmission of money orders.
- (ii) On receipt of a complaint about missing/non-payment of money order, an enquiry note is issued immediately. A duplicate money order is issued if no reply is received within 10 days of issue of the enquiry note.
- (iii) Instructions are issued from time to time to attend to the complaints with utmost priority and attention. All the money orders valuing over Rs. 400/- are sent duly invoiced. Prescribed percentage of money orders paid are checked by the field staff.
- (iv) Time norms have been prescribed for the disposal of complaints.
- (v) Periodic drives are also launched to expedite settlement of public complaints.

- (vi) Suitable disciplinary action is initiated against the officials found responsible for the loss/non-payment of money orders.

[Translation]

Revision of Voters Lists

1102. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Election Commission have recently decided to prepare a fresh voters' lists in the different States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this task is to be undertaken in all the States;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time to be taken for the completion of this task?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has ordered the *summary revision* of electoral rolls with reference to 1.1.2000 as the qualifying date in respect of all these States and Union Territories except Jammu & Kashmir and Orissa. In Jammu and Kashmir, the work cannot be taken up at present due to winter season and the State of Orissa has been exempted from current round of summary revision due to devastation caused by the Super Cyclone.

- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The electoral rolls will be finally published on 7th January, 2000.

[English]

Building for New Telephone Exchanges by Private Investors

1103. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided to handover the task of construction of building for new telephone exchanges in the rural areas to private investors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have formulated any policy in the regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Commission for Indian Languages

1104. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for setting up a Commission for Indian Languages is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the time by which the said commission is likely to be set up;

(c) whether the said commission would also consider to protect tribal languages in addition to the Indian languages; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Proposal is under consideration.

[English]

Debarring the Indian Citizens of Foreign Origin from Contesting for High Offices

1105. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to debar Indian citizen of foreign origin for contesting for high offices in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposed legislation is likely to be brought forward; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since no such specific proposal is under consideration of this Ministry, the question of its detail does

not arise. The idea has been mooted by some of the important functionaries of political parties and a public debate is going on the subject. When the idea crystallises and some consensus emerges, the Government will consider how to implement it by legislation.

Ban on Exit Polls

1106. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to ban the exit polls;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Dual Citizenship To NRIs

1107. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant dual citizenship to Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected level of foreign exchange earnings through passport fees and service charges etc. from NRIs who are foreign citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Compensation in the Cases of Road Accidents

1108. SHRI AMIR ALAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether inordinate delay is taking place in the grant of compensation to the victims of road accidents;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases of road accidents laying pending in the country as on date; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government for the early disposal of these cases?

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

(a) to (d) Under the provision of Section 165 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, State Governments are empowered to constitute one or more Motor Accident Claims Tribunals. The claims for compensation to road accident victims are processed by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunals in accordance with the provisions of Section 168 and 169 of said Act and the relevant rules of different State Governments. The claims are filed in various courts through out the country and no such data is compiled.

With a view to expedite settlement of Claims, Government from time to time requests the State Governments to make appropriate arrangements for early settlement of such claims.

[English]

Price of LPG

1109. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present price of LPG in the world market and its cost in India after adding freight charges etc;

(b) the price at which Government are supplying it to the consumers in the country;

(c) the manner in which the gap between the price of LPG in the world market and in India is proposed to be bridged;

(d) whether the Government propose to bridge this gap;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) With effect from 1.4.98, the oil refining companies in India are paid the import parity price for controlled petroleum products including LPG

(Domestic). The import parity price for the month of November'99 was Rs. 12846.98/MT. The estimated cost after adding filling charges, marketing margins, cylinder depreciation and return, cylinder repair and maintenance, freight under-recoveries and other costs works out to about Rs. 18787.55/MT (excluding duty etc.). As against this, the current ex-storage point price for the consumer (excluding duty etc.) is Rs. 8732.87/MT.

(c) to (e) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% of the import parity price by 2000-01. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

(f) Does not arise.

Rural Electrification In the Country

1110. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAOTALA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the programme for rural electrification in the country during each of the next three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The financial outlays as well as physical programme for the rural electrification works in the country State-wise are decided by the Planning Commission on annual basis keeping in view the financial resources and other inputs. The Planning Commission has not yet finalised the rural Electrification programme for the current as well as for the next three years. However, Rural Electrification Corporation has drawn up programme for funds allocation, electrification of villages and pumpset energisation during the year 1999-2000. State-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Statewise Funds Allocation and Physical Targets Proposed under REC Programmes for the year 1999-2000

Sl.No.	States	Financial Allocation (Rs. in Lakhs)			Physical Targets (Nos.)		
		Funds Allocations (Loan)	Kutir Jyoti (Grant)	Total	Electrification of villages (Nos.)	Pumpset Energisation (Nos.)	Kutir Jyoti (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16070	280	16350	0	50000	28000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2030	190	2220	80	0	19000
3.	Assam	975	170	1145	40	0	17000

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4. Bihar		2320	520	2840	0	0	52000
5. Goa		420	130	550	0	0	13000
6. Gujarat		7680	175	7855	0	13000	17500
7. Haryana		1960	115	2075	0	1000	11500
8. Himachal Pradesh		1140	100	1240	32	150	10000
9. Jammu & Kashmir		2800	105	2905	15	250	10500
10. Karnataka		14220	210	14430	15	20000	21000
11. Kerala		7770	160	7930	0	20000	16000
12. Madhya Pradesh		14600	350	14950	300	25000	35000
13. Maharashtra		14000	300	14300	0	50000	30000
14. Manipur		1575	105	1680	75	0	10500
15. Meghalaya		975	210	1185	0	0	21000
16. Mizoram		710	115	825	3	0	11500
17. Nagaland		675	125	800	0	0	12500
18. Orissa		7450	250	7700	580	2000	25000
19. Punjab		3900	110	4010	0	3000	11000
20. Rajasthan		16300	220	16520	450	18100	22000
21. Sikkim		0	105	105	0	0	10500
22. Tamil Nadu		10600	270	10870	0	35000	27000
23. Tripura		725	105	830	10	0	10500
24. Uttar Pradesh		8700	640	9340	400	12500	64000
25. West Bengal		1705	340	2045	0	0	34000
Total (States)		139300	5400	144700	2000	250000	540000

SPDGS incl. RE Coop.

10600

Total

155300

Special Projects Decentralised Generation Schemes (SPDGS)

Opening of New Telephone Exchanges

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

1111. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANGA :

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to
state :

(a) whether the Government have received any
proposals for opening of new Telephone Exchanges in the
Thane District of Maharashtra and Panskura region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard
and the time by which the work is likely to be completed;
and

(b) (i) In Thane district of Maharashtra there is a
proposal for provision of new telephone
exchanges at Eight places, details are as
under :

Raye, Abitghar, Dabhod, Mehroli, Taiwade,
Naigaon, Sarwal and Vasai.

(ii) In Panskura region there is a proposal for
setting up new exchanges at Ratulia Bazar
and Purushottampur.

(c) These exchanges are planned to be commissioned by 31.3.2000.

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

Rape Cases

1112. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding the incidence of rape cases particularly those of minors in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether Delhi reports the maximum incidents of rape cases as compared to any other metro city in the country;

(c) if so, the number of rape cases reported during the last three years in the Capital as well during the last six months; and

(d) the steps being taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Towns of Maharashtra included in New Marketing Plans

1113. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the names of the smaller towns of Maharashtra especially of Marathwada region included in the New Marketing Plans for providing more connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : To meet the increased demand of LPG, 124 new LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Maharashtra including Marathwada region. Out of the above 39 LPG distributorships are in rural areas, 82 in urban-rural areas and 3 in urban areas.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

1114. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of the appointment on compassionate ground in Telecommunications/postal circles

in Kerala pending during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the time by which these case are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Department of Telecom Services

Year	Number
1997	2
1998	5
1999	27
Total	34

(b) The cases are likely to be disposed off by end of January 2000.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS :

(a) Compassionate appointments permissible under the scheme for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 have already been made and there is no pendency in this regard.

(b) There are 62 applications received which will be considered in due course.

Power Generation in Kerala

1115. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of power generation by the present Power plants in Kerala;

(b) the details of the total requirement of Power in the State particularly by the Electric Power Survey Reports; and

(c) the progress made in fulfilling the projected demand of power in State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) During April-Nov. '99 the energy generation in Kerala was 5757 million units (MU) .

(b) and (c) The 15th Electric Power Survey Committee Report had projected that energy requirement in Kerala during 2001-2002 would be 15756 million units (MU). Energy shortage in Kerala during 1997-98 was 19% which came down to 9.7% during 1998-99, and has dropped further to 7.2% during 1999-2000 (upto October 1999).

[Translation]

**Widening and Developing of
NHs into Four Lanes**

1116. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have received proposals from the State Governments for repairing, widening and converting National Highways into four lanes during the current year and Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance to the State Government for repair of National Highways during the last three years;

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

(e) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken and the work of repair and conversion is likely to be started?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 9th Five Year Plan as approved by National Development Council provides for :-

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| (i) Widening to two lanes | - | 1194 kms. |
| (ii) Widening to four lanes | - | 202 kms. |
| (iii) Strengthening weak 2 lanes | - | 443 kms. |
| (iv) Bypasses | - | 20 No. |
| (v) Major Bridges | - | 40 No. |
| (vi) Minor Bridges | - | 226 No. |

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) A Statement indicating allocations for maintenance and repairs of National Highways to various states during the last three years is enclosed.

(e) This is a continuous process.

Statement

*Allocation of Funds Under Maintenance and
Repairs (Rs. in Lakhs) in various States*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3545.34	3898.00	4568.40

	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Prd.		0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam		1006.87	1162.55	2815.51
4.	Bihar		2193.95	3410.77	3336.97
5.	Chandigarh		45.00	71.00	48.04
6.	Delhi		207.00	330.20	210.00
7.	Goa		325.36	450.39	617.08
8.	Gujarat		2731.50	3758.96	3296.94
9.	Haryana		885.24	772.34	1239.42
10.	Himachal Prd.		1516.80	2034.32	2256.01
11.	J & K		103.37	87.40	129.65
12.	Karnataka		2457.80	3002.90	3111.75
13.	Kerala		1073.27	2268.11	2090.63
14.	Madhya Pradesh		3176.72	3313.78	3945.04
15.	Maharashtra		3277.04	5157.68	4957.67
16.	Manipur		276.00	277.03	365.59
17.	Meghalaya		553.70	584.54	625.80
18.	Mizoram		0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland		14.00	37.11	382.90
20.	Orissa		1981.73	2522.00	2761.15
21.	Pondicherry		35.88	29.96	64.18
22.	Punjab		1182.13	1357.75	1538.81
23.	Rajasthan		2669.08	3841.71	3718.19
24.	Sikkim		0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu		2413.14	2981.37	3740.00
26.	Tripura		0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh		3373.40	4949.19	6128.44
28.	West Bengal		2081.68	3264.94	2757.83
29.	Joggigappa Brig.		0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Ministry		0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	BRDB		0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	NHAI		70.00	375.00	274.00
33.	A & Nicobar Islands		0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Other Institutions		-	13.00	-
	Total		37200.00	49750.00	54980.00

[English]

Providing of Security

1117. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers, Police officials having held or holding public offices and the members of the general public respectively provided different categories of security by the Chandigarh Administration;

(b) the total cost incurred thereon annually; and

(c) the procedure adopted to extend or withdraw such security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) There are at present 102 persons to whom Chandigarh Administration have provided security. These include 81 officials and 21 members of general public.

(b) The expenditure incurred on providing security to these 102 protected persons is of the order of Rs. 13 crores per annum.

(c) The security is provided on the basis of the recommendations of the Protection Review Group constituted for this purpose.

[Translation]

Oil Selection Boards

1118. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have disintegrated the old oil selection boards in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new oil selection boards have been set up for all the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which these boards are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Training by Pak to Bangladeshis

1119. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan is imparting training to Bangladeshis in North-East to cut that portion of the country from the rest of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) There is no evidence to suggest that Pakistan is imparting training to Bangladeshis in North East for activities directed against our security interests.

(b) Does not arise.

Relaxation in Recruitment Rules

1120. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have promoted a number of Draughtsman Grade-I (Electrical) to the Grade of Jr. Engineer by relaxing the Recruitment Rules in the DoT against the 16.66% Departmental Quota during recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to promote the Draughtsman Grade-I (Civil) also on the same lines;

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

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove this disparity?

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

10 Draftsmen Gr. I (Elect.) were promoted as Junior Engineers (Elect) in 1997.

(b) The reasons for permitting relaxation were as follows :

(i) For promotion to Junior Engineer (Elect) from Group 'C' officials including Draftsmen Gr. I, there was a quota of 16.66% through Departmental Examination. Due to inability of Group 'C' officials to get promotion after clearing the Exam, many posts of Junior Engineers (Elect) were lying vacant in 16.66% quota.

(ii) With a view to remove stagnation in the grade of Draftsman Gr I (Elect.) the officials with more than 15 years service were promoted as a one time measure by relaxing the requirement of passing the departmental examination by them.

(iii) There were requests from Union for allowing one time relaxation in favour of Draftsman Grade.I.

(c) No Sir.

(d) The cadres of Draftsman (Civil) and Draftsman (Elect) are two different cadres having different promotional prospects.

(e) In view of (d) above, the question of disparity does not arise.

[Translation]

Expenditure on VIP Security

1121.SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons in the country getting the 'Z' plus security and the total expenditure incurred thereon annually;

(b) whether a review of their security need is done from time to time;

(c) if so, the time-limit fixed for such a review; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) As 'Public order' and 'Police' are State subjects under Constitution of India, the responsibility for providing security to the persons residing within their jurisdiction and expenditure thereon is that of the concerned State/UT.

(b) to (d) As per the Security Scheme, the need for, security and scale of security arrangements are required to be reviewed periodically based on latest threat perception in each case and necessary changes in security made as warranted. This is a continuing process.

[English]

Cess Act to Fund PM's Road Plan

1122.SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have come out with Cess Act to create a dedicated road fund for financing the National Highway development project comprising the Prime Minister's north-south and east-west corridors and golden quadrangle connecting four metros;

(b) whether the Ministry have already prepared the draft Cess Act;

(c) if so, whether the draft Act has been considered by the Ministry of Law; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir,

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does Not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Law and Order Situation in Mumbai

1123.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in crimes in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have asked for any report from the Maharashtra Government in this regard;

(c) whether international criminals are involved in Crimes being committed in Mumbai;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to deploy central intelligence agencies to assist the state Government in curbing crimes;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to initiate any action against mafia dons residing abroad; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Fencing of Assam/Karimganj Border

1124.SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to fence, Assam/Karimganj border; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) Fencing

of 152.3 Kms. of Assam-Bangladesh Border, including 71.72 Kms. in Karimganj District, has been sanctioned. About 140 Kms. of the fencing has been completed as on 31.10.1999.

Fencing of additional 71.5 Kms. of Assam-Bangladesh border, including 35 Kms. in Karimganj District, is scheduled in IInd phase.

Supply of LPG to Industrial Undertakings

1126. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations to provide Liquefied Natural Gas to various industrial undertakings and power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a vast network of Liquefied Natural Gas for providing unadulterated and inexpensive fuel for primary sector projects especially for the power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated cost of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is on the Open General License and there are several initiatives from the private sector to put up LPG import terminals at various coastal locations. Petronet LNG Ltd. has been formed with the approval of Government with 50% equity being shared by the Oil Sector PSUs and the balance to be offered to strategic partners, financial institutions etc. Petronet LNG Ltd. Proposes to set up LNG terminals at Dahej (Gujarat) at an estimated cost of around Rs. 3200 crore and at Cochin (Kerala) at an estimated cost of Rs. 2000 crore. The import of LNG is expected to commence during the year 2003.

[Translation]

Depots of BPC IOC and HPCL in Uttar Pradesh

1127. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the location of the depots of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in the Uttar Pradesh Particularly in the backward areas;

(b) the storage capacity of each of those depots at present;

(c) whether the local people are being benefited from the said undertakings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) The local people have been benefited by timely supply of petroleum products as also through direct and indirect employment. The development of these facilities have resulted in overall development around these areas.

Statement

Depots of BPC, HPC and IOC in Uttar Pradesh

Location of Depots/Terminal	IOC	BPCL	HPCL
1	2	3	4
Amausi	-	-	23,152
Agra	32,835	13,615	-
Aonla	23,788	10,054	-
Basti	3,900	-	-
Bareilly	7,060	-	9,003
Baitalpur	14,065	9,714	-
Banthara	-	9,238	-
Gorakhpur	7,528	5,175	-
Gonda	11,888	6,202	5,114
Jhansi	12,201	-	2,950
Karari	-	9,038	4,910
Kathgodam	1,842	591	-
Lucknow	590	-	-
Meerut	2,035	7,917	5,410
Mathura	16,899	53,061	41,000
Mughalsarai	37,269	39,011	-
Moradabad	5,870	-	-

1	2	3	4
Najibabad	33,616	11,280	3,114
Partapur	12,550	-	-
Saharanpur	5,462	5,401	-
Sahajanpur	28,079	-	-
Allahabad	34,417	-	-
Kanpur	146,696	-	-

[English]

Duping of Graduates

1128. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY :
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "company cheats 2500 graduates" appearing in the Asian Age, dated November 3, 1999;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to available information, no case has been filed against the company for cheating, either in Delhi or Chennai.

[Translation]

Power Generation

1129. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI AJIT SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the annual growth rate target of power generation was fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether the power generation was as per the targets fixed in this regard during the previous year; and

(d) if not, the annual growth rate of power generation during the Ninth Five Year Plan, so far separately and the annual growth rate of power generation likely to be achieved in the remaining years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Assuming an incremental capacity addition of 40245 MW in the Ninth Plan, a power generation target of 606.70 BU in utilities by the end of terminal year 2001-02 was envisaged against the power generation of 394.5 BU at the end of Eighth Plan. The target of power generation for the year are fixed before the beginning of the year in consultation with the utilities. The programme and actual as well as growth over the previous year for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below :

	Programme (BUs)	Actual (BUs)	%growth over last year
1997-98	429.00	420.62	6.6%
1998-99	450.00	448.41	6.6%
1999-2000 (April-Oct,99)	469.00	275.76 (upto October 1999)	7.8%

Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

1130. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any new scheme to fight terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) With a view to tackling the problem of terrorism in J & K, the Government have adopted a multipronged approach which includes inter-alia strengthening the border management, to curb infiltration neutralising plans of militants by Pro-active action against them in hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through Unified Headquarter operations group at various levels, galvanising development programmes and deepening the democratic process etc. This approach which is dynamic in nature is constantly reviewed to meet the changing strategy of the terrorists.

[English]

Alliance between ONGC and IOC

1131. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC and IOC have reached a broad understanding on the five crucial issues including granting the most favoured customer buyer treatment on a

reciprocal basis as part of the strategic alliance between the two oil giants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) A broad Memorandum of Strategic Alliance between Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) was signed on 7th September, 1999. While discussions have been held, no concrete decisions have been taken so far, including the matter of granting most favoured customer buyer treatment on a reciprocal basis.

Encroachment on Municipal Land

1132. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Police is encroaching upon the municipal land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) There are some Police Posts and Police Assistance Booths which, in larger public interest, are operating from temporary structures set-up on vacant Government land till alternative arrangements are made.

[Translation]

Thermal and Hydro Power Generation

1133. SHRI J.S. BRAR :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the average of thermal and hydro-power generation 76% and 24% respectively at present in the country;

(b) whether committee of secretaries has recommended the government to bring a change in this average;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action plan of the Government to implement the aforesaid recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Presently the total installed capacity in the country is about 95275 MW comprising of about 68985 MW of thermal power stations (72.4%), about 23025 MW of hydro stations (24%) and about 3065 MW of nuclear and wind power stations (3.2%).

(b) to (d) In order to accelerate the pace of hydro power development, a Policy on Hydro Power Develop-

ment has been formulated by the Government in August, 1998. The aim of the policy is mainly to initiate measures to check the declining trend in the hydro share in overall energy generation in the country.

As per this policy, attention will be focussed on the following :

- (i) Providing adequate funds in the Central/State Government budget and organising supplementary funding through Power Finance Corporation for development of hydro power.
- (ii) Entrusting basin-wise development to Central Hydel Public Sector Corporations.
- (iii) Funding support for Survey and Investigations.
- (iv) Establishing of a Power Development Fund by levy of a cess on electricity.
- (v) Providing a differential pricing for peaking power to facilitate greater investment in hydel projects which have the capability to supply peaking power in a cost effective manner.
- (vi) Providing an institutional mechanism for dealing with geological risks.
- (vii) Utilising the joint venture frame work for promoting hydel projects.
- (viii) Simplification of procedures relating to transfer of Clearances from State Government to Central Public Sector Undertakings and State Government to private Sector.
- (ix) Enhancing the ceiling limits for techno economic clearance by CEA in respect of projects promoted on the MOU route.
- (x) Transfer of work relating to the development of small projects upto 25 MW capacity from Ministry of Power to Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and providing a suitable incentive package.

[English]

Restructuring of Special Security Branch

1134. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANAND REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have put off the implementation of the recommendations of the Select Committee on the restructuring of the Special Security Branch, a special unit under the Cabinet Secretariat responsible for intelligence operations along the international border;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this report was prepared two years back by a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary;

(d) if so, whether some States had opposed the implementation of this report;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to implement the report fully; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (f) The Special Review/Evaluation Committee Constituted to review the role of SSB submitted its report in February, 1999. The Government has put off the implementation of the recommendations of the said committee for the present, following representations from the public representatives of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Assam, Manipur and West Bengal as well as from the State Governments of Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Manipur.

ONGC Drilling in Guntur, A.P.

1135. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Ministers of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is drilling gas near Repalle town in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of exploratory wells dug there so far;

(c) the details of the success or otherwise in this regard;

(d) the anticipated production of gas in the near future; and

(e) the investment incurred by ONGC in the Repalle exploratory work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (d) The Repalle town in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh falls within an exploration bid block KG-ON/1 which has been awarded to a consortium of Private and Multinational companies in July, 1998 for exploration of hydrocarbons i.e. crude oil and natural gas. Before this award, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) had drilled 3 exploratory wells in Repalle and surrounding area of Guntur district. No hydrocarbons had been encountered in these wells.

(e) An Amount of Rs. 17.41 crores had been incurred by ONGC on exploratory drilling in Repalle area.

Vacant Posts of Judges

1136. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN :
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

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

(a) the number of posts of Judges and Chief Justices lying vacant in each of the High Court and Supreme Court as on June 30, 1999, and till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) A Statement indicating the position in regard to the vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 30.6.1999 and 1.12.1999 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The procedure for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts involves consultations with several constitutional authorities. The process of consultations is on.

Statement

Vacant Posts of Judges

(a) The number of vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court of India as on 30.6.99 and 1.12.99 was 1 and 3 respectively. The position in regard to the High Courts is indicated below:

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	No. of vacant posts as on	
		30.6.1999	01.12.1999
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	8	9
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3	8
3.	Bombay	21	16
4.	Calcutta	13	18
5.	Delhi	7	4
6.	Gauhati	2	2
7.	Gujarat	7	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2

1	2	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	3
10.	Karnataka	6	6
11.	Kerala	7	7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5	5
13.	Madras	10	12
14.	Orissa	2	2
15.	Patna	3	6
16.	Punjab and Haryana	8	10
17.	Rajasthan	12	12
18.	Sikkim	1	1
Total		120	126

[Translation]

Privatisation of Communication Facilities

1137. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken or propose to take a decision to privatise the communication facilities in a phased manner thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No Sir.

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

[English]

Increase in Polling Booths in Rajasthan

1138. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government in consultation with the CFC propose to increase the number of polling booths in desert areas of Rajasthan particularly in Thar desert of Western Rajasthan where the people have to walk for more than 8 to 10 kms to cast their franchise in light of small number of polling booths there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is proposed to revoke the ban on use of transport of the candidates to bring people from their residence to polling booth imposed by CEC;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Election Commission has, however, stated that there are some hamlets in Thar Desert of Western Rajasthan where the voters are required to walk beyond the distance of the prescribed norms. This is due to the fact that the population there is sparsely spread over vast areas of desert. The Commission has further stated that attempts are always made to further reduce the distance for the voters wherever possible. As and when proposals are received from the concerned DEOs, the same are considered by the Commission on merit.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. Use of transport of the candidates to bring the voters from their residence to polling booths is a corrupt practice under the provision of sub-section 5 of section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

[Translation]

Power Tariff in States

1139. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power tariff varies for consumers from State to State in the country;

(b) if so, the rates of power tariff for various categories of consumers, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for difference in the rates of power tariff in various States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the average cost per unit of power generation in each State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Statement-I showing category-wise average rates applicable in various States as on 30.11.1999 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The average Power Tariff is dependent upon its Cost of Supply, (cost of generation plus cost of transmission and distribution), electricity pricing laws and regulation. The cost of supply is dependent upon many factors such as technology, funding patterns, interest rate, hydro-thermal mix, price and source of fuel, completed cost, the geographical area, load density, taxes and duties etc. Hence the tariff varies from state to state.

A Statement-II showing average cost of power generation during the year 1997-98 is enclosed.

Statement-I

Estimated Average Rates of Electricity (As on 30.11.1999)

Sl. No.	Name of Utility	Tariff Effective from	Domestic 2Kw (100 Kwh/Month)	Domestic 5Kw (400 Kwh/Month)	Agriculture 5HP, 15% LF (408 Kwh/Month)	Small Industry 10HP, 25% LF (1361 Kwh/Month)	Medium Industry 50KW, 40% LF (14600 Kwh/Month)	Large Industry 1000 KW, 65% LF (474500 Kwh/Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.1.99	136.00	298.50	27.97	348.36	370.22	401.45
2.	Assam	1.9.98	183.00	235.92	99.50	239.26 (U)	276.60	307.79
3.	Bihar	1.7.93	139.00 (U) 46.00 (R)	150.75	40.15	157.09	140.54	211.99
4.	Gujarat	20.10.96	254.25 (U) 238.69 (R)	375.72	51.06	307.30	335.87	424.71
5.	Haryana	15.6.98	270.00	304.50	55.15	402.00	402.00	402.00
6.	H.P.	1.9.98	69.75	93.01	65.00	165.00	215.00	245.00
7.	J & K	1.4.99	292.80	244.00	40.26	164.70	164.70	164.70
8.	Karnataka	1.11.98	197.50	261.25	20.64	271.16	335.45	424.55
9.	Kerala	1.2.98	110.00	286.00	66.43	177.57	171.64	182.97
10.	M.P.	1.3.98	92.00	194.73	0.00	227.60	371.57	409.96
11.	Maharashtra	1.9.98	176.70	393.72	51.06	295.29	438.45	429.36
12.	Meghalaya	1.9.96	85.00	103.75	58.00	149.49	165.42	156.07
13.	Orissa (Grid Co.)	1.12.98	115.00	190.00	85.00	245.00	290.00	325.02
14.	Punjab	29.7.98	169.80	211.95	0.00	237.00	255.00	287.00
15.	Rajasthan	1.6.97	132.50	158.80	47.61	276.00	216.00	227.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	20.7.98	107.00	193.79	25.53	222.26		
	Chennai (Metro Area)						365.84	385.55
	(Non Metro Area)						375.36	375.05
17.	U.P.	25.1.99	229.00 (U) 60.00 (R)	214.00	52.70	279.57		
	Non continuous ind.						407.36	409.99
	Continuous Ind.						416.95	436.19
18.	West Bengal	26.1.99	173.25 (U) 160.81 (R)	331.44 311.33	54.66	328.56 (U) 305.57 (R)	399.46	369.48

Statement-II*Average Cost of Generation of various SEBs during the year 1997-98*

Sl. No. Name of SEBs	Avg. Cost of Generation (P/Kwh)
1. APSEB	90.65
2. MSEB	115.40
3. Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	121.35
4. GEB	153.75
5. MPEB	116.46
6. TNEB	140.39
7. UPSEB	129.71
8. WBSEB	140.15
9. PSEB	109.50
10. RSEB	119.27
11. HPSEB	31.19
12. Meghalaya SEB	86.72
13. Karnataka SEB	165.02
14. BSEB	232.61

Source - CEA

*[English]***Purchase of Power from Bangladesh**

1140. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enter into agreement with Bangladesh for the purchase of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of power likely to be imported from that country;

(d) the time by which the negotiations are likely to be completed;

(e) whether the power problem can be solved by importing power from the neighboring countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Preliminary discussions have been held at commercial

level for getting up interconnections with Bangladesh. An initial exchange of power of the order of 150 MW was discussed.

(e) and (f) The deficit of power can be reduced to some extent through import of power from neighbouring countries. Power is already being exchanged with Nepal and Bhutan.

*[Translation]***Improvement of Telephone Services in Bihar**

1141. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone lines in Sahebganj, Deoria and Saraiya under Muzaffarpur district of Bihar are working in order;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be in the working order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The telephone lines are working satisfactorily in Sahebganj, Deoria and Saraiya under Muzaffarpur District of Bihar. However, these exchanges are connected with over head lines for working of STD facility, which is not very reliable and capacity is limited.

(c) There is a plan to provide technologically advance reliable transmission media of optical fibre cable to these exchanges during the year 2000-2001.

*[English]***Supply of Power to North-Eastern States**

1142. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Power is being supplied to the North-Eastern States including Sikkim as per the demand;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the demand of Power in these States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During off-peak hours power is being supplied to the states of North-Eastern Region in accordance with their demand. However, there is deficit during peak hours. The power

supply position in the states of North-Eastern Region during Oct. , 1999 is given below :

State/Region	October'99 (Figures in MU)			
	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Surplus	%
North-Eastern Region				
Arunachal Pradesh	9.7	10.2	0.5	5.2
Assam	248.8	263.0	14.2	5.7
Manipur	35.6	38.3	2.7	7.6
Meghalaya	41.1	44.5	3.4	8.3
Mizoram	18.0	19.2	1.2	6.7
Nagaland	17.3	18.6	1.3	7.5
Tripura	48.5	52.2	3.7	7.6
N.E.R.	419.0	446.0	27	6.4

Power is supplied to Sikkim from Eastern Region Via 66 KV Kalimpong-Melli S/C line and 66 KV Rangit-Melli S/C line. Power supply to Sikkim is not being made in accordance with its central sector share owing to transmission constraints.

(c) In order to mitigate the shortages, Assam has been allocated 65 MW share keeping in view their drawal capability from the unallocated output of NTPC stations located in neighbouring Eastern-Region. During the period April-October '99, Assam had drawn 251 MU from Eastern Region against their entitlement of 277.4 MU.

The following generating stations are under construction/commissioning :

Stations

1. Doyang HEP (3X25MW), Nagaland by NEEPCO.
2. Ranganadi HEP (3x135 MW), Arunachal Pradesh by NEEPCO.
3. Tuirial HEP (2x30 MW), Mizoram by NEEPCO.
4. Rangit HEP (3x20 MW), Sikkim by NHPC.

In addition to above, small and mini/micro hydel schemes of 34.45 MW are also approved for implementation in the State of Sikkim.

The following transmission schemes/sub-stations are proposed to transmit central sector power to Sikkim :

- (i) Silliguri - Melli 132 KV D/C line-under central transmission scheme by Powergrid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL).
- (ii) Creation of new 132/66 KV sub-Station at Melli-by PGCIL.
- (iii) Melli-Gangtok 132 KV D/C line-by Sikkim Government.

Demand of L.P.G.

1143.SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether demand of LPG has increased in every state and particularly in the Southern States;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposals to increase the availability of LPG in those States; and

(c) the LPG allocation made to Karnataka and other States during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) The demand for LPG has been increasing in every State of the country including the Southern States each year.

(b) To meet the demand and maintain the smooth supply of LPG in all the States including the Southern States, Oil Industry under-takes imports of LPG to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous availability.

(c) LPG is not allocated on State-wise basis. The Number of new LPG connections released and LPG sale made by the Public Sector Oil Companies in the Southern States during the last three years is as under:

States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	New Conn. (In Lakhs)	Sale (TMT)	New Conn. (In Lakhs)	Sale (TMT)	New Conn. (In Lakhs)	Sale (TMT)
Andhra Pradesh	1.36	308.05	2.72	331.89	2.95	362.45
Karnataka	1.40	208.99	1.79	222.66	2.23	247.74
Kerala	1.35	141.62	1.60	173.64	1.54	188.85
Tamil Nadu	2.32	345.13	3.06	376.41	3.55	429.47

Use of LPG for Automobiles

1144. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to regulate the use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as automotive fuel;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received a report of an expert Committee on the feasibility of LPG as auto fuel; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (c) LPG is recognised as an environment friendly transportation fuel and the Committees constituted by Government to examine this aspect and other related issues have submitted their report. To promote the use of LPG as automotive fuel in the country in a safe manner, several regulations are required. The use of LPG as automotive fuel will commence as soon as amendments in the Motor Vehicles Act etc., are made.

Freedom of Information

1145. DR. V. SAROJA :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had constituted a working group on Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government some years back;

(b) if so, whether that group has already submitted its report in May, 1997;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein;

(d) whether the Government have taken cognizance of the recommendations;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (f) With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies, the Government had constituted a Working Group on "Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government" under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The Working Group submitted its report to the Government on the 21st May, 1997. It has prepared

for consideration of the Government a draft "Freedom of Information Bill". Its other main recommendations are: amendments to Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923, Sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 together with consequential amendments in the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 and in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, rule 11 of the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and the Manual of Departmental Security Instructions relating to classification of Information.

The recommendations of the Working Group for legislation of the 'Freedom of Information Bill' and separately amendment to section 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 and amendment to rule 11 of the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964, are in an advanced stage of consideration. The Ministries/Departments administering the acts and provisions, to which the other recommendations relate, have been separately requested to initiate action in respect of these recommendations.

Exploration of Natural Gas in Tamil Nadu

1146. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are proposal to explore discovery of natural gas in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (c) During 1997-98 and 1998-99, the first two years of 9th Five Year Plan, thirty six exploratory wells and six development wells were drilled in the Cauvery basin. These exploratory efforts have led to discovery of four gas finds, viz. Periyapattinam, Neyveli, Ramanavalsai and Kall. In the remaining three years of the 9th Five Year Plan, acquisition of 850 GLK of 2D seismic data, 4400 GLK OF 3D seismic data and drilling of 52 exploratory wells have been planned.

Implementation of Revenue Sharing Proposal

1147. SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any final decision has since been taken for helping the private telecom operators to bail out of their

commitments and replacing their obligations by a revenue sharing package;

- (b) if so, the details of the package offered to them;
- (c) whether the package includes the "calling party pays" regime;
- (d) the financial advantage or loss to the Government due to the scheme;
- (e) whether any study has been conducted to understand the financial implication of such a scheme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) In March, 1999, Government approved the New Telecom Policy 1999 (NTP-99) effective from 1.4.99, which inter alia, announced the Government's intention to satisfactorily resolve the problems faced by existing operators in a manner which is consistent with the contractual obligations and is legally tenable. Accordingly a migration policy was approved by the Government on 6.7.1999 based on competent legal advice about legality/modalities of integrating the existing licensees under NTP-99 regime, and a migration package was offered to existing licensees of Basic and Cellular Services on 22.07.1999. The package was also offered to Radio Paging Service Operators on 2nd September, 1999.

(b) The salient aspects of the Migration package are as follows :

Existing licensees of Basic and Cellular Services will change over to the revenue sharing regime envisaged under NTP-1999 from a prospective cut off date; this date was fixed as 1.8.1999.

The existing licensees will forego their duopoly rights, thus paving the way for induction of additional operators in a multipoly regime.

There is no waiver whatsoever of the license fee which has accrued upto the cut off date. 35% of the outstanding dues including interest payable as on 31.7.1999 and liquidated damage charges in full, has been paid by the operators (who accepted the migration package) in terms of the migration package by 16.8.1999; balance 65% has to be paid by 31.1.2000. The migration package has not progressed so far in the case of Circle Paging Operators, who did not pay the outstanding dues in terms of the package.

The operators have to accept the offer of migration as a package in its entirety. Simultaneously, all legal pro-

ceedings in Courts, Tribunal, Authority or in Arbitration instituted by the licensees and their associations against DOT or UOI shall be withdrawn. Further, any dispute with regard to the license agreement for the period upto 31.7.1999 shall not be raised at any future date.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) The Calling Party Pays (CPP) Scheme as per the prescribed regulation of TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) is expected to cause a revenue loss of about Rs. 200/- crores to Department of Telecom Services/ Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) at the present level of traffic.

As per the Telecommunication Tariff (Fifth Amendment) order 1999 and Telecommunication Interconnection (Charges and Revenue Sharing-First Amendment) Regulation 1999, both issued by TRAI on 17.09.1999, the Calling Party Pays Regime (CPP) was to be implemented with effect from 01st November, 1999. A petition was filed by an independent organisation named 'watchdog' against 'the Calling Party Pays Regime (CPP)' and MTNL filed petition against the revenue sharing arrangement as prescribed in the regulation. Department of Telecommunications Services (DTS) has also got itself impleaded in the petition of MTNL, as the implementation of the CPP regime as per the above referred regulation is expected to cause huge revenue loss to DTS as well. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has stayed the implementation of the CPP regime. Presently the matter is sub-judice.

Improvement in Telephone Service

1148. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the directives issued by the Government the defective telephone would be set-right within two days after receipt of the complaints and if the defect is not removed in a week, then the rent for such period should not be charged from the subscriber;

(b) if so, the details of such telephones in Kutch district of Gujarat State on which the defect could not be removed for more than a week during the period December 1998 to October, 99; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government to make the service more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, norms have been specified to rectify faulty telephones within 48 hours and as per instructions, a rebate in rental charges is being granted if telephone remains faulty continuously for seven days or more due to departmental reasons.

(b) Total rebate of Rs. 8920/- in eight telephone cases was granted. Details of such cases are as under:

- I. In Tuna Telephone Exchange Telephone No. 82237, 82266 and 82269.
- II. In Kotda Telephone No. 89236, and
- III. In Darsadi exchange Telephone No. 76653, 76636, 76695 and 76627.

(c) Rehabilitation of external plant is being done. Drop-wire span is being reduced by use of 5 pair cable. Old paper core cable are being replaced by J/F Cable. Block wiring at subscriber's premises and multi-storey buildings are being carried out.

Power Projects in A.P.

1149. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power projects submitted by Andhra Pradesh under the consideration of the Government for approval;

(b) whether the Government propose to hold a joint meeting with the State Government in this regard; and

(c) the expected quantum of power generation from the projects submitted by the State Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) From 1996-97 till date, 9 schemes providing 3702 MW were received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC). Five of them providing 2382 MW capacity have been accorded TEC and the remaining four for 1320 MW capacity were returned to the project authorities for want of inputs. There is no proposal under the consideration of the CEA at present and, therefore, mention of holding a joint meeting with the state government does not arise. However, Govt. of India is constantly in touch with AP Govt. to expedite remaining inputs for various proposals.

[Translation]

"Pollution in Mega Cities"

1150. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

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

(a) whether the pollution level in the mega cities has assumed the alarming proportions;

(b) if so, the factors contributing to the environmental pollution;

(c) whether the Government are considering to chalk out any action plan in consultation with the State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check further pollution in the mega cities;

(f) whether the Government propose to impart education regarding anti-pollution measures to the public through Doordarshan and the Camps; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Pollution levels exhibit a rising trend in mega cities. This is due to increase in economic activities including industries and transportation, accompanied by growth in population.

(c) to (g) Government have initiated various steps to control pollution, including;

(a) A National Environmental Action Plan for controlling pollution from various sources has been formulated.

(b) Action Plans for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai are being implemented.

(c) to decentralize the economic activities from the core city and to develop infrastructure facilities, the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment has devised various schemes which will help the mega cities to cope with rapid urbanization.

(d) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plans have been drawn up for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.

(e) The Central Pollution Control Board is imparting environmental education and training in the area of pollution control.

(f) A number of documentaries and films have been produced by agencies of the Ministry of Environment and Forests educating the general public for taking measures to protect the environment and control pollution. These documentaries/films are shown in Doordarshan and other channels.

Land under Ministry in Uttar Pradesh

1151. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of lands in Azamgarh, Mau, Devaria district of U.P. under the Ministry which have been encroached by the people or lying vacant; and

(b) the measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for proper utilisation of Government land and also to evict encroachers people therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) :

(a) **Department of Post**

There are no Vacant plots of land in Azamgarh district. There is a plot of land at Dohrihat in Mau District and there is another vacant plot at Rabindra Nagar in Deoria District. Neither of the plots is encroached upon.

Department of Telecom.

No Vacant plot in these districts is encroached upon. The details of Vacant plots is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) **Department of Post**

Construction is proposed to be done on these Government lands in a phased manner and as per plan outlay. Full measures will also be taken to evict encroachers if any such encroachment take place.

Department of Telecom.

The proposed utilisation of vacant plots is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Vacant Plots in Azamgarh, Mau and Devaria Districts

Sl.No.	Name of Station	SDCC*	Status	Proposed utilisation
Azamgarh Distt.				
1.	Anjan Sahid	Sagri	No encroachment	Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Type single storey building planned
2.	Koilsa	Buranpur	No encroachment	THQ Type building planned
3.	Nizambad	Azamgarh	No encroachment	-do-
4.	Sanjer pur	-do-	-do-	THQ Type single storey building planned
5.	Lalghat	Sagri	-do-	-do-
6.	Chand Patti	Sagri	-do-	-do-
7.	Bindwal	Sagri	-do-	-do-
8.	Berdiha	Sagri	-do-	-do-
9.	Mehnagar	Lalganj	-do-	-do-
10.	Haraiya	Sagri	-do-	-do-
11.	Nanizer	Buranpur	-do-	-do-
12.	Dedarganj	Phoolpur	-do-	-do-
13.	Mehul	Phoolpur	-do-	-do-
14.	Katar (Bilar Mau)	Phoolpur	-do-	-do-
15.	Amuvari	Sagri	-do-	-do-
16.	Madarpur	Lalganj	-do-	-do-
17.	Singhpur	Lalganj	-do-	-do-
18.	Karihani	Lalganj	-do-	-do-
19.	Pathna	Lalganj	-do-	-do-
			Mau District	
Nil			Devaria District	
Nil				

*SDCC - Short distance charging centre.

[English]

Irregularities in Kandla Port Trust

1152. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether serious irregularities have been reported in the Kandla Port Trust;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have indicated measures to check the same and remedy the situation; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) Certain complaints are being received from time to time. Some of them have some substance for enquiry and others are baseless. Receipt of such complaints is a continuous process. All such complaints are investigated into and where-ever cogent and circumstantial evidences are available, corrective measures are taken as also administrative action is taken against the erring officers/ staff.

Visa Clearance

1153. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Delhi Police officers are recommending names for visa clearance directly to the foreign embassies and high commissions in violations of service rules;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases that has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;
- (c) the action taken against the erring police cops; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such flouting of rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) Two such cases have come to the notice of Delhi Police. They have been advised to furnish details of these cases to the Government so that appropriate action is taken.

- (d) Delhi Police have issued formal instructions to their officers not to make any such recommendation to the foreign Missions.

Nandankonan Zoo in Orissa

1154. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Nandankonan Zoo is in total disarray after the recent cyclone;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the total number of animals and birds perished in the cyclone?

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

(b) Recent super cyclonic storm on 29th and 30th October, 1999 has damaged the animal enclosures, power lines, water supply system in the zoo. The roads were also blocked by the trees up rooted in the cyclone.

(c) The zoo lost 35 animals on account of death due to the storm, which includes one lion, 6 spotted deer, 5 hornbills and 1 flue. In addition 139 animals have either escaped in the adjoining forest areas. This includes 40 spotted deers, 9 sambar, 1 fox, 25 turtles, 5 snakes and 2 monitor lizards.

[Translation]

Telephones on Demand in Bihar

1155. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have fixed targets to provide telephones on demand in the cities and districts of the Bihar by 2000;
- (b) if so, the details of progress made in this regard till date;
- (c) whether the targets fixed are likely to be achieved by 2000; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) It is planned to provide telephone on demand at State Capital by March, 2000 and at other Places it is planned to make telephone available on demand progressively by 1-4-2002. Expansion/Replacement of existing exchanges by higher capacity has also been planned during 1999-2000. New Tech. Switches are also under installation and cable laying work is in progress.

[English]

Upgradation of Power Projects

1156. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to upgrade the Power Projects at Panipat and Savli as appearing in the newspaper "Sunday Observer" dated October 20, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of power generation from these plants;

(c) the States to which it would be supplied and the cost at which it would be done; and

(d) the time by which these power projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Indian Oil is exploring the feasibility of setting up of Refinery Residue based power project at Panipat, Haryana and Savli, Gujarat.

(b) Details of power generation from the proposed power projects of Panipat and Savli are as under :

	Panipat	Savli
Initial capacity	Around 300 MW	500MW
Upgraded Capacity	Not Yet firmed up	1000 MW (tentative)
(c) : Power sale from	From initial capacity	From Upgraded capacity
Panipat project	Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam, Haryana State.	Not yet firmed up
Savli Project	Gujarat State Elec. Board	Gujarat Elec. Board-500 MW Rajasthan Elec. Board-500 MW

Cost at which power would be supplied would be firmed up during DPR presently under preparation.

(d) Likely completion scheduled	initial capacity	Upgraded capacity
Panipat Project	4th Quarter of 2003-04	Not yet firmed up
Salvi Project	2nd Quarter of 2003-04	Not yet firmed up.

Petitions of Public Interest

1157. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petitions of public interest filed in the Supreme Court and the High Courts of the country during the last three years, Court-wise; and

(b) the number of petitions of public interest pending in the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court for the last three years so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table to the House.

[Translation]

Diesel/Petrol Pumps on Mumbai-Pune National Highway

1158. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided diesel/petrol pumps on the new national highway under construction between Mumbai and Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to set up new pumps on this Highway; and

(d) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be provided on the said highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) No retail outlet has been provided on the new road under construction between Mumbai and Pune known as Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

(c) and (d) Presently there is no firm proposal for setting up retail outlet dealership on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

[English]

Lynching of BSF Official

1159. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Former BSF official lynched to death by eight in CP" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated November 16, 1999;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c)

Yes, Sir. On 15th November, 1999, one Shri Mukhtiar Singh, a former BSF official, and his son visited M/s Trip Travels of Shri Sanjay Padha reportedly to claim return of Rs. 2.17 lakhs and the passport which the said travel agency had earlier taken for arranging the visit of Shri Mukhtiar Singh's another son to England. Shri Sanjay Padha alongwith his three associates allegedly assaulted Shri Mukhtiar Singh and his son as a result of which Shri Mukhtiar Singh died on the spot. A case was registered on the same day at Connaught Place Police Station in which two of the accused persons namely, Sanjay Padha and Ashish Mahajan were arrested and placed in judicial custody. Non-bailable warrants against the other accused persons have also been obtained from the court.

[Translation]

New National Highways in H.P.

1160. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether four new National Highways have been approved for Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the names thereof;
- (c) the target time for their construction; and
- (d) the outlay provided for their construction during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The newly declared National Highways are as under:-

1. Pinjore-Nalagarh-Swarghat-(NH-21A).
2. Jalandhar-Ambala-Hamirpur-Awah Devi-Mandi (NH-70).
3. Ambala-Naraingarh-Ponta Sahib- Haridwar (NH-72).
4. Shimla-Bilaspur-Hamirpur-Nadaun-Ranital-Kangra and Bhavan-(NH-88).

(c) The development of NHs is a continuous process. Revised improvement works is taken up in phases depending upon the overall priority and availability of funds.

(d) There is no separate outlay provided for these new National Highways, during the current year.

Infiltration

1161. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large number of infiltrators have entered the country;
- (b) if so, the places through which they are infiltrating;
- (c) the number of infiltrators arrested during the last three years;
- (d) whether Assam Government has submitted any report to the Union Government regarding the influx of Bengladeshi infiltrators in North-East;
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the action proposed to be taken therein;
- (f) whether the Union Government have taken up this issue with the neighbouring contries;
- (g) if so, the details thereof;
- (h) the steps taken to check such infiltration; and
- (i) the steps being taken by the Government to strictly implement the Indo-Bangladesh Accord on the illegalimmigrants signed in 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The infiltration mainly takes place through the Indo-Bangladesh and the Indo-Pakistan borders/Line of Control.

(c) The yearwise figures of infiltrators intercepted by BSF is as follows :-

1997	15166
1998	6659
1999	5880
(upto 20 Nov.)	

(d) and (e) The Governor of Assam in his report to the President has stated that "Although Bangladeshi illegal migrants have come into several States of India and they are more numerous in West Bengal than in Assam, they pose a much greater threat in Assam than in any other State. If not effectively checked, they may swamp the

Assamese people and may sever the North East land mass from the rest of India. This will lead to disastrous strategic and economic results". Recommendations of the Governor have been sent to the State Government of Assam for appropriate action on points concerning them. The Government of India is committed to complete the border fencing in Assam at the earliest. Fencing of 152.3 Kms of Assam -Bangladesh border including 71.72 Kms in Karimganj district has been sanctioned. Out of this, about 140 Kms border has been fenced as on 31-10-99. Fencing for additional 71.5 Kms of Assam-Bangladesh border, including 35 Kms in Karimganj district is planned in the IInd phase.

(f) and (g) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh and Pakistan at various levels.

(h) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These measures include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers provision of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels

(i) It has been reiterated to the Government of Bangladesh at various levels to adhere to the ground arrangements between the Border Security Force and the Bangladesh Rifles for accepting illegal Bangladeshi nationals handed over to Bangladesh Rifles from time to time by the Border Security Force.

[English]

World Bank Loan in Power Sector

1163. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of total loan received from the World Bank for the improvement and development of power sector in Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(b) whether the loan received have been fully utilised;

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

(d) the directions issued by the Union Government to State Governments in this regard, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details of loan received from the World Bank and utilised for the improvement and development of power sector in the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra are given below:-

S.No.	Name of the Project	Loan No.	Loan amount Sanctioned (In US\$ Million)	Loan amount Drawal
Karantaka				
1.	Karnataka Power Project	2827-IN	334.00	69.60
2.	Second Karnataka Power Project	2938-IN	260.00	24.00
3.	Kadra PH and Kodasali Dam Reconstruction Project		197.2	197.2
Maharashtra				
4.	Chandrapur Thermal Power Project	2544-IN	300.00	191.40
5.	Maharashtra Power Project	3096-IN	337.30	337.30
6.	Second Maharashtra Power Project	3498-IN	350.00	112.25
7.	Trombay Thermal Power Project	2452-IN	134.40	134.40
8.	Dhanu Thermal Power Project	3334-IN	200.00	194.98
9.	Trombay Combined Cycle Power Project	3239-IN	98.00	98.00

(b) and (c) The loans have not been fully utilised in case of some of the projects due to various reasons like

non-fulfilment of loan covenants, failure to implement agreed upon action due to project delays, etc.

(d) The Central Government has been asking the State Governments to comply with all loan covenants as asked for by the World Bank in order to ensure full utilisation of the loan.

[Translation]

Installation of Finger Print Criminal Tracing System

1164. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install "Finger Print Criminal Tracing System" in different Police Headquarters in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to be installed; and

(d) the amount estimated to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI) : (a) to (d) The Finger Print Analysis and Criminal Tracing System developed by M/s CMC Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking, has been purchased by the Delhi Police and some other State Governments. M/s CMC Limited has been asked by the National Crimes Records Bureau to reconfigure the system in 3 models so that it becomes suitable for States/UTs depending upon the volume of crime. Further action to advise the State Governments/UT Administrations to procure the system will be considered after re-configuration by M/s CMC Limited has been completed and the system has been tested by the National Crime Records Bureau. It is not possible to indicate the precise amount of expenditure involved at this stage.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

1165. SHRI J.S. BRAR :
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people on the waiting list to get telephone connections in the country in April, 1999;

(b) whether the Urban and Rural people have been classified separately in this regard;

(c) if so, the number of urban and rural people in the waiting list separately, State-wise ; and

(d) the time by which these people are likely to be provided with the telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The waiting list for telephone connections in the country in April, 1999 was 1983028.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The details are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) For clearing the waiting list, 45.50 lakh new telephone connections are planned during 1999-2000 and 53.30 lakh are proposed for the year 2000-01 and further efforts are being made for provision of more and more telephone connections as to make telephone available on demand by 1st April 2002.

Statement

The number of urban and rural people in the waiting list in the country as on 1.4.99, State-wise

Sl.No.	State	Waiting lists as on 1.4.99		
		Urban	Rural	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	33733	49838	83571
2	Assam	13406	4512	17918
3	Bihar	32916	21633	54549
4	Gujarat (including DADAR, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	78078	92529	170607
5	Haryana	42640	32804	75444
6	Himachal Pradesh	9800	22463	32263
7	Jammu & Kashmir	25607	7993	33600
8	Karnataka	39729	55599	95328
9	Kerala (including Lakshadweep(U.T))	143875	434088	577943
10	Madhya Pradesh	16840	5403	22243
11	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	88616	74838	163454
12	North East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	2929	2418	5347
13	Orissa	9396	5594	14990
14	Punjab (including Chandigarh(U.T))	66125	87581	153706

1	2	3	4	5
15	Rajasthan	54399	46355	100754
16	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai & Pondicherry (U.T))	157754	56962	214716
17	Uttar Pradesh	52908	18456	71364
18	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nikobar Islands and Calcutta)	61001	34230	95231
19	Delhi	0	0	0
Total		929752	1053276	1983028

[English]

Direct Subsidy to Ship Building

1166. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an effort to put the ailing public sector ship building industry back on the rails, the Government have decided to review the direct subsidy provided to the Ship building yards;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present 30% direct subsidy fails to attract a single new order; and

(d) if so, the details of other alternatives being considered in this regard?

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

(a) Government have not decided as yet to review the subsidy scheme that was brought into force in August, 1997 for a period of 5 years to ensure level playing field to ship building industry. However, action has since been initiated to assess the impact of the said scheme on the shipbuilding industry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) One of the constraints of the shipyards to become a global player and to procure new ship building order is the non-competitiveness in terms of price and adherence to delivery schedule. The recession in shipping in general during the last couple of years has also resulted in less demand for new shipbuilding and also price falling. Shipyards have, however, been endeavouring through managerial techniques to reduce the cost of construction and improve productivity. Shipyards are otherwise in receipt of new shipbuilding orders from domestic market

for different type of vessels, including passenger ships, dredgers and tugs etc.

(d) Does not arise.

LPG through Pipeline in Guntur, A.P.

1167. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme to supply LPG through pipeline in the towns of Guntur, Tenali and Bapatla of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any survey have been conducted in this regard by GAIL or other agencies; and

(c) if so, the details of investment required for the purpose and the number of proposed beneficiaries therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

CESS Imposed on Petrol and Diesel

1168. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Government had decided to spend the amount collected from the cess imposed on petrol and diesel on the development of roads in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount of cess thus collected during the last three years;

(c) the amount of cess imposed on petrol and diesel separately; and

(d) whether the Government have imposed any other tax besides this cess for development of petroleum sector and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (c) In the Union Budget for 1998-99, an additional tax at the rate of Rs.1/litre on petrol was imposed to generate an amount of Rs.790 crores in a year for the development of roads and for augmenting the Corpus of the National Highway Authority of India. In the Union Budget 1999-2000, an additional customs/excise

duty of Re. 1/litre on imported and domestic HSD has been imposed. It has been proposed to allocate half of the duty to support the initiatives in rural development and social sectors. The other portion of 50 paise of this duty as also the duty of Re. 1 per litre levied with effect from 2.6.1998 will be converted into a statutory cess and transferred to the Central Road Fund. 30% of the fund will be transferred to the State Governments for development and maintenance of State Roads. The balance amount will be utilised for development and maintenance of National highways and express-ways and by the Ministry of Railways for construction of Railways over-bridges and Railways safety works at unmanned Railways crossings. As on 30.9.99 it is estimated that a sum of about Rs.2795 Crores has been collected as Cess for the period April September, 1999.

(d) Yes, Sir. Under the provisions of section 15 of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, cess on Crude Oil is presently levied and collected at the rate of Rs.900 per tonne for the purpose of development of oil industry as per the provisions contained in the said Act.

[English]

STD Facility

1169. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demands for providing STD facilities in the rural areas of the country specially in Maharashtra are pending with the Government ;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to settle those pending demands;

(d) the number of Talukas and Tehsils Headquarters in Maharashtra particularly in Pandharpur region having Telephone exchanges with STD facilities, district-wise;

(e) the number of Talukas not having this facility, district-wise; and

(f) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the remaining talukas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There are a number of demands for provision of STD facility in the Rural Areas. Out of 19781 rural exchanges in the country STD facility has been provided to 15615 rural exchanges. The State-wise details of number of exchanges in the rural areas which are yet to be provided with STD facility are available in Statement-I. In Maharashtra there are 2568 rural exchanges out of which 1163 exchanges are yet to be provided with STD facility.

(c) The remaining exchanges are planned to be provided with STD facility progressively by March, 2002 subject to availability of resources.

(d) and (e) The district-wise details of Taluka Headquarters in Maharashtra having Telephone exchanges with and without STD facility are given in Statement-II(a). The details about Pandharpur region; the Taluka of Solapur district, are given in Statement II(b).

(f) The STD facility to remaining Talukas is planned to be by March, 2002 subject to availability of resources.

Statement-I

Number of Telephone Exchanges Pending
State-wise for provision of STD facility in
Rural Areas as on 31.10.99

Sl.No.	States	No. of Exchanges
1.	Andhra Pradesh	285
2.	Assam	0
3.	Bihar	14
4.	Gujarat	173
5.	Haryana	316
6.	Himachal Pradesh	54
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	83
8.	Karnataka	48
9.	Kerala	0
10.	Maharashtra	1163
11.	Goa	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	652
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	35
14.	Manipur	9
15.	Meghalaya	7
16.	Mizoram	16
17.	Nagaland	12
18.	Tripura	4
19.	Orissa	8
20.	Punjab	61
21.	Rajasthan	512
22.	Tamil Nadu	19
23.	Uttar Pradesh	623
24.	West Bengal	64
25.	Sikkim	5
Total		4166

Statement-II (a)**District-wise Status of STD Facility in Taluka Headquarters in Maharashtra on 31.10.99**

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total No. of Talukas HQs.	No. of Talukas HQs. having Telephone Exchanges with STD facility	No. of Talukas HQs. not having this facility
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmednagar	14	14	0
2.	Akola	7	7	0
3.	Wasim	6	6	0
4.	Amravati	14	14	0
5.	Aurangabad	9	9	0
6.	Beed	11	11	0
7.	Bhandara	7	6	1
8.	Gondia	8	8	0
9.	Buldhana	13	12	1
10.	Chandrapur	14	13	1
11.	Dhule	4	4	0
12.	Nandurbar	6	6	0
13.	Gadchiroli	12	8	4
14.	Jalgaon	15	15	0
15.	Jalna	8	8	0
16.	Kalyan	14	13	1
17.	kolhapur	12	12	0
18.	Latur	10	9	1
19.	Nagpur	14	14	0
20.	Nanded	14	12	2
21.	Nasik	15	13	2
22.	Osmanabad	8	7	1
23.	Parbhani	9	9	0
24.	Hingoli	9	9	0

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Pune	14	14	0
26.	Raigad	13	13	0
27.	Ratnagiri	9	9	0
28.	Sangli	9	9	0
29.	Satara	11	11	0
30.	Sindhudurg	8	8	0
31.	Solapur	11	11	0
32.	Wardha	8	6	2
33.	Yeotmal	16	14	2
		348	330	18

Statement-II (b)**Pandharpur Region**

- i) Total No. of exchanges - 14
- ii) Exchanges with STD facility - 2
- iii) Exchanges without STD facility - 12

Expansion of Telecommunications Programme

1170. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any programme has been prepared for the expansion of Telecommunications in the country particularly for Karnataka during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise ; and

(b) if so, the funds earmarked for the purpose, State-wise and year-wise and the programme drawn up in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes Sir. During 9th Five-Year plan a total of 223 lakh new lines are to be provided by DOT and MTNL. The Circlewise targets for the First Four years of the plan including Karnataka i.e. 1997-2001 are given in Statement. Achievements during 97-98 and 98-99 are also given in statement. The targets for 2001-2002 have not been finalised.

(b) Fund allocation is made on annual basis after the approval of the Demand for Grants by the Parliament. Circle-wise details of the funds utilized for 97-98 and 98-99 and funds earmarked for 99-2000 is given in Statement.

Statement

Year-wise and Circle-wise Targets/Achievements of DELs and Funds earmarked/ utilised during 9th Five Year Plan

(in Crores)

Sl. No.	Circle	DELs (97-98)		Funds Utilised 97-98	DELs (98-99)		Funds Utilised 98-99	Target 99-2000	Funds earmar- 99-2000	Targets 2000-2001
		Target	Achievements		Target	Achievements				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	215000	216487	550.55	250000	404980	696.94	350000	1151.34	400000
2.	Assam	35000	36477	122.45	50000	50375	112.85	60000	190.74	65000
3.	Bihar	60000	66294	269.08	131000	103128	325.44	163000	409.84	146000
4.	Gujarat	208000	213824	565.95	250000	255388	552.24	250000	750.62	311000
5.	Haryana	73000	73081	181.21	95000	96170	207.17	117000	332.42	135000
6.	Himachal P.	40000	40176	121.59	59000	43217	119.87	59000	169.42	60000
7.	J & K	20000	20819	52.51	30000	18501	51.03	40000	118.83	50000
8.	Karnataka	195000	254378	654.33	200000	237002	714.02	300000	929.88	310000
9.	Kerala	262000	230010	631.11	325000	271065	731.50	400000	913.87	500000
10.	M.P	70000	102692	329.84	110000	140352	390.54	141000	536.14	161000
11.	Maharashtra	225000	287966	846.63	300000	345348	865.52	395000	1145.04	483000
12.	North East	22500	23030	104.72	32000	35116	182.03	40000	176.64	43000
13.	Orissa	35000	67178	167.28	60000	68175	174.44	87000	274.89	75000
14.	Punjab	164000	165969	463.32	190000	193469	526.00	240000	580.70	250000
15.	Rajasthan	147000	147632	386.01	163000	171445	374.81	180000	562.17	250000
16.	Tamilnadu	249000	284378	652.38	280000	357609	756.34	350000	966.95	475000
17.	U.P.(Eas)	95000	181043	593.94	133000	186685	679.70	207000	702.81	310000
18.	U.P (West)	99000	132875	424.15	139000	154917	334.50	193000	484.87	256000
19.	West Bengal	86000	86552	227.54	120000	101425	306.58	231000	496.29	243000
20.	A & N	4500	2012	9.95	6000	7501	16.46	7000	27.25	7000
21.	Calcutta	80000	151588	411.28	112000	180320	362.61	110000	242.92	120000
22.	Chennai	75000	80168	223.85	115000	122629	259.34	140000	418.56	150000
23.	MTNL Mumbai	226000	213475	912.00	230000	156781	977.00	250000	1250.00	270000
24.	MTNL Delhi	214000	180941	Delhi & Mumbai	220000	90392	Delhi & Mumbai	240000	Delhi & Mumbai	260000
Total		2900000	3259045	8901.67	3600000	3791990	9716.93	4550000	12832.19	5330000

Alternative to Petrol

1171 DR. V SAROJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government propose to exploit alternate sources of fuel considering the high cost of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have studied the affect of methanyl alcohol in place of petrol or diesel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Government has actively considered Compressed Natural Gas(CNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas(LPG) for automotive use. CNG is already in use in Mumbai, Delhi, Vadodara, Ankleshwar and Surat with 33 refuelling station having been set up so far and 15,000 vehicles including 27 buses playing on this fuel. The use of LPG as auto-fuel would commence once the necessary amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act etc. is made

c) Does not arise

A CEA Cleared/Appraised

	Date of receipt in CEA	Date of TEC
1. Neyveli TPS Zero unit (M/s ST-CMS Elec. Co.) (250 MW)	8/93	12.8.94
2. Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (330.5 MW) M/s Dyna Makowski Power Co.)	7/95	18.10.95
3. North Madras St. II (2x525 MW) (M/s Videocon Power Co.)	4/95	01.03.96
4. Basin Bridge DGPP (4x50 MW) (M/s GMR Vasavi power Corpn.Ltd.)	5/95 3/96	10.05.96
5. Tuticorin TPP St.IV (1x525 MW) (M/s SPIC Elec. Power Corp. Ltd.)	10/96 12/96	03.06.97
6. Samayanallur DGPP(106 MW) (M/s Balaji Power Corp.Ltd.)	9/96	20.01.98
7. Samalpatti DGPP(106 MW) (M/s Samalpatti Power Co.)	1/97	20.01.98
8. North Madras TPP St.III(1x525 MW) (M/s Tri-Sakthi Energy Pvt.Ltd.)	9/96	30.07.98

(d) and (e) In order to improve the combustion of fuel in automobiles and reduce auto-emissions, the oil industry took up a project of blending 3% Methanol with petrol at Vadodara during 1993. However, oil industry had to discontinue the project because of non-supply of methanol by the suppliers as they started getting better price from the parties other than the oil industry.

Power Projects in Tamil Nadu

1172 SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals have been received by the Government to set up new power projects in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government have entered into any agreement with the foreign institutions/or to accord guarantee for setting up power projects; and

(d) the year in which these new power projects would be approved and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) A list of power projects received in Central Electricity Authority(CEA) in respect of State of Tamil Nadu in State Sector as well as Private Sector giving status of each project is given below:

	Date of receipt in CEA	Date of TEC
9. Cuddalore TPP(2x660 MW) (M/s Cuddalore Power Co.)	11/96	8.4.99/ 12.8.99
10. Vembar CCGT(LNG)(1873 MW) (M/s India Power Projects Ltd.)	2/99	24.9.99
B. DPR under examination in CEA		
1. Srimushnam Lig.TPP(1x250 MW)	9/98	MOC's approval of Mining lease/mining plan and State Govt. recommendation required.
C. Schemes not being pursued in CEA for want of various inputs.		
1. Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT Ph.II (300 MW)	3/91	Returned in 2/94
2. Ennore Extn.(2x210 MW)	9/81	Returned in 11/81
3. Kovilkalappal CCGT-TNEB(107.88 MW)	7/99	Returned on 8.9.99
4. Ennore CCGT(LNG)(1500MW)	6/97	Dropped by GOTN on 28.10.97
5. Kattupalli CCGT(LNG)(1042.95 MW)	12/97	Returned on 4.3.98 Date of submission of DPR extended upto 31.12.99
6. Basin Bridge WHRB-THEB(30 MW)	2/97	Returned on 17.4.97 site.
7. Neyveli III TPS Extn.(3x500 MW)TN-NLC	2/85	NLC is investigating alternative site.

Details of other Liquid Fuel Power Projects in Private Sector in Tamil Nadu which have approached the Central Government for fuel linkage are as under :

S.No.	Name of Project/Promoter	Capacity(MW)	Date of fuel linkage
1.	Sujana Power (Tuticorin)Ltd.	103.213	14.7.97
2.	Sujana Power(Gangikondan)Ltd.	103.213	14.7.97
3.	Aban Power Co. Ltd. Ennore	103.5	14.7.97 (Rev.9.2.99)
4.	Trichy Energy Ltd.(Smayapuram)	103.00	14.7.97
5.	Trichy Power Ltd.Tuvakudi	103.00	18.8.99
6.	Gummidipoondi-I CCGT	162.00	27.1.99
7.	Chengalpattu-I CCGT	231.00	1.2.99
8.	Gummidipoondi-II CCGT	225.00	1.2.99
9.	Pallipalayam CCGT	219.0	1.2.99
10.	Cuddalore CCGT	225.00	1.2.99
11.	DLF Power Plant, Hosur	55.00	14.7.99
12.	Perundarai GBPP	154.00	fuel linkage not necessary
13.	Srirayalaseema Hi-Strength Hypo Ltd. Arakkonam.	122.00	fuel linkage not necessary
14.	DCM Sri Ram consolidated Ltd. Sirumugai	102.6	fuel linkage recommended

(c) Counter guarantee has been given by Government of India in the case of M/s Neyveli TPS Zero Unit.

(d) The implementation of the project will depend upon the financial tie ups by the project authorities.

Rejection of Carriers Act, 1865

1173 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have rejected the transporters' demand to repeal the Carriers Act of 1865;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the notification of October 22, 1999 with regard to increase in licence fees and registration fees of trucks etc; and

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

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such notification has been issued by the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

National Telecom Policy for Setting up of VPT

1174. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of National Telecom Policy for setting up of Village Public Telephones;

(b) whether the National Telecom Policy 1994 provided linking of all the villages in the country by the Telephone facility by 1997 and recently the Government have stated that the villages will be linked by telephones by 2002;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor .

(d) whether the Government had fixed a target of 80,500 rural public telephones for the year 1998-99;

(e) if so, whether the Government could not achieve the said target and reduced it to 45,000 telephones; and

(f) if so, the reasons for misleading the public by fixing such unrealistic targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) To provide universal service covering all villages, NTP, 1994 provided for linking of all villages in the country by telecom facilities by 1997. The target could not be achieved due to lack of time left to develop suitable technology, vendor base with adequate production capacity and delay in signing licences with Private Basic Service Providers. The new target is to cover all the villages by March, 2002.

(d) to (f) Due to technical problems encountered in analog MARR systems, fresh procurement of such systems had to be stopped. After review of overall availability of material/equipment, the target was revised to 45,000 VPTs.

[English]

Chandigarh Ambala Highway Project

1175. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has cleared the project to finance the four-laning of the Chandigarh Ambala Highway; and

(b) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be started and completed ?

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

(a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices

1176. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices/sub-post offices functioning at present in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Chandigarh, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of post offices opened during the last three years till date, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open new post offices in the country, particularly in the said States;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the step taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make improvements in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The

information regarding category-wise number of post offices functioning in the country State-wise and Union Territory-wise is given in Statement-I

(b) The number of post offices opened during the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory is given in Statement-II Post Offices during the current year have to be opened by March 2000.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. Post Offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources Targets for opening post offices allotted during the Annual Plan 1999-2000 is given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

Category-wise number of Post Offices in the Country as on 31.3.1999

S. No.	Name of Circle	Head Post Offices (HOs)	Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)	Extra Departmental sub Post Offices (EDSOs)	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	104	2360	63	13669	16186
2	Assam	19	590	36	3240	3885
3	Bihar	42	1442	127	10303	11914
4	Delhi	9	418	20	122	569
5.	Gujarat	43	1367	46	7504	8960
	Dadara N.Haveli		2		32	34
	Daman & Diu		6		11	17
6.	Haryana	15	466	13	2143	2637
7	Himachal Pradesh	18	444	18	2284	2764
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	9	242	32	1356	1639
9	Kerala	51	1453	524	3023	5051
	Lakshdweep		7	5	2	14
10.	Karnataka	69	1784	296	7704	9853
11.	Madhya Pradesh	52	1379	98	9806	11335
12.	Maharashtra	61	2086	129	10150	12426
	Goa	2	103	3	145	253
13.	NORTH EAST					
	Arunachal Pradesh	1	45		248	294
	Manipur	1	51		63	689
	Meghalaya	2	61	1	419	483

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Mizoram	1	38	4	354	397
	Nagaland	1	40		279	320
	Tripura	3	80	14	614	711
14.	Orissa	35	1165	195	6725	8120
15.	Punjab	21	764	10	3084	3879
	Chandigarh	1	43	1	7	52
16.	Rajasthan	55	1394	103	8819	10371
17.	Tamil Nadu	91	2730	219	9015	12055
	Pondicherry	1	33		61	95
18.	Uttar Pradesh	86	2844	457	16836	20223
19.	West Bengal	44	1636	339	6603	8622
	Sikkim	1	19	6	178	204
	A & N Islands	1	25	7	64	97
Total		839	25117	2756	125437	154149

Statement-II

Circle-wise details of Post Offices opened in the Country during the last three years

S. No.	Name of Circle	Number of Post Offices opened in		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	14	12
2.	Assam	14	21	59
3.	Bihar	36	35	74
4.	Delhi	4	7	6
5.	Gujarat	34	21	33
	Dadar Nagar Haveli			
	Daman Diu			
6.	Haryana	16	18	16
7.	Himachal Pradesh	26	4	8
8.	Jammu & Kashmir		12	22
9.	Karnataka	25	37	17
10.	Kerala Lakshdeep	15	8	15
11.	Madhya Pradesh	26	43	55

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Maharashtra	41	37	70
	Goa	2	1	2
13.	NORTH EAST			
	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	10
	Manipur	2	2	15
	Meghalaya		1	5
	Nagaland	1	8	13
	Mizoram	1	4	7
	Tripura	2	4	7
14.	Orissa	12	24	12
15.	Punjab Chandigarh	11	15	16
16.	Rajasthan	17	34	31
17.	Tamil Nadu Pondichery	13	24	12
18.	Uttar Pradesh	47	63	85
19.	West Bengal	5	26	40
	A & N Islands			
	Sikkim			
Total		363	467	649

Statement-III

Circle-wise Allocation of Targets for opening Post Offices during Annual Plan 1999-2000

S. No.	Name of Circle	Branch Post Offices (EDBOs)			Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)		
		Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total	Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	5	15	2	Nil	2
2.	Assam	40	10	50	3	2	5
3.	Bihar	42	8	50	2	1	3
4.	Delhi	4	Nil	4	2	Nil	2
5.	Gujarat	26	4	30	3	Nil	3
6.	Haryana	15	Nil	15	2	Nil	2
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7	3	10	Nil	1	1
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	7	15	1	Nil	1
9.	Karnataka	16	5	21	3	Nil	3
10.	Kerala	4	Nil	4	2	Nil	2
11.	Madhya Pradesh	28	12	40	3	1	4
12.	Maharashtra	43	7	50	2	1	3
13.	North East	28	12	40	1	2	3
14.	Orissa	12	2	14	1	1	2
15.	Punjab	10	Nil	10	1	Nil	1
16.	Rajasthan	23	4	27	1	1	2
17.	Tamil Nadu	12	3	15	2	Nil	2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	40	10	50	3	Nil	3
19.	West Bengal	32	8	40	6	Nil	6
Total		400	100	500	40	10	50

[Translation]

Out of Order Telephone Exchanges

1177. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges and the telephones installed in the rural areas of the country remain out of order for a long time;

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

(c) whether the Government are incurring losses worth crores of rupees on this account;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of schemes formulated for the proper maintenance of telephone exchanges before the installation of telephone connections and the reasons for not implementing these schemes;

(f) whether a number of officers have been found guilty in this regard; and

(g) 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 TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. The telephone exchanges and the telephones installed in the rural areas, are working generally satisfactorily

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

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

(English)

Power Projects

1178. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether power projects have shown 6.4% growth over the previous months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made to improve the position further and the extent to which the power shortage would be met during the remainder of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Energy availability in the country during the period from April to October, 1999 increased to 258743 MU from 240115 MU during the corresponding period of 1998-99. Thus there was an increase of 7.8% in the energy availability during 1999-2000 (upto Oct., 1999) compared to corresponding period last year.

(c) The following steps have been taken to improve the power supply position further :

- Addition to installed capacity.
Efforts to improve availability and PLF.
- Promotion of Inter-State and Inter Regional power transfers.
- Renovation and Modernisation of existing generating stations.
Coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations in the regional power systems.
- Promotion of measures for demand side management such as flattening of load curve by staggering of weekly off-day of industrial consumers and regulation of power supply to agricultural consumers through grouping restrictions and energy conservation.
- Augmentation of transmission and transformation capacity in the power system.
- Reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

Thermal Power Station in U.P.

1179. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Power Authority had received any proposal to set up a thermal power station at Doharighat in Azamgarh presently in Uttar Pradesh during 1984-88;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the then Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had given an assurance in the House to setup a thermal power station at Doharighat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said thermal power station is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a), (b), (d) and (e) A project report for installation of 2 x 210 MW thermal unit at Doharighat in Azamgarh District, Uttar Pradesh was submitted by Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) in May, 1978 for approval of Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Due to constraints in coal movement by Railways and non-availability of coal linkage, UPSEB was advised by CEA in February, 1981 to review the scheme. UPSEB in January, 1988 intimated that an alternate site was located at Belthara road, District Balia and a feasibility report for setting up of 3 x 250 MW TPS at Belthara Road was submitted by UPSEB in November, 1992. The Scheme could not be taken up for approval by CEA due to non-availability of essential inputs/clearances even after a lapse of considerable period. Therefore, UPSEB was informed in February, 1994 that the scheme could not be pursued in CEA due to pending tie up of essential inputs. There has been no further response from UPSEB.

(c) No information is available with the Government.

Development of Para-Military Forces in N-E

1180. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of personnel of Para-Military forces presently deployed in North-Eastern States including Sikkim;

(b) whether these forces have been deployed proportionately in these States;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (d) The Central Para Military Forces are made available to

assist the State Governments to maintain public order. The levels of deployment in any State depends upon the over all security scenario and the availability of these forces. Keeping in view these factors, the Central Para Military Forces have been deployed in the North Eastern States including Sikkim. It is, however, not considered appropriate, to indicate the details of these forces and their levels of deployment, in public interest.

Flyash Discharge by Power Plants

1181. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the percentage of flyash being produced and discharged by various power plants run by National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the discharge of such flyash is hazardous to health of the people living around the power plants; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During the year 1998-99, about 22.6 million tonnes of ash was produced at NTPC power stations. NTPC has informed that about 2.4 million tonnes (approx. 11% of the ash generated), was used in various gainful activities. The balance quantity of ash was discharged in ash ponds/ash mounds in an environmentally safe manner.

(c) and (d) The ash produced by NTPC coal based power stations is stored in the ash ponds, bound by ash dykes all around, specially designed for this purpose. Adequate water cover is maintained over the ash dykes to avoid fugitive dust nuisance and to ensure that such fly ash do not become hazardous to the health of the people living around the power plants.

Repair/Construction of Bridges on NHs in Haryana

1182. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of National Highways which run through the State of Haryana;

(b) the details of work done for the repair and bridge construction on these National Highways during the last three years and the amount spent in this regard; and

(c) the proposals for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for the repair works and construction of bridges on National Highways in Haryana and the amount earmarked for this purpose?

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

(b) 86 Nos. of bridges at an approximate cost of Rs. 90.00 crores have been constructed, and an amount of Rs. 2897.00 lakhs has been spent on the repairs of National Highways including on repair of bridges, during the last three years, i.e. (April, 1996 to March, 1999).

(c) Three number of bridges at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.60 crores are included for sanction, in the Annual Plan 1999-2000. Annual Plan for 2000-2001 is under finalisation. Repairs of Bridges are taken up when the need arises, the allocation for maintenance and repairs of National Highways is Rs. 16.12 crores for the current year 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Target for Public Telephones

1184. SHRI J.S. BRAR :
SHRI AJIT SINGH :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time bound targets were set up to provide public telephone facilities in the urban and rural areas of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of cities and villages in the country particularly in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh where the telephone facility was to be provided by the end of October 1999 and the achievements made vis-a-vis these targets during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the amount spent for the purpose during the said period and the amount, allocated during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

D.P. Wadhwa Commission

1185. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received D.P. Wadhwa Commission report on the killing of Australian missionary;

(b) if so, the recommendations made therein;

(c) whether the Government have accepted these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Commission are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Justice D.P. Wadhwa Commission of Inquiry has rendered its report to the Home Ministry on 21.6.99. The Report alongwith the Memorandum of Action Taken has been laid in Lok Sabha on 29.11.1999 and in Rajya Sabha on 1.12.1999.

Statement

Recommendations of Justice D.P. Wadhwa Commission of Inquiry

Recommendations :

1. It is imperative that development of tribal areas is accelerated.
 2. To avoid any distrust among the different communities and to bring in communal harmony, it is necessary that at the school level itself, children are taught components of all religious faiths making available to them treasure of all faiths.
 3. It is necessary to evolve a common framework for the future and for that National Foundation of Communal Harmony be made a statutory body on the lines of National Human Rights Commission.
 4. Law and order machinery in the State is to be strengthened. Frequent, illogical and irrational transfers of officers, specially of District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, are to be avoided. Proposal for transfer of Superintendent of Police should emanate from Director General of Police in the State. IPS and IAS officers who are on the cadre of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, while in their respective academies, should be taught about the tribals, their culture, their customs and their habits. These officers are being given lessons in the language of the particular State to which they are assigned.
 5. FIR registered in the case does not represent true state of affairs. It is certainly a doctored document.
6. Intelligence gathering machinery also needs strengthening especially the community intelligence.
 7. There should be proper understanding of the provisions of the Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967 and the Rules made thereunder.
 8. Visits of VIPs need drastic curtailing as their visits hamper investigation and there is every chance of important evidence being lost by delay in investigation.
 9. There should be a Code of Conduct for the political parties when their leaders make statements without verification in a situation like the present one. Leaders cannot make statements merely for gaining political mileage. Their statements should be subdued and not to fan the fire when the atmosphere is communally surcharged. It is the duty of everyone to have regard to each other's faith and to spread a message of love, peace and kindness. Murderer is a murderer to whichever faith he may belong. A criminal is a criminal. Religion need not be brought in in such matters. Allow the Police to make independent investigation of the crime uninfluenced by politics or religion or caste.
 10. Media, both print and electronic, has also to exercise restraint. Screaming headlines should be avoided which have the effect of misleading the public and creating more tension and suspicion among different communities. News headlines in the cases of rape of nun and murder of a Christian boy and girl after rape have been noticed. One cannot imagine the damage that might have been caused to the polity by such headlines and reporting. Reporting of communal strife should not be done without proper verification or an ordinary crime given a communal twist.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps

1186. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Petrol Pumps and LPG agencies allotted under the discretionary quota in the country during the last three years and the location thereof;

(b) the locations where the Government propose to allot Petrol Pumps and LPG agencies during the current financial year; and

(c) the criteria adopted for selecting places for the allotment of new agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) After the abolition of discretionary quota in July, 1996 no allotments of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products have been made under discretionary quota.

(b) The ROs/LPG distributorships will be set up at the locations included in the approved Marketing Plan. Selection of dealers/distributors is a continuous process.

(c) As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country.

- (i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.
- (ii) Urban locations having population of 5000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.
- (iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.
- (iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

The criteria for setting up of Retail Outlet dealerships is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Locations for Development of New Dealerships/Distributorships are Identified based on surveys conducted by the Oil Industry from time of time keeping the following norms into consideration

Market	Distance Norms	Volume Norms
1. RETAIL OUTLETS		
(a) Lone HSD or MS/HSD		
'A' Class – Cities having a population of over 10 lakhs as per 1981 census.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Metropolitan cities and other cities (including 15 km periphery from municipal limits). 2. Average combined MS/HSD thrupt (within a radius of 3 km) should not be less than 80 kl per month. 3. No restriction for ear-marked sites by Town Planning authorities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lone HSD : Should yield a min. of 50 kl per month during second year of operation. 2. Combined MS/HSD : HSD. 25 kl per month MS. 30 kl per month } During second year of operation.
'B' Class – Cities having population between 2 and 10 lakhs as per 1981 census.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Average combined MS/HSD thrupt of retail outlets within 5 km of municipl limits should be more than 80 kl per month. 2. No. restriction on ear-marked sites by Town Planning authorities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lone HSD : Should yield 50 kl per month during second year of operation. 2. Combined MS/HSD : HSD. 50 kl per month MS. 5 kl per months } During second year of operation.
'C' Class – Other Towns.	Average combined thrupt within a radius of 5 km from the existing outlet should exceed 80 kl per month.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lone HSD : Should yield 50 kl per month during second year of operation.

Market	Distance Norms	Volume Norms
		2. Combined MS/HSD : HSD. 50 kl per month } MS. 5 kl } During second per months } year of operation.
'D' Class – National/State Highways	Combined thruput per retail outlet within 15 km (either side) of the proposed retail outlet should exceed 80 kl per month.	1. Lone HSD : Should yield 50 kl per month during second year of operation. 2. Combined MS/HSD : HSD. 50 kl per month } MS. 5 kl } During second per months } year of operation.
'E' Class (remote areas not covered by NH/SH and pockets of agricultural concentration having no retail outlets within 10 km radius).	In these markets, only Low Cost retail outlets are developed.	1. Lone HSD : 25 kl per month during second year of operation.
(b) Lone MS :		
'A' Class	None	Should yield 30 kl per month during second year of operation.
'B' Class	Average trade of retail outlets should not be less than 35 kl per month within 5 km radius of the proposed location.	None.
'C' Class	Average trade of retail outlets should not be less than 35 kl per month within 5 km radius of the proposed location.	None.
'D' Class	Minimum volume 35 kl per month within 15 km along the Highway on both ends.	None.

Note : MS can be added to the existing HSD outlet provided the minimum potential of 5 kl is available. However HSD cannot be added to the existing MS retail outlets.

[English]

**Proposal for N.H. and
Bridge in A.P.**

1187. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the proposed Tada to Ichapuram National Highway in the coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether a survey has been conducted for a bridge on this proposed National Highway across the River Krishna at Penumodu and Puligadda;

(c) if so, the details of the length of the proposed bridge and other salient points; and

(d) the time by which the work is to be taken up in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :
 (a) There is no proposal of National Highway from Tada to Ichapuram. The existing National Highway No. 5 runs parallel to coast from Tada to Ichapuram.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Population of Black Bucks

1188. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total black buck population in the country;
- (b) whether the black buck population have been diminishing;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to give due protection to the black bucks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Accordingly to a research study carried out by Bombay Natural History Society, the estimated population of black buck in the country in 1991 was between 29000 to 38000.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) The steps taken by the Government to protect the Black Bucks are given below :
 - (i) 'Black Buck' is in the Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. So hunting of black buck is banned by Law. Any offence in this regard is imprisonment from one year to six years and also a minimum fine of Rs. 5,000/-. For a subsequent offence of this nature the term of imprisonment would be from 2 years to 6 years and the minimum fine would be Rs. 10,000/-.
 - (ii) A network of 447 wildlife sanctuaries and 84 National Parks covering 150,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna which has helped in protecting habitat of black buck. Financial assistance is provided by the Central government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.
 - (iii) Raids carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them, have reduced poaching of scheduled animals.
 - (iv) 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). It has also deterred poachers.

- (v) 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.
- (vi) Interdepartmental co-ordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programme on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995 and 1996.

[Translation]

Price Hike of Diesel

1189. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to withdraw or to bring down the recent price hike of diesel;
- (b) if so, the reasons for immediate price hike of diesel and the extent to which it is likely to be brought down;
- (c) whether the Union Government have received the request from various organisations to withdraw the price hike and not to increase the prices of other petroleum products;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

- (b) Does not arise. The price of diesel was revised upward on 6.10.1999 in view of increase in price of diesel in international market.
- (c) and (d) Government have received requests from various organisations/bodies etc. to withdraw the price hike.
- (e) Government have decided not to roll back the recent price hike of diesel.

[English]

Detection of Illegal Immigrants

1190. SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether incidence of illegal immigrants is on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of illegal immigrants detected at major airports during the last five years; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) and (b) It is difficult to make a realistic estimate of the number of illegal immigrants because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle with local population easily due to ethnic similarities. However, the figures of interception on borders by the BSF show that it is on the decline.

(c) 1528, 1851 and 972 foreigners were detected trying to enter illegally and were refused permission to enter India during the last three years at the 4 major international airports i.e. Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai.

(d) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of illegal infiltration into India. These include raising of additional battalions of BSF, reduction of gaps between the border out posts, intensification of patrolling on the land and the riverine border, increase in the number of outpost towers and provision of surveillance equipment etc. State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations have also been asked to launch special drive to detect and deport foreigners residing illegally in the country

National Judicial Pay Commission

1191. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the first ever national judicial Pay Commission has submitted its recommendations to the government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to accept the recommendations in toto;
- (d) if so, the time by which these are likely to be implemented;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government propose to set up a judicial Commission to Indianise the judicial system in the country; and

- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commission has made various recommendations with regard to improvement in the present structure of emoluments and other conditions of service of Judicial Officers working in the States and UTs.

(c) to (e) The Commission has sent its recommendations to the State Governments for follow up action.

(f) and (g) One of the items on the National Agenda for Governance of the National Democratic Alliance is to set up a National Judicial Commission. The proposal would require Parliamentary legislation which will soon be ready for introduction and passing.

[Translation]

Departmental Telephone Connections to Technical Supervisors

1192. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether technical supervisors of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi are entitled to get departmental telephone facility at their residence;
- (b) if so, whether technical supervisors working in all the telephone exchanges located at Delhi have been provided with the said facility;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time by which the departmental telephone connections would be provided to all the technical supervisors at their residence;
- (e) whether the officials equivalent to and even below the rank of technical supervisor are availing this facility whereas technical supervisors are not being given the benefit of this facility; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) As per existing instructions, only the senior most technical supervisors are entitled for residential service telephone connections without STD facility in each Telegraph Engineering/Telegraph Traffic Division at the Head Office of the TDE/SSTT.

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

(e) and (f) Residential Service Telephones are provided on the need based functional requirements in the interest of service, wherever deemed essential by the Competent Authority irrespective of the rank of the official.

working of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the 1997-1998.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

12.02 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Cost Accounting Records (Electric Motors) Amendment Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 731(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1999 under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-447/99]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 226(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March 1999 rescinding the declaration granted to M/s Kuber Mutual Benefits Limited, Meerut as 'Nidhi' under sub-section (3) of section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-448/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 1997-1998, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 1997-1998.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-449/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 1997-1998, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-450/99]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 56 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998:-

(i) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Salary, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R.734(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1999.

(ii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. 8/1/99-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 1999 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No.8/1/(1)/99, dated the 31st May, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-451/99]

- (2) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order, 1999 published in Notification No.8/1/(1)/99/CERC in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 1999, issued under Regulation 110 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-452/99]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : I beg to lay on the Table- a copy of the Profit and Loss Accounts and Balance Sheet (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1997-1998

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-453/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : I beg to lay on the Table-a copy of the Environment (Protection) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.682(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 1999, under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-454/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : I beg to lay on the Table-a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT-455/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Petroleum Products (Maintenance of Production, Storage and Supply) Order, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 272(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 1999, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-456/99]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Engineers India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-457/99]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-458/99]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Cochin Refineries Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-459/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 67 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices ACT, 1969:-
 - (i) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (Stenographer Grade

II and Stenographer Grade III) Recruitment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 126 in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 1999.

- (ii) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (Private Secretary) Recruitment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 129 in Gazette of India dated the 1st May 1999.

- (iii) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 141 in Gazette of India dated the 15th May,1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-460/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI) : I beg lay on the Table-a copy of the Annual Assessment Report (Hindi and English versions) on the programme and its implementation for accelerating the spread and development of Hindi and its progressive use for the various official purposes of the Union.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-461/99]

12.03 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS-RAILWAYS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-462/99]

12.04 hrs.

[Translation]

At this stage, Shri Rashid Alvi and some other hon. Members came and sat/stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : First go back to your seats. You may please sit down.

(Interruption)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour'. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

(Interruptions)

12.05 hrs.

[Translation]

At this stage, Shri Rashid Alvi and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats.

(Interruptions)

KANWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj U.P) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government do not want to reply . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. Coming to the Well of the House is not correct. Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, you are disturbing the House. Please go to your seat. You can speak from your seat, not from here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Kodikunnil Suresh says.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, this is 'Zero Hour'. Please understand that there is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr, Speaker, Sir, 6th December is one of the blackest days of Indian history. (Interruptions) On that day in 1992, an important place of worship was deliberately demolished with the help and assistance of the then ruling political party and the Government of Uttar Pradesh in violation of the Supreme

*Not recorded.

Court order. Therefore, I am sure that all the right minded sections of this House will join me in condemning that incident. . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too want to speake on this subject (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER I have allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, once again, we condemn that incident and we also condemn the Government's tardiness, if not complicity, in keeping this issue alive, to try to take political benefit out of it We condemn this action on the part of the Government (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Kodikunnil Suresh says.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Kodikunnil Suresh. Shri Dasmunsi, I will allow you later. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kondikunnil Suresh, do you want to make your submission?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not permitted. Please undestand that.

(Interruptions)

12.10 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rashid Alvi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not permitted. Members must also know it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats first.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, coming to the Well is not a good thing. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Firstly please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go to your seats first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat, Madam.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have also noted it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down. I will give you a chance afterwards.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can present your views from your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : First you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you, please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

12.15 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rashid Alvi and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats, first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper way to speak. Please go back to your seats first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise the issue from your seat itself. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

12.16 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rashid Alvi, Kunwar Akhlesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Sir, Shri Bantawalla's question has not been answered by the Home Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)* We want to have a response from the Home Minister to the question raised by Shri Banatwalla. We wish to know whether the Government has got at least four cases in the Babri Masjid issue and whether we are going to have a Government run by people, who stand indicted in a court of law. The question before this House is, whether on the day of the demolition of the Babri Masjid, we can trust the Government, which is full of accused in that case, to prosecute the case properly. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, there is no provision . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandian, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Keeping in mind that it is a serious subject, if the hon. Members want, I can allow one Member from each party to say something about the seriousness of this subject. Today we have a very lengthy legislative business. Please understand it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, a question was pointedly asked by Shri Banatwalla, We would like to have a reponse from the Home Minister as to what is happening about the case that is taking place in the trial court. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, do you want to say something on this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr, Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member was not replied to by the Home Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I will allow you later. Now, Shri Dasmunsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) Mr Speaker, Sir, you yourself, with the Members of the House, took a stand to celebrate and to remember the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Republic.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the very preamble of the Constitution, the essence of the secular fabric of the Constitution had been assaulted on the 6th December, 1992. Everybody knows about it. Now the most important point is this.

[Translation]

Shri Advani, I would like to speak with due respect Shri Advani himself had set an example in Indian democracy. When hawala issue was raised, Shri Advani himself had said, he would not go to the House and would not take any post of responsibility, untill the court gives its judgement. Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, I am raising a very important matter. In Babri Mosque case, the names of four Ministers of our Government have figured in the list of accused. After getting bail, they have got stay for appearance, but C.B.I. is doing nothing to vacate the stay. The accused are holding Ministerial Post at the centre. In the State of U.P. also the Government is of ruling party. The persons whose name figured in the accused list are ruling the country. I would like to ask you how the people of country will believe that the fair trial of this case will be held? Because even after being figured in the list of accused some people are holding the posts. Is this a democratic propriety. Is this a political morality?

Sir, this question is not against any person, but this is an institutional question. The Government have not taken any step to vacate the stay. It appears that there is some nexus between C.B.I. and the government so that Prosecution could not move ahead and any action could not be taken.

[English]

This is a very serious thing. Therefore, I demand that all steps should be taken to ensure the fairness of the trial. Till the trial is not over, not disposed of by the court, those who are accused, those who figure in the list and who are sitting Ministers should not occupy the office. You cannot bring people like Shri Kalyan Singh and Shri Sakshi Maharaj here because they are not Members of the House. That is my fair submission.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, today is the black day in the history of our country when in the year 1992, on 6th December, Babri Masjid was demolished by Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh, Shiv Sainees and hoodlums, Sangh Parivar and also BJP in the presence of BJP leadership.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) . Under what provision is this debate going on ?

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Under what provision is this debate going on?

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Please pardon me, I just want a clarification. Under what provision is this debate going on? . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on which motion or under which rule the discussion is being held here. . . . (Interruption).

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (GAZIPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under which rule this discussion is being held . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I have given permission for this. You may please sit down.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : On the 6th December, 1992, they have not only demolished the Babri Masjid but they have also demolished the secular fabric of our country. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I allowed them. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : (Interruptions) When the matter is *sub judice*, can it be discussed in the House? . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing it. Please take your seat.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : We are all discussing it indirectly . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : It is a submission please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will also get chance, please take your seat

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : After demolition of Babri Masjid, communal riots took place in our country.

Thousands of people were killed because of communal riots. . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : It is not discussion, but it is submission. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, by doing so they are wasting time of the House and are trying to rake up the long last past . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Basu Deb Acharia's speech.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Now, a large number of BJP leaders are accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case. . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is here. When he was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, some conspiracy was hatched by the BJP but because of him, Babri Masjid could not be demolished by them.

When Shri Kalyan Singh became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, they hatched a conspiracy and the Babri Masjid was demolished. . . . (Interruptions).

My question is that there are four Members of the Cabinet who are accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case. We want to know as to who are these Members of the Cabinet, who are accused and in whose presence the Babri Masjid was demolished. . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are wasting the time of the House. . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will they interrupt again and again . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have allowed Shri Basu Deb Acharia. please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the demolition of the Babri Masjid is a criminal case. It is a criminal offence. . . . (Interruptions).

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may sit down please.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : They are trying to damage the communal harmony of the country. . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want to know from the Government whether a person, who is an accused for criminal offence, can continue as a Member of the Cabinet or not. . . (Interruptions). We want to know who are these Members of the Cabinet who are accused in Babri Masjid demolition case. We want to know from the Government whether a person who is an accused in a criminal case can continue or not. . . (Interruptions). We want to have a clarification from the Government on this. . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Anant Gangaram Geete.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are guilty of demolishing the Babri Mosque. . . (Interruptions). Therefore, they do not want the truth to come to light. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when they were speaking, we were listening. (Interruptions). Now you should try to listen to me.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I am on a point of order. . . (Interruptions). Before he speaks, I have a right to speak as I am on a point of order. I am quoting rule 376. . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, what is your point of order?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Please look at rule 50 in respect of Supplementary Questions. One hon. Member has asked a Supplementary Question. I will quote rule 50 (2) :

"A supplementary question shall be held out of order by the Speaker, if in his opinion:

(i) it does not arise from the main question."

But the supplementary Question, to my mind, was very much. . . (Interruptions).

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Under this point of order are we questioning the Speaker's ruling? He is questioning the Speaker's ruling. . . (Interruptions). How can we reply to that?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, you have not ruled it out. . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : On a point of order, he is quoting some rule. I can clarify it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the hon. Minister has refused to reply to the question. The hon. Minister himself cannot rule it out in this manner and refuse to reply. Has he any right not to reply to any relevant Supplementary Question, particularly on this day of 6th December, on which day, seven years ago, a very heinous crime had taken place when a place of worship was demolished? . . . (Interruptions).

Now, four of the offenders are in the Cabinet. They were involved in the crime. This Government is protecting the offenders.

One hon. Member has asked a question. You have not ruled it out. The hon. Minister has refused to reply. . . (Interruptions) He is bound to reply. He has to reply to this question. . . (Interruptions) You have not ruled it out. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, in the morning it was already decided. I have disallowed the Supplementary Question because it does not arise from the main question. Please understand it. You are again quoting the rule.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order. It has already been replied to.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Geete.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What are you going say ? . . (Interruptions). You are responsible for it . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : You should listen what I am saying. . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : You may sit down. I have called him to speak.

(Interruptions).

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Babar was invader, who attacked India. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is this the discussion being held over here? . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people want to create unrest. . . (Interruptions).

14.15 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : The structure was demolished as a result of mass movement. . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I request the hon. Members to please go to their seats.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : We are lamenting over demolition of a mud structure, but we are not expressing our sorrow over killing of thousands of youth of this country. . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go to your seats. The entire nation is watching you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The entire nation is watching as to how the Members are behaving. Please understand that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The nation is watching you. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How can we run the House in this way? Please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House is adjourned to meet again at 4 p.m.

14.20 hours.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock.

16.00 hrs.

Lok Sabha reassembled at 16.00 hrs. of the Clock

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY in the Chair] f

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we are taking up, Matters under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can raise your issue after matters under rule 377.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : After matters under rule 377, you can raise your issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Matters under rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table.

16.01 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (I) **Need for early laying of proposed Ramtek-Gotegaon Rail Line in Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni) : Sir, the Ministry of Railways of the Government of India has planned to introduce a number of new trains, but no consideration has been paid to the State of Madhya Pradesh. The State of Madhya Pradesh is the largest backward area of this country, where due to lack of railway line facility forest and mineral resources could not be exploited. The proposal for laying rail line between Ramtek-Gotegaon is pending in Ministry of Railways for many years. The Railway Minister in the last Government had assured to complete survey work in this regard by December 99, but seeing the pace of the work, it appears that it will not be completed in next many years. The proposed Ramtek-Gotegaon line is an important rail line of this country. With its construction the distance between North and South will be reduced by 350 kilometres, and the backward district of Seoni, Balaghat and Mandla of Madhya Pradesh will be connected to this rail line and the industrial development of these areas will take place by exploitation of their abundant forest and mineral resources.

- (II) **Need for early construction of the Refinery at Agasod in Segar Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (SAGAR) : Sir, India-Oman Refinery Limited is going to begin with the collaboration

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

of Bharat Petroleum and Oman Government at Agasod under Beena Vidhan Sabha constituency of my parliamentary constituency, Sagar. The crores of rupees have been spent on it. At the time of dissolution of 12th Lok Sabha, the construction work of refinery had come to sudden standstill which has become the issue of public debate. Though, in past, the environment related approval had been granted with the cooperation of hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Environment and Forests. The Sagar district is industrially very backward. The people of this district have high hopes from this refinery.

Therefore, I request the hon'ble Prime Minister that in view of industrial development of Sagar, he should take the work of refinery in his hands on priority basis and extend his cooperation in removing the difficulties in its path, and in starting the construction work as soon as possible.

(iii) Need for early commissioning of T.V. Relay Centres at Radhanpur and Disha in Gujarat

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Government towards the Radhanpur and Disha T.V. Centres in Gujarat. The modern equipments worth crores of rupees have been installed at these T.V. Centres, but till now they have not been made fully operational. As a result of which we are unable to utilise our resources. When the attention of Government was drawn towards this, we were assured that soon they will be commissioned, but till now they have not been commissioned.

I request the Central Government to fully commission these two T.V. relay centres at the earliest.

[English]

(iv) Need to check pollution caused by Sugar Factory in Newshol Tehsil in Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (Ahmednagar) : A Sarkari sugar factory is situated in Newshol Tehsil in Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra. Because of the drainage of residue of this factory, about 25,000 acres of land has been completely spoiled and the dirty water of this factory has even led to serious pollution.

The thousands of pilgrims visiting Shani Mandir in Singanapur have to drink this polluted water. This sugar factory is making the thousands of acres of land polluted.

I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

(v) Need to provide more Railway facilities at the Railway Stations falling under Cuddapah Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah) : Sir, a number of representations have been forwarded to the Railway Minister and to the General Manager, South Central Railway, Secunderabad from Season Ticket Holders Association, Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh, signed by large number of affected people, dated 10-10-99. The Passenger train, 521 and 522, running between Cuddapah and Guntakal was cancelled one year back affecting the employees of different departments of State and the Central Government and other organizations.

Again from 6.10.1999, the timing of 207 Passenger train running between Guntakal and Tirupati have been changed and it is running early by two-and-a-half hours comparing to previous timings. Due to this, passengers are facing more difficulties.

Moreover, No.7498, Tirupati to Kacheguda Express which leaves Tirupati at 17.50 hours and arrives Kacheguda at 07.45 hours should be connected to 2723 Hyderabad-New Delhi A.P. Express and 7493 Mumbai-Tirupati and 7494 Tirupati-Mumbai, Balaji Express which is a bi-weekly train be made daily and it should be extended up to Ahmedabad.

There should be introduction of A.C.3 Tier coaches in Train Nos. 6009/6010, Madras-Mumbai Mail and also in 7497/7498 Tirupati-Kacheguda Express, 7493/7494 Balaji Express, and 6011/6012 Dadar-Chennai Express in place of First Class as this is Cheaper and will also accommodate more.

The 511-512 HX-QZ and 515-516 HX-RU Passenger trains should be restored.

(vi) Need to accord approval to pending Irrigation Projects of Karnataka

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK (Raichur) : Sir, irrigation facilities in Karnataka are the lesser in comparison to other States in the country, especially, the three States in the Krishna Basin. Apart from the dispute over sharing of Krishna river water, delay in according the clearance to the irrigation projects of the State of Karnataka is one of the main reasons for such low irrigation facility. Presently, Karnataka is not utilizing even its share of 734 TMC in the Krishna Basin as allocated by Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal. Whereas, the other two States are utilizing more than their share. The State Government of Karnataka had submitted to the Union Government some irrigation projects such as Upper Tunga Project, Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme, Upper Krishna Project, Stage-II and so on under the Master Plan of Krishna Basin to utilize the 734 TMC

[Shri A. Venkatesh Naik]

for irrigation purposes of the States. But, all the projects are pending with the Central Water Commission as well as with the Environment Department for a long period. Here, it is also submitted that there is a condition of utilizing the allocated share by 2000 A.D. In case of failure in utilizing the allocated share, the share will be re-allocated among the three States in Krishna Basin and there is a fear of loss of share by the Karnataka State. So, there is a need to accord approval immediately to the pending irrigation projects of Karnataka.

Therefore, I request the hon. Ministers of Water Resources, and Environment and Forests to accord approval to all the pending irrigation projects of Karnataka so that it may utilize its allocated share of 734 TMC awarded by KWDT.

(vii) Need to make Trivandrum International Airport operational round the clock

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : There is a persistent demand from the people of Kerala for 24 hour operation of Trivandrum International Airport. This is the only International Airport in the country which is not operating round the clock.

From Cochin Airport only one flight operates during the night time, but it has been made 24 hours operational.

There are 91 flights weekly operating from Trivandrum Airport. Recently, Air India has withdrawn 17 flights from Trivandrum without any reason. I demand that these may be restored.

Several Airlines have requested for making Trivandrum International Airport operational for 24 hours, SIL Airlines being one of them.

Several Airlines like Saudi Airlines, Lufthansa, Emirates have requested to operate their flights from Trivandrum. They are not being allowed to operate their flights from there. So, necessary permission may be given to these Airlines to operate their flights from Trivandrum.

Also International flight services should be linked with Calicut-Cochin-Trivandrum.

(vii) Need to set up BSF posts at suitable points to ensure safety of the occupants of 'Char lands' created by severe erosion in Murshidabad District, West Bengal

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad) : The erosion caused by the river Padma in Murshidabad District in the

State of West Bengal has assumed alarming proportion and brought in a new set of problems to the fore. Not only large tracts of land in several blocks in the district of Murshidabad are being wiped out every year thereby displacing thousands of villagers living in these blocks, but also new tracts of land known in local dialect as 'char land' are raised as a result of this disastrous erosion. These 'char lands' are mostly growing on the other side of the Padma river which is now flowing deep inside the Indian soil. While the river Padma after causing heavy erosion to our land is flowing along a new tract over our territory, the newly grown 'char lands' are going over to Bangladesh, though these should legitimately belong to those people displaced by the capricious river Padma.

It is being increasingly felt necessary that the Government should take immediate steps to set up BSF outfits at suitable points along these 'char lands' to ensure occupancy of these newly found lands by the victims of erosion, to protect the cattle and crops reared by these people on these tracts. Most important of all, such posting of BSF camps would serve the purpose of assuring rehabilitation to thousands of houseless and landless people as well as effectively tackling the law and order problem arising out of occupancy of the 'char lands' on the other side of the river but very much within our country.

(ix) Need for construction of a bridge on river Krishna connecting Guntur and Krishna districts near Penumudi and Puligadda in Andhra Pradesh

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHARLU (Tenali) : It is the long felt need of the coastal Andhra Pradesh to have a bridge across Krishna river connecting Guntur and Krishna districts near Penumudi and Puligadda. This forms part of the proposed Tada-Ichapuram National Highway in the coastal Andhra Pradesh. This bridge facilitates transportation of agricultural and Aqua products of coastal areas to the nearest ports at Chennai and Visakhapatnam and other places, so that the coastal economy could be improved. The coastal area is having a tremendous potentiality of both inland and marine aqua products like fish, shrimp, crabs, etc. besides agricultural products mainly for export. This will earn sizeable foreign exchange to the country besides providing tremendous employment opportunities to the people. The related service sectors like transport, cold storage also will provide employment opportunities.

Further, it will also cut short the road distance between Chennai and Visakhapatnam by about 100 kms. and

thereby the savings on vehicle fuel will run in hundreds of crores of rupees annually.

Hence, in view of the importance and urgency, I urge upon the Government to sanction the Tada-Ichapuram National Highway and thereby the Penumudi-Puligadda bridge immediately.

- (x) **Need for early construction of Bridge on river Chambel in Bah Tehsil of Agra District, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Sir, in 1988, the then Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone of a bridge on river Chambel in Bah Tehsil of Agra district (Uttar Pradesh) and had assured the people present on the occasion, that the bridge which connects the border of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh would be constructed without any delay. But even after 11 years, the situation is as it was before. The people of U.P., Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are facing inconvenience due to non-construction of this bridge. They reach their destination after covering the long distance. The Government should construct this bridge without any delay so as to remove the inconvenience felt by the people of these three states.

- (xi) **Need to set up an L.P.G. outlet at Arwal District in Bihar**

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad) : Sir, more than one year has passed since the Arwal in Bihar was accorded the status of district, but the people, residing over there have to go to Jahanabad to get L.P.G. The distance between Jahanabad and Arwal is more than 40 kilometres. All the consumers who go to get the L.P.G. are facing inconvenience in travelling from Arwal to Jahanabad.

Therefore, I request the Government of India to take action in public interest in setting up an L.P.G. outlet at Arwal district of Bihar.

- (xii) **Need to launch a Special Employment Generation Programme for the unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir**

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the agonising situation of the unemployed boys and girls of Kashmir, especially the border areas of Baramulla constituency. Keeping in view, the disturbing security scenario of Kashmir, I request the Union Government to take immediate step to launch a Special Employment Generation Programme for the eligible persons of Kashmir.

This gesture will resume the distressed youth from the morass of alienation and reassure the alienated sections of Kashmir about the generosity of welfare State.

16.01 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, kindly take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am requesting you to please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you said, whatever you wanted to say.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I appeal to you to go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translations]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request you to go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am appealing to you to go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House already had been adjourned for two times, now please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am appealing to you again and again to kindly go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am appealing to you again and again to please resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, Tuesday, the 7th December, 1999 at 11 A.M.

16.06 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Tuesday, December 7, 1999/
Agrahayana 16, 1921 (Saka)*

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