

Thirteenth Series, Vol. VI, No. 21

F.C.
Thursday, April 20, 2000
Chaitra 31, 1922 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 21 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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LOK SABHA DEBATE

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 20, 2000/Chaitra 31, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Pak Shelling in Border Areas

+

*381. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Pakistani troops resorted to shelling in the border town of Uri in North Kashmir on March 17,2000;
- (b) if so, the details of places where Pakistani forces fired on various points of Line of Control during the recent past;
- (c) the number of casualties amongst civilians and the jawans of Indian Forces;
- (d) the details of compensation paid to the victims;
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to check such incidents and to rehabilitate and protect the wards of deceased;
- (f) whether any attempt to cut-off Jammu-Kashmir-Srinagar Highway has also been made by the Pak militants; and
- (g) if so, the reaction of the Indian Forces thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Firing along the Line of Control is a regular phenomenon. Pakistan resorts to unprovoked firing to abet infiltration of mercenaries, inflict casualties on our troops and portray J and K as a flash point to the international community. Pakistani troops, however, did not resort to shelling in the border town of Uri in North Kashmir on 17th March 2000.

The number of incidents of firing for the period from 01 January 2000 to 31 March 2000 are as under :-

(a) Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL i.e. Siachen Sector)	91
(b) Line of Control (LOC) (Point Sangam to Point NJ 9842)	1003
(c) International Border (IB) (Point Sangam Southwards)	90
Total	1184

During the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000 there were 22 casualties of the army, including an officer.

Figures relating to civilian casualties on account of Pakistani firing are being obtained from the State Government.

Compensation is paid to the Next-of-Kin of the deceased army personnel in accordance with the provisions of Liberalised Pension Scheme and ex-gratia payments. As regards the civilian casualties, the J and K Government has announced a scheme, according to which ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh is paid to the Next-of-Kin of each person killed and 50% (subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh) per case is paid in cases of damage to immovable property. There is also a provision for issue of monthly ration and monetary assistance at the specified rates some of which are available upto May, 2000.

No attempt to cut off the said Highway has been made by the militants.

Constant vigil is maintained and appropriate response is given by our troops to the unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : The Government of India has admitted that from January to the end of March this year, there have been 1184 incidents of firing that have occurred in Kashmir. Unfortunately, we are reading everyday in the newspapers that either *Jawans* or civilians are dying on account of the terrorist acts. The Government had also admitted in starred Question No. 54 last year that nearly 500 *Jawans* and 480 civilians had died.

A report appearing in *The Tribune* on 16.1.2000 said that in the Siachen sector Pakistan has been attacking the Indian forces. Some other reports state that there has been a regular exchange of firing along the LoC in Uri, Poonch and other places. *The Times of India* has also reported a number of such incidents.

In view of all these incidents, may I know from the hon. Minister as to what preventive steps have been taken to safeguard the interest of our *Jawans* and civilians in the border areas.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We have everyday cross-border firing from the other side of the border. This has been on for the last ten years and more. There has not been a single day's let up in so far as this firing by the Pakistani side is concerned. We have our posts on the border, on the Line of Control. Some of these posts are literally on an eyeball to eyeball kind of confrontation. Each time there is firing from the other side, Indian troops necessarily return that firing.

We know why they indulge in this kind of activity. It is essentially to create a situation where it becomes easier for them to smuggle in the mercenaries or the terrorists from the other side. In so far as facing this is concerned, as I said, to the forces today in Jammu Kashmir, it has become a daily routine. Till such time as we, through whatever means, succeed in making Pakistan stop this type of cross-border terrorism, I believe that we will have to face this and we are facing this. Casualties are bound to be there. We inflict casualties and we also take casualties. We are in a state of an undeclared kind of war, what is called a proxy war. The fight is on. That is all one can say.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Pakistan has been able and even successful in achieving the aim of internationalising the Kashmir issue in world forums.

This, I feel, is due to the weak-kneed policy of our Government. During the regime of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Pakistan could not dream of internationalising the Kashmir issue. Pakistan has now been waging a proxy war since 1990. Even the minority communities of J and K have fallen targets to the militants, the latest being the massacre of nearly 35 Sikhs in Chittisinghpura and Jammu on the eve of the visit of the US President. Unfortunately, when the casualties are going on every moment and everyday, what stern action has been taken by the Government to prevent the terrorists from entering the Indian border?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I would not like to bring in any kind of politics into what is happening in Kashmir. We have a situation there, as I have said earlier, which arose in terms of the present insurgency and Pakistani support to that insurgency towards the end of the 1980s and we have been facing it. Now, to get into when it started, how it started, who is responsible, etc. would not be wise because it is a situation which the whole nation has been facing and will have to face. I have already told the hon. Member that wherever Pakistan is attacking us, we are fighting back and we are hitting back. We have not taken any initiative to attack Pakistan anywhere on the border. Therefore, as far as the Government is concerned, all that I can once again reassure the hon. Member is that

whatever challenge which Pakistan throws at us on the borders is met and it is met very effectively and will be met very effectively.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about Kashmir's problem the Minister just said that he does not want to repeat old history. But we all know that today Kashmir's problem is there because just after independence we accepted cease fire whereas the Army was ready to capture the entire Kashmir and for that they wanted only 24 to 36 hours. If the Army would have been given that much time, they would have captured entire Kashmir. But at that time they were not given time and ceasefire was accepted suddenly.

Mr. Minister said we are giving a befitting reply to Pakistan whether we are giving proper reply or only reacting means when they slap us only then we give them a reply this policy is not good. However, I understood that this issue cannot be discussed here in detail. But I think till we give Pakistan a befitting reply.

[English]

We can pay them back in their own coin and return their activities with complements.

[Translation]

Till then they would not stop their present activities and therefore my suggestion is to re-consider this policy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Many Members want to ask questions about this. Please ask a question quickly.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask two things, one is that Mr. Minister in his reply to parts A,B,C has said that from 1.1.2000 to 21.3.2000 about 1184 casualties took place in different incidents. I want to ask whether this number was more or less in comparison to last year during 1.1.99 to 31.3.99?

My second question is if these 22 casualties which took place in three months were of Indian army then what was the number of casualties on the other side?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever the hon'ble Members has said about the policy, I would not like to comment on that because I am giving a reply on some other subject and the incident which took place is limited to that area only. How we will behave with Pakistan as far as this policy is concerned and what is happening on borders of Kashmir, how we will retaliate as far as that is concerned I would like to reply

is given according to the way situation changes, and these situations keep on changing.

Today we are adamant that whoever attacks our border we will give them a befitting reply but from our side we will not attack anyone.

The Hon'ble Member had just asked about figures. What were the figures between January to March and whether they were more or less. Figures are not available just now with me but this much I would surely state that what I have spoken is not far from the truth. If you look at 'A' then actual ground line position means that we are talking about Siachin. In three months 91 incidents have taken place. It means every day Siachin is attacked and we everyday retaliate. Same situations can be seen on International Border, there also our posts are attacked everyday and we retaliate everyday. In 91 days 91 incidents have taken place. Same happens on the line of control. Here figures are 1003. Our posts which are there are attacked every day and befitting reply is given everyday. Therefore there is hardly any difference in number. There might be a minor difference of one or two.

As far as their attacks are concerned they are of continuous nature. There number has not reduced till now. We do not have definite figures of Pakistani soldiers killed against one officer and 21 Indian soldiers killed during the last three months, because soldiers are wounded also as well as get killed. These figures generally come to us.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the basis of the description given by hon'ble Minister I would like to know that on our borders where casualties take place everyday and on our line of control what is the number of forces posted. Has Government fixed any criteria for this? Our security forces are insufficient and due to this enemy launches attacks and our soldiers get wounded and retreats. Whether the Government has fixed any criteria for this? If not whether Government propose to do so in the future.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We have adequate number of forces to deal with internal crisis in Kashmir as well as secure our borders from outsiders. There is no lackness in it. After the Kargil war we have done one thing more i.e. creation of a new core in 'Leh' because on one side is the border of Pakistan and on the other side is the Chinese border. A new core was created to keep an eye on the day to today activities in that area and to become capable to face any condition and become powerful. Hon'ble Member need not worry that the number of forces posted in that area is not adequate.

The hon'ble Member has said here that our soldiers are killed in large numbers, there is no truth in it. Though

they get killed because after all it is war, but we saw in Kargil that if we were attacked at that place where the number of our posts were not increased during the last 27 years as it should have been done. Observing the success achieved by our forces in giving befitting reply we should not worry that we lag behind in anything anywhere.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to continuous firing by Pakistan, people of our State has moved to 10 kilometre away from their homes which were near the border which they can neither do any business nor can farm their land. They have become penniless and totally dependent on Government. The Government have announced a package for six months for them in which per family was to be given Rs. 200, 7 Kg of flour and 2 Kg rice. That package is coming to an end in May 2000. Border condition remains the same. I would like to know from the Government, whether this package would be further extended for these people whose number is not less than 30,000 and who are living in tents, If it is not extended they will starve and will be forced to beg.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Member has started truly that the package which was announced for them is coming to an end in the month of May. But it does not mean that it will not be extended. We are discussing this with the State Government in view of the activities of Pakistan no one would face any problem.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my perception that if one Indian soldier is killed then two Pakistani soldiers should be killed. Whether this is true or false we cannot say only the Defence Minister can tell this. We accept that the number of attacks by Pakistan are increasing and our casualties are also more. If one Indian soldier is killed then at least eight soldiers of Pakistan should be killed. We should accept that Pakistan has become more powerful. If eight soldiers of Pakistan are killed and India's one is killed then I think the equation is equal. You will say that I was also the Defence Minister. 'Yes' I had been the Defence Minister. You can see the report of Defence Ministry or can ask any officer. If our 22 soldier were killed, then we also killed their 25 soldiers. We do not want that war be imposed from our side. But if our soldier is sacrificed then at least their eight soldiers should be killed. Then we will accept that equation is correct.

There is only one main road leading to Kargil and Pakistan gets many opportunities to attack. Due to that our forces can become helpless. Sanction for construction of another road was given in my time. You said that work is in progress. What is the position of that road.

Though the third point is quite different from the subject but is very important for the country. Kargil was captured by our brave forces and all credit goes to them when war started, they were not intruders it was the Pakistani Army. On 22nd March President of America Shri Clinton came and he said clearly in his speech that we have defeated Pakistani Army. You also asked for votes on the grounds that you have won the war. This is true that our forces have won. But Shri Clinton on 22nd March made it clear in the joint session that we were responsible for the retreat of the Pakistani forces from Kargil. Is it true?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the equation given by the hon'ble Member about the number of soldiers to be killed against one Indian soldiers, I do not think in the present situation it will work. In my reply I have said that if our one soldier is killed then two gets killed, from the other side. I receive daily report about this. On that basis I have said this. I have not said it keeping in view the number of casualties. I do agree that problems are there. When a jawan is killed in action it is painful for us. We cannot give instruction or orders to our Jawans that they should kill the same number across the border. I would like to inform this August House and to the hon'ble Member that our Army is performing its duty with full responsibility and is bravely fighting back and it will continue do so.

You have made a mention about roads. There is lack of roads in border areas. It need not be over emphasized. Defence experts will agree with me that we are facing some problems due to lack of roads in border areas. Due to lack of roads it becomes extremely difficult for us to deploy our forces at the places where they should be deployed. Progress has been made in construction of roads during the last few years and is still continuing. This year we have enhanced the defence budget considerably and a substantial amount out of this will be spent on roads besides other works. I am sure that we shall be able to overcome this problem of roads early. But this cannot be done within one or two years. There are some areas not only in Kashmir and Ladakh region but also in the eastern parts of the country where it is a big problem. There are several places where those who are engaged in construction of roads have to go on foot for several kilometre with machines and material. They have to face lot of difficulties in approaching these inaccessible areas. These are the problems which are being tackled.

So far Kargil war is concerned as to who own and who lost, politicians may do politics over this issue, they may make it an election issue but nobody can deny that our Jawans were victorious in this war and the credit goes to the officers of our armed forces. This is fact and there is no need for any one to emphasize it again and again.

Time and again it has been said that the credit goes to our Jawans and officers. This fact cannot be denied.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Clinton had said that they were instrumental in withdrawal of troops from there.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I cannot comment on that.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, according to the Statement, this is an attempt to portray J and K as a flash point to the international community. So, the Pakistani people are sending mercenaries to India. They have killed innocent Indian citizens. When President Clinton was in India, 35 innocent people belonging to a minority community were shot dead brutally by mercenaries. The President himself had declared that the killings were due to his visit.

Is it an attempt on the part of the American Government to divert the attention from the brutal killings? What is the view of the Government of India in regard to the statement of President Clinton? He has taken the entire responsibility for the killings. Because of his visit, these poor and innocent people were killed. If he had not visited India, such a thing would not have happened. That is the view which normal people will take from the statement of President Clinton. What is your view? What is the view of the Government in regard to the statement given by President Clinton regarding the killings of innocent people? Thirty-five innocent people were massacred.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, there was an apprehension that Pakistan may create some disturbance on the eve of American Presidents visit to India in order to influence his opinion. Our security forces were on high alert and cautious at every level and vulnerable places were identified. But nobody would have ever imagined that Pakistan would resort to a such a heinous act of killing 35 innocent people belonging to the Sikh community. Whatever the American President has said does not mean that Sikhs were killed because of his visit. It is neither logical nor practically fair to hold him responsible for this brutal massacre.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, my question is about attacks on the Army Cantonment, In Jammu and Kashmir, Army is also dealing with militancy in the form of Rashtriya Rifles and other para-military forces. The hon. Minister is aware that attacks on Army Camps is an indicator of the supremacy of militancy.

There are regular attacks on the Army. Even yesterday also they had attacked an Army Camp. I do not know whether the hon. Minister is aware or not, the hon. Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir has given a statement in the BSF Headquarters yesterday that helicopters are dropping arms in Poonch and Rajouri Sectors.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : They are not dropping, but they can drop. His Statement is slightly different from the statement of hon. Member.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I think, the hon. Minister has to go through the newspaper reports. He said that they had dropped arms.

I would like to know whether the hon. Minister aware of this or not because the supremacy of the militancy is increasing so much that the condition of the Army, which was a terror among them and a source of strength to the common man also, is deteriorating.

My information is that even the Armed Forces have been warning the Government for the last one-and-a-half years that Kupwara and Uri sectors are full of militancy and army Camps are being attacked. I would like to know what measures the Government is taking to keep the morale of the forces high and what future plans does the Government have in coordination with the civil authorities so that Army does not get demoralised with these attacks.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I do not believe that our Army is a demoralised Army or that it can be demoralised. The attacks that have taken place have been very often either played up or distorted. It has been suggested, that the militants have entered into cantonment and have reached the point where decisions are taken, as if they have almost reach the Operation Room.

Sir, there have been six such incidents. I would like to mention this because this impression that is sought to be created and has been sought to be created over a period of time, from the time of the first incident, needs to be removed.

We had the first attack on the 5th of August 1999. This was an attack on a camp at Chak Nupnus in Kupwara District. Here the terrorists attacked an Army camp and had inflicted five casualties. One Officer, one JCO and three other ranks were killed. In the process, six terrorists were killed and weapons recovered. This was one of those surprised attacks which the militants made in that area.

The next was on the 3rd of November 1999 and this was on the PRO Office on the periphery of Badamibagh Cantonment. At that time the headlines were and the concerns were that the militants entered into the

Cantonment and reached where decisions are taken. It was in the periphery, meaning this Office is on the main National Highway where the attack was made.

Now, it is true that there were sentries there and somehow it was not possible for them perhaps to realise that there was going to be an attack. We lost ten men in that, including an officer, two JCOs and six other ranks, and a BSF *jawan*. Two of the terrorists who mounted that attack were also killed in the process.

The third attack was on an Army Workshop in Baramulla, which was on the 2nd of December. Here, two terrorists attempted to break into the Army Workshop located next to the National Highway in Baramulla. In the encounter, both the terrorists were killed, Army suffered casualties with one JCO and two others were killed. We recovered the weapons from the terrorist.

The fourth one was on the 1st of January when they attacked the Sixth Sector Headquarters of the Rashtriya Rifles at Surankote. Here, one Army *jawan* was killed, three others were wounded, and two militants died in the attack.

The next one was on the 12th of January when they attacked the First Sector Headquarters of the Rashtriya Rifles at Khanabal. Here, one Army *jawan* was killed, three others were wounded, and two militants were killed.

That last one was on the 24th of January when they attacked 5031 AST battalion at Srinagar, where four Army personnel were killed, 14 wounded, and two militants were killed in the retaliatory action by the Troops.

Sir, I am not trying to minimise the significance of these things but the point that I am making is this. After all, these are military camps, where our soldiers are stationed. The men who are defending the country, and the men who are safeguarding the frontiers are the ones who are there. In a war-like situation in that area, one can always have a situation where a group of people, half a dozen, could be even sometimes one or two, can launch a sudden attack, and in the process get killed because these were, from all indications, suicide squads. Pakistan has been using every weapon in their armoury in terms of what kind of attacks, at what time and with what weapons. They have been training these people, they have been using these people, and they have been motivating them and we had these incidents. But to say that they are attacking where the Army is, this is demoralising the Army and the Army needs protection, would be to really move away from the reality of the situation.

Now, as regards the Chief Minister's statement yesterday about helicopters dropping weapons, I would like to inform you that the Chief Minister was with me yesterday late evening. He called on me at 6.30 p.m.

yesterday. He did not say to me anything about any helicopter dropping weapons and so on. But I did see in the newspapers the point that he has made, perhaps before he came to Delhi or may be in Delhi where he says that Pakistan is capable and may drop weapons for the militants in our territory. He is expressing a certain fear, with the desire that one should be prepared for any eventuality, where Pakistan's support to the terrorists is concerned. I can assure the House that Army is maintaining the highest of morale and the Army will deal with these situations.

Training to Pilots of Air India and Indian Airlines

*382. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether practical training is proposed to be imparted to the Air India and Indian Airlines pilots and their crews to deal with the eventuality of hijacking of planes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provision of a gas mask in the cockpit is proposed for use of pilots in Indian Commercial flights with a view to immobilising the hijackers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) and (b) Bureau of Civil Aviation Security organises training courses for cockpit and cabin crew of the Airlines to deal with the eventuality of hijacking of a plane as well as other unlawful interferences on board an aircraft.

(c) and (d) Pressure breathing oxygen masks are available for the cockpit crew as well as passengers. The release of any gas which can immobilize the hijackers, may also have an adverse/deliterious effect on the passengers especially infants and medically compromised passengers.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question is that. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, question 385 may also be clubbed with it as it is also related with this subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is about the practical training.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, my question is that aircraft are being hijacked, by terrorists to secure release of their companions lodged in jails and they are quite successful in their designs. This is a big

challenge before the country and this is a big failure on the part of the Government. After such incidents lot of hue and cry is made but ultimately no further action is taken by the Government. My question is whether there is any mechanism of importing any physical and practical training ? In 'Hindustan Times' dated 27.12.99 a detailed interview of a pilot has been published. I do not know whether the Government has gone through it or not. In that interview the said Pilot has mentioned that we have no equipment to take on the terrorists. We are not imparted any physical training to deal with the terrorists. The hon'ble Minister has said that there is a course to import training to them. Anybody can go through the prescribed course, we can also read it. Studying any prescribed course, and physical training are two separate things.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please ask the supplementary. You are making a speech.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : My question is whether the Government have any mechanism to impart practical training to them? This my first question. My second question is part of this question whether they can be provided with any equipment so that they could take on the terrorists or the captain and cabin crew could deal with the terrorists? Both the questions have not been answered by the Government. Regarding provision of gas mask it is stated that it could be dangerous for the children on board.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please ask the supplementary. You are making a speech.

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have already stated, there is a mechanism to impart regular training to the Pilots. There is also a mechanism to deal with any eventuality. There are rules all over the world in this regard. Aircraft are not being operated only in our country. Aircraft are in operation all over the world. Incidents of hijacking are taking place all over the world. I would like to submit that the main standing instruction to the Pilot in such circumstances is that

[English]

You have to follow the hijackers.

[Translation]

Instructions are given to the Pilot that there should not be any confrontation with the hijackers in the air. The question is whether training is imparted or not? There are training centres at Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi. We impart training to every Pilot for this. Since March last 78 Pilots have been trained in this regard. We are organising

camps every month but the question is how that particular Pilot behaves at that particular moment and it depends on his ability and wisdom. The second question is whether we can provide them any gas etc. ? I may point out that any hijacker who hijacks a plane is mentally prepared even to die. Usually he is a able bodied person and we will have to see that what quantum of gas should be released to inert him. Amongst the passengers there are both children and aged persons on board. It will not be wise to put their lives in danger while trying to save them from another mishap. We have full arrangement and we are preparing our pilots from every way. I would bring to the notice of the hon'ble Member that we even had to release some terrorists in this case. We appreciate the way in which captain Sharan behaved during the course of hijacking and saved the lives of 200 passengers. He has in fact set an example for the whole world.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : I have not got satisfactory reply to my question. The hon'ble Minister has stated that they are imparted training through prescribed course. Perhaps the hon'ble Minister is unable to comprehend my question. I want that virtually a mock exercise of plane hijacking should be conducted to show the Pilots that how the Pilot is handling the situation and how he is tackling the situation physically ? Whether training to them is imparted by any defence experts or the training is imparted by the officers of the Indian Airlines itself ? Perhaps the Government's attention has not been drawn towards an article by Wing Commander Prafulla Bakshi which appeared in a newspaper in which he has said that the Pilots can carry some equipments with them on board with the help of which they can take on the hijackers. The hon'ble Minister has stated that the captain had displayed courage and valour. Definitely the captain has shown courage and with great deal of intelligence and wisdom he has saved the lives of the passengers. The delay and carelessness on part of the Government is certainly is a matter of condemnation. Had the Government acted quickly on the information from the captain. We would not have been forced to release the terrorists from our jails. The Government knuckled down before the terrorists. It is a matter of shame and we cannot find such example anywhere in the world. Why a comparison is being drawn with other countries.

Sir, my question is whether the Government are going to make any provision for imparting any special training or to provide any special equipments so that such incidents could not recur in future and we may not have to knuckle before the terrorists ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Sir, I am asking the question. Whether the Government are going to appoint any expert to impart training ? Would the Government look into the interview of Shri Bakshi which has been published in the 'Hindustan Times' of 27.12.1999 ? Whether the Government would take any step in this regard after going through the said interview ?

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of External Affairs has duly given an statement regarding hijacking. I fail to understand where the hon'ble Member was at that moment and why he is raising this matter here again for discussion. The question is whether we impart training to those people or not ? I have categorically stated that they are trained by expert professionals. Training is imparted with proper arrangements. As regards the interview that the hon'ble Member has referred to, I can only submit that we will go through that interview and we will definitely take measures which are worth adopting.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, hijacking is a big problem in the present day world because you have innocent people held at ransom. So, this has to be taken very seriously. I understand, the question is about training. The training of pilots should be more psychological that is, how to keep their cool and how to carry on with their work. I would like to know what sort of training are they giving. Does the hon. Minister mean to say that they will physically wrestle with them or put gas mask, leaving their driving seat ? That is not possible.

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I think the hon. Member suggested like that.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : So, I would like to know what sort of training are they giving to them. Are they giving psychological training to them ?

The other point is, do they have any plan to put outside commandos or outside security personnel in the plane ? That is also a dangerous thing to do, I know but do they have any such plan ?

[Translation]

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as training is concerned, it has several aspects. Training is imparted keeping in view the Pilots requirements. I have already stated that this thing is decided at the international level and there are instructions to the pilot that he has to follow the hijackers. He should not indulge in any sort of confrontation or scuffle with them. He should not create such a situation which could be dangerous for the lives of the passengers. Rest, as he has

suggested, we have decided to deploy skymarshalls and skywatchers in flights on sensitive routes. In the initial stage there was a little bit of confusion in this regard. They said that it may create some trouble in the air. Sky marshalls should be pressed into service only after landing of the hijacked plane as there is no role for sky marshalls to play in the air. It is the Pilot who is supreme when the plane is airborne. The aircraft moves in the air as per the command of the Pilot. Such is the arrangement.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has said that Captain Sharan performed brilliantly we are also aware of it and we thank him for handling the situation with great courage. Captain Sharan is a well trained Pilot and he landed the plane at Amritsar Airport. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

In fact, I was not prepared for the question. You yourself have mentioned that he was the best pilot and he was following the terrorists.

[Translation]

In an interview given at Mumbai he has made it clear had he got assistance at Amritsar, he would have tackled them at Amritsar itself. Whether the said pilot had informed his department and whether the department had conducted any inquiry in this regard?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Perhaps it was done at Lucknow.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Let it come from him. You have said that Minister of External Affairs has already replied to it. He had gone there to release terrorists, that is a separate thing. You have said that they are well trained pilots.

[English]

The pilots have to follow the terrorists, whoever they may be.

[Translation]

They get this training. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps were being taken by the Government after receiving information.

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Sir, I do not think that this question has any relevance with the original question but I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that we have sources of information abroad. In Amritsar we got information from the pilot that four passengers had been killed. I praised him for safe landing of the aeroplane at Amritsar and later on at Lahore inspite of shortage of fuel.

It was his ability. He also avoided accident. I praised him from this point of view. I withdraw my words if the hon'ble Member did not like it. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : He could not get any help from the Government. That is what he mentioned. I want an answer on that point.

[Translation]

PROF. CHAIRMAN LAL GUPTA : I have already stated that Minister of External Affairs has already replied to it. What is being stated by the Hon'ble Member is not correct. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Is the hon. Minister aware of the Captain's statement or not? . . .(Interruptions) Are you aware of it? . . .(Interruptions) Sir, the question of hon. Member is a relevant question. Is the Minister aware of the Captain's statement or not? . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I would like to say that delay at Amritsar was not from our side. CMG sitting in control room gave directions as per the information and instructions received from the pilot. There was no mistake in it. The Minister of External Affairs has already given details about it. We are ready to hold discussion on this issue at anytime. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I would like to say that it is an important issue and separate discussion should be held on it because several other issues are involved in it.

[English]

Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to agree for half-an-hour discussion on this. . . .(Interruptions) We should have a discussion on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is the Government ready for half-an-hour discussion?

PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Yes Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, the hon. Minister has agreed.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, the reply given by hon'ble Minister raises several issues and these should be clarified here.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, my brother-in-law was on the flight. Please allow me to speak for a minute. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : The hon. Minister has agreed for half-an-hour discussion. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is an important question. The Minister has agreed for half-an-hour discussion. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We do not have time. Please do not disturb now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, do not disturb now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, the Minister has replied that plane hijacking is not the problem of India alone but the whole world is facing this problem. . . . (Interruptions) They are trying to shirk their responsibility. What message they want to convey to terrorists by issuing such statements ?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I have already told that the Minister has agreed for half-an-hour discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, you direct the Minister to reply directly. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat ? He has agreed for half-an-hour discussion.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, it has been proved that they got information regarding the hijacking of plane. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This issue has already been raised here.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, let the correct reply to this question come. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you standing time and again to speak ?

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, the crisis Management Group of the Government had taken no action for four hours after receiving the information regarding hijacking. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister has already agreed for half-an-hour discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat ? I have given the floor to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Swain, I am here to control the House, and not you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have asked him to put a supplementary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, you are allowing those who are not asking the relevant questions. Sir, hijacking is a totally different matter and security. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have no time. I want to take up the next question.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is asking the last supplementary.

You ask your question; otherwise I will go to the next question.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, the Government could not teach a lesson to plane hijackers but since then the luggages of MPs are being checked twice at airports. What is its propriety. It is being done everywhere firstly at the time of entering the airport and secondly at the time of entering the plane. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This question does not arise from the original question. So, I go to next question. Q.No. 383 Shri Sunil Khan.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : MPs are treated in this manner. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : This question should be replied. Briefcases of MPs are opened for checking. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This question does not relate to it. The issue relating frisking of MPs is not covered under it.

[English]

Rise in Prices of Items under PDS

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*383. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the prices of foodgrains issued through Public Distribution System for both Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line families;

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

(c) whether the persons belonging to the poor and middle class families have been badly affected by hike;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to reconsider its decision; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice distributed under Public Distribution System (PDS) have been revised w.e.f. 1.4.2000 as detailed below :-

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	Rate for below Poverty Line (BPL) Families	Rate for below Poverty Line (APL) Families
Wheat	450	900
Rice		
(i) Common	590	-
(ii) Grade 'A'	590	1180
(iii) Common Rice for families above Poverty Line (APL) applicable to J and K, H.P., N.E. States, Sikkim and hilly areas of U.P.	-	1135

(c) For wheat and rice, the BPL families will have a net saving in their family food budget since the monthly quota has been raised from 10 kg. to 20 kg. with effect from 1.4.2000.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) According to the estimates, the revision in the prices along with doubling the entitlement of BPL families will effectively transfer 41% more resources to the poor. Government feels that these measures advance the cause of poor.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, the hon. Minister has already mentioned hike in the price of wheat and rice under the PDS, but he has not yet mentioned about kerosene price which has already been increased by Rs. 2.50 per litre. This is a tremendous hike for the poorer section of the people and for those who are living below the poverty line, and who have no electricity.

Sir, I do not want to raise any question regarding the hike in LPG price, though it has already been increased by Rs. 30 per cylinder, because it is not covered under the PDS. The price of urea also has already been hiked. What I want to ask is to whether the Government has also increased the procurement price proportionately. Secondly. . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You ask only one supplementary.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, I can ask two supplementaries. The first part of my question is whether the Government has increased the procurement price proportionately.

The second part of my question is this. How those people, who are just above the poverty line, buy food grains at double the rate under the PDS? You have already hiked the prices. Those who are below the poverty line and those who are earning a thousand rupees, how will they purchase at double the rates under the PDS? These are two parts of my questions, and I will ask my supplementary question later.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question is about foodgrains. In first part of his question the hon'ble Member has asked about foodgrains only. So far the issue regarding above poverty line and below poverty line is concerned I would like to say that quantity of foodgrains for people living below poverty line has been raised from 10 kg to 20 kg. Economic cost of foodgrain has been hiked by 50 percent and a relief worth Rs. 2270 crore is given to 33 crore people of the country. The people living above poverty line have not to buy the foodgrains on double rates. The rates have been raised by 68 percent but the quantity of foodgrains for poor has been increased by 100 percent. Now poor families have been provided a relief of Rs. 30 per month. People living below poverty line have got a relief of Rs. 2270 crore. I would like to tell one more thing that consumer subsidy has not been reduced but it has been increased. Consumer subsidy was Rs. 6256 crore last year which has been increased to Rs. 7656 crore this year. Thus subsidy has not been reduced but it has been refocussed. People living above poverty line are given foodgrain at economic cost and by curtailing the privileges of rich, relief of Rs. 2270 crore has been provided to poor.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : This all has been written in your reply. But

[English]

The first part of my question was about procurement price. I wanted to know whether the procurement price is in proportion to the hike.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a rule for determining MSP. FCI procures foodgrain after determination of Minimum Support Price and

expenditure incurred by it are added in it to get its economic cost. Our principle is to provide foodgrains to people below poverty line at 50 percent of the economic cost.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : What is the procurement price? What is the price at which you are procuring it? You are not answering that question. . . .(Interruptions) You have not understood my question, and you have not gone through my question properly. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Pilot, the second supplementary has to be asked by Shri Shivaji Mane.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Government is paying Rs. 580 per quintal as the Minimum Support Price, but it is selling at Rs. 900 per quintal. They are charging Rs. 320 extra. Where is this amount going? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas, please see the list of questions. Shri Shivaji Mane has to ask the supplementary question. Shri Ramdas Athawale, what is this? His name is there, and he is the second Member. Please look at the list of questions.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know as to whether the Government is aware of the fact that in Maharashtra. . . .(Interruptions) Wheat is costlier by Rs. 5. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, we need a half-an-hour discussion on this. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him ask the supplementary question. Shri Suresh, you are a senior Member. Why do, you not look at the list of questions?

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in his reply hon'ble Minister has stated that wheat is being sold at a rate of Rs. 4.50 per kg in ration shops but wheat is sold at higher rates in Maharashtra. There wheat is sold at the rate Rs. 9 per kg in ration shop which is costlier than the wheat sold in open market. I would like to know whether any concrete measures are being taken by the Government in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, the Minister has misled the House. A half-an-hour discussion should be allowed on this. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Aiyar, we are taking it up under Rule 193.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : My point is that the hon. Minister has misled the House in making a claim under Part (e) of the Question. Therefore, specially on the question of whether raising the prices for below-the-poverty-line families will effectively transfer 41 per cent more resources to the poor, as the Minister has claimed in Part (e) of the Question, on that one technical point, I seek a special half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are ready for it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Aiyar, the Minister has agreed to it. You give a notice.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Modernisation of Weapon Systems

*384. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps the Government have taken to update our armed preparedness after Kargil Vijay Operation;

(b) whether modernisation of weapon system is proposed for all the three services of Defence forces;

(c) whether Government will expedite delivery of Searcher Mark II, UAV, ECM-2140 and battlefield surveillance radars for the Army; and

(d) if so, the stage at which the negotiations in this regard stand at present with countries willing to provide the desired Defence materials ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Government has established a task and terrain specific Corps Hqrs for the Ladakh-Kargil region in January, 2000. This task and terrain specific Corps Hqrs is designed to secure the Indian side of the borders on a 'no gap' basis along the

International Border, Line of Control. Line of Actual Control and the Actual Ground Position Line by supplementing the force level already engaged in the borders under Hqrs 15 and 16 Corps. The strengthening of country's Defence is a continuous process. The requirements of our Armed Forces are reviewed on a continuing basis for induction of modernised weapons and weapon systems and keeping in view threat perceptions and the prevailing strategic security environment as also emerging technologies. The allocation for the Armed Forces for the year 2000-2001 has been considerably increased from Rs. 48,504 crores during the year 1999-2000 to Rs. 58,587 crores keeping in view the emerging needs of defence preparedness.

(c) and (d) Government has taken necessary steps to expedite procurement/acquisition and induction of battlefield surveillance radars and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for the Armed Forces. It is not in public interest to disclose further details in this regard.

Probe Report of Nepal Govt. on Hijacking

*385. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI KIRTI SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received Nepalese Government probe reports on security lapses during the IC-814 hijacking on December 24, 1999.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government have agreed to re-start the flights to Kathmandu; and

(e) if so, the time by which the services are likely to be resumed ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Government of India have held discussions with HMGN regarding additional security measures consistent with international civil aviation practice and procedures. Considerable progress has been made but some procedures need to be further refined and finalised. The flights will resume as soon as these operational details are tied up.

Losses Incurred by Air India

[Translation]

*386. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India has incurred losses during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Air India does not provide the Standard facilities as provided by other aviation companies during their international flights; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to upgrade the facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of losses incurred by Air India during the last 3 years are as under :-

1997-98	Rs. 181.01 crores
1998-99	Rs. 174.48 crores
1999-00	Rs. 089.75 crores (provisional)

The losses are due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft reduction in yield due to increased discounting in the market and cost of operations, increase in wage bill and other staff costs and landing, handling and navigational charges, depreciation of rupee value, etc.

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

(i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue; (ii) Network rationalization and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability; (iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by undertaking more in-house repairs; (iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished; (v) Two voluntary schemes have been notified viz. Shorter working week scheme and leave without pay/allowances scheme for a period of two years extendable upto five years; (vi) Rolling back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years.

(d) and (e) Air India constantly endeavours to provide facilities at par with foreign airlines and other aviation

companies during their international flights. Air India has been offering several products to their passengers in line with their competitors : such as

- (i) Separate Check-in counters for all class passengers.
- (ii) Facility of Tele check-in for First class passengers.
- (iii) Facility of pre-selecting a seat.
- (iv) Facility of through check-in on code-share flights.
- (v) Facility of worldwide baggage tracing service.
- (vi) Compensation of lost/damaged baggage in line with the leading airlines of the world.
- (vii) Computerised check-in at most Indian Airports.
- (viii) Selection of meals through internet.
- (ix) On time arrival and departure status and a host of other facilities through internet.
- (x) On time arrival and departure in comparison with international standards.
- (xi) Flying Returns Programme to secure continued patronage of travellers.
- (xii) The Maharajah Club/Leading Edge Club in order to increase AI's share of the high yield First and Executive class market

[English]

Pay Package for Armed Forces

*387. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN QWAIISI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press report published in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the March 7, 2000 under the caption, "Pay Package: Army, IAF complain of raw deal";

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

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the anomalies in the pay package of the Defence Forces ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The factual position is that a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Defence Secretary with three Vice Chiefs and Financial Adviser, Defence Services as members was constituted specifically to consider the anomalies in the pay and allowances of Armed Forces personnel arising out of implementation of recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The recommendation of the High Level Committee were further examined by a Group of Senior Officers headed by the Cabinet Secretary of which the three Chiefs of Defence Forces were also members. Government approved all the recommendations of the Group of Officers on the High Level Committee's report except on two item i.e. pay scales of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) and of Lt. Generals and equivalents. These two issues are under consideration of the Government due to their wider implications.

No instance of dissatisfaction among Services Personnel on any of the above recommendations has been brought to Government's notice.

[Translation]

Increase in Subsidy on Foodgrains

*388. SHRI ARUN KUMAR :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

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

(a) since when the Government have been increasing the subsidy on foodgrains alongwith the details thereof, item-wise;

(b) whether the benefit of subsidy has not reached the common consumers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) Progression of consumer subsidy since the year 1990-91 is as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Consumer Subsidy
1	2
1990-91	2071.64
1991-92	2890.91
1992-93	3223.77
1993-94	3173.89

1	2
1994-95	2350.83
1995-96	4183.05
1996-97	6131.83
1997-98	7028.00
1998-99	6860.30
1999-2000	6256.25
2000-2001 (Estimated)	7656.00

(b) and (c) The need for streamlining the TPDS has been engaging the attention of the Government for some time. It was felt that while the subsidy bill on foodgrains has been increasing substantially over the years, the deserving poor had not got sufficient relief by way of access to adequate quantities of foodgrains to the targetted group, the Government has recently reviewed the subsidy on foodgrains and has taken the following decisions, effective from 1st April, 2000:-

- (i) The quantity of foodgrains for BPL has been doubled from the existing 10 Kg. per month per family to 20 Kg. per month per family;
- (ii) The C.I.P. under BPL is enhanced to 50% of the economic cost; and
- (iii) the C.I.P. for APL is fixed at economic cost.

As a result of these measures, the subsidy for BPL has effectively increased from Rs. 5240 crores to Rs. 7656 crores.

[English]

Doubling of Foodgrains for B.P.L. Families

*389. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Doubling PDS allotment for the poorest flawed" appearing in the The Statesman dated March 5, 2000;

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

(c) whether the policy of the Government of doubling the allotment of foodgrains for below poverty line families and at the same time increasing the prices of PDS

items has been widely criticized by people of all sections of society; and

(d) If so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item reports as follows :

- (i) 'When the States are refusing to lift their existing quota of foodgrains under PDS it makes little sense to raise the quota of BPL families'.
- (ii) 'The Government has burdened the poor families with higher prices to keep subsidy bring down to Rs. 8210 crores; precious little has been done to bring down the economic cost of foodgrains by bringing in better efficiency as far as procurement, distribution, transportation and distribution is concerned. 75% of the subsidy bill actually goes into subsidizing the operational inefficiency of the FCT'.
- (iii) 'The best way to cut subsidy bill is to take the radical step of privatizing the whole procurement, storage, transportation and distribution system so that a huge part of the losses are recouped'.

The Government does not agree with any of the above contentions. The off take for BPL families under TPDS has been on an average about 80% of the allotment and has been continuously increasing since it was introduced. Major components of the economic cost of wheat and rice consist of minimum support price; statutory charges consisting of mandi charges, purchase tax etc.; non-statutory charges consisting of labour and transport charges, storage and interest charges, cost of conversion of paddy into rice, freight and handling charges, storage and transportation charges. Only two percent of the economic cost is on account of the administrative charges of the FCI. Hence it is not correct to say that 75% of the subsidy bill actually goes into subsidizing operational inefficiency of FCI. In the vital field of food security, the Government would not like to abandon its traditional responsibility of procurement and distribution of foodgrains. However, the Government is prepared to privatize as many activities as feasible in the interest of efficient operations.

(c) While doubling of foodgrains for BPL has been welcomed by almost all the States, increase in prices has been criticized.

(d) It has been estimated that the charges affected in PDS with effect from 1.4.2000 has transferred about 40% more resources in the favour of poor. While withdrawing

the subsidy from the non-poor. Adequate supplies have been assured to this group of consumers only. The Government feels that these measures are pro-poor.

Temples maintained by ASI

*390. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the temples maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India in various States particularly Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the annual cost of maintenance;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that the cave temples located at Chittaravasal and Kuduminalai are in a dilapidated condition;
- (d) if so, the steps taken to improve their condition;
- (e) the funds proposed to be allocated for maintenance and conservation of these temples; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The State wise details of centrally protected monuments which also includes temples is available in the Parliament Library. In Tamil Nadu there are 110 temples which are centrally protected by Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) The expenditure incurred on the maintenance of Protected monuments in Tamil Nadu which, inter alia, also includes temples is Rs. 1,27,88,808.00 during 1999-2000.

(c) to (f) The centrally protected monuments at SITTANNAVASSAL and Kuduminalai in Tamil Nadu are structurally in a good state of preservation. At the behest of the archaeological survey of India quarrying operations near Kuduminalai Temple have been stopped. The entire Rajagopuram has been renovated at the cost of Rs. 8.00 lakhs. Action is already on to attend to the conservation of the Temple including the Thousand Pillar Mandapa.

[Translation]

Development Works under Rural Development Programmes

*391. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct survey and make assessment of the development works done so far under the Rural Development Programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the numerous problems are being faced by women due to lack of toilets for females;

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development have developed a comprehensive system for the evaluation of implementation of its schemes (and their impact) through Concurrent Evaluations, Quick Evaluations and Impact Assessment Studies. Such assessment of Rural Development Programmes is continuing.

(c) and (d) While public latrines have not proved to be particularly successful in the past, keeping in view the difficulties experienced by rural women in certain areas, where individual household latrines are not feasible, Village Sanitary Complexes for women are proposed to be set up on a pilot basis. Upto 10% of the allocation based annual funds under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme are envisaged to be utilized to provide public latrines in selected villages during the Ninth Plan period, where Panchayats/Charitable Trusts/NGOs offer to construct and maintain Village Complexes exclusively for the use of women.

Under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) of the Restructured Central Rural Sanitation Programme, the National Scheme Sanctioning Committee (NSSC) has approved the construction of Sanitary Complexes for women, in the pilot districts, in different States.

Places connected with Air Services

*392. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
SHRI BRIJ LAL KHABRI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places (cities) which have been connected with air service during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether a target of connecting various places of the country with air service has been fixed in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The following places have been airlinked by scheduled services during the period April, 1997 to March, 2000 :-

State	Place
1. Rajasthan	Jaisalmer
2. Himachal Pradesh	I. Kullu II. Dharmasala
3. Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
4. Gujrat	I. Keshod II. Porbandar
5. Uttar Pradesh	Dehradun
6. Lakshadweep	Agatti

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Operators are free to operate to any places in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which stipulate minimum operations on certain category of routes.

[English]

Linking of Capitals of North-Eastern States by Air Services

*393. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government contemplate to airlink the capitals of the North-Eastern States and other major stations on both sides of the river Brahmaputra;

(b) if so, whether Government have asked both the public and private airlines to acquire suitable type of aircraft for better operational facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Except for the capital cities of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland, all other State capitals in the North East have already been airlinked.

(b) to (d) Airlines are free to decide on the type of aircraft they want to acquire and operate. The draft aviation policy, however, seeks to encourage small aircraft operation in order to facilities the opening up of the country through air services to many more destinations, keeping in mind the national security at the same time.

Import of Cheap Edible Oils

*394. SHRI TARUN GOGOI :
SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Edible Oil and Vanaspati Industries are facing severe crisis on account of heavy and cheaper influx of refined imported edible oil primarily RBD palmolein;

(b) whether it has adversely affected domestic oil production as well as oil prices;

(c) if so, the reasons for the import of cheap edible oil;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from the Indian Edible Oil and Vanaspati Industry regarding this; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to save the domestic industry on one side and the farmers on the other?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) There have been representations from Vegetable Oils Industry, as also farmer organizations, that cheap imported refined edible oils primarily RBD Palmolein have adversely affected the domestic processing industry.

There is a gap between demand and availability of edible oils from domestic sources. In order to ensure availability of edible oils at reasonable prices to the consumers, Government has allowed import of edible oil on O.G.L. Government has recently raised the import duty of edible oil including RBD palmolein from 16.5% to 27.5%. SAD @ 4% has also been made applicable. In addition import of crude edible oils has been subjected to actual user condition. The present import policy facilitates the actual users namely manufacturer of refined oils and vanaspati to have access to raw material at lower import duty, it discourages import by the traders and restricts indiscriminate import by them. In short the present import policy is in the interest of the consumers, farmers and processors.

[Translation]

Fire Incidents in Trains

*395. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fire incidents in trains during the last three years, zone-wise;

(b) the number of passengers killed/injured in such incidents and the steps taken by the Government to compensate the injured and the families of deceased; and

(c) the special steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) Zone-wise number of consequential fire

accidents occurred in Railways during the last three years is given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The number of persons killed and injured in such accidents is given in the attached Statement-II.

Following steps are being taken by the Railways to compensate injured and families of deceased persons.

(i) **Medical Assistance** : In case of an accident involving casualties or injuries, Accident Relief Medical Vans and Accident Relief Trains accompanied with Doctors are rushed to site of accident to provide prompt medical aid. The injured passengers requiring medical aid after being rendered medical assistance on the spot are admitted in Railway Hospital or nearby private hospitals for their treatment. During their treatment in Railway Hospital, medical care is taken by the Railways. Emergency cases, requiring expert services, are referred to private hospitals by Railway Doctors as considered necessary and charges are paid directly to the hospitals for such emergency treatment.

(ii) **Ex-Gratia and Compensation** : In case of death/injury of a passenger in a rail accident, next of kin of deceased and to injured persons are given ex-gratia and compensation as per the following schedule :

Ex-gratia

- (i) Rs. 15,000/- in case of death.
- (ii) Rs. 5,000/- in case of grievous injury.
- (iii) Rs. 500/- in case of simple injury.

Compensation

The amount of compensation is decided by Railway Claims Tribunal as per the Railway Accident and Untoward Incidents (Compensation) Amendment Rules, 1997 which lay down:-

- (i) Rs. 4 lakhs for death and permanent disability.
- (ii) Rs. 32,000 to Rs. 3,60,000 depending upon the gravity of the injury.

(c) Steps taken to check such type of incidents are given below :-

1. Carriage of inflammable/explosive material in passenger coaches is prohibited and punishable under the Railways Act, 1989.
2. An intensive campaign through public address system has been launched to sensitize the

public about the dangers from explosives and need to maintain extreme vigilance regarding unclaimed/unattended objects.

3. Intensive publicity is carried out through televisions quickies, advertisements in the National and local press to educate the public against the hazards of carrying inflammable material in their luggage.
4. Mail and Express trains have been provided with escorts with directions to conduct random checks on the passengers and luggage in the trains over sensitive areas.
5. Instant Action Groups have been provided in important trains to prevent entry of unauthorised passengers and carrying of inflammable articles etc.

Statement-I

Fire accidents, Zone-wise during the last three years

Railway	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000**
Central	3	2	8
Eastern	—	—	5
Northern	1	1	3
North Eastern	—	—	—
Northeast Frontier	1	—	1
Southern	1	1	1
South Central	—	—	—
South Eastern	—	1	2
Western	—	—	1
Metro	—	—	—
Konkan Railway	—	1	—
Total	6	6	21

Of 21 accidents during 1999-2000, 6 have been attended to with casualties to passengers.

Statement-II

Number of persons killed and injured in fire-accidents

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000**
Killed	1	—	22*
Injured	6	52	25*

* Fire in 2137 Dn Punjab Mail near Bhusaval resulted in 18 deaths and 15 injuries.

** Figures for 1999-2000 are provisional.

[English]

Rural Sanitation

*396. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have made surveys to assess the sanitation requirements in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details of the assessment made in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) the financial requirements to meet rural sanitation programme in Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) the funds sanctioned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) No State-wise survey has recently been made by the Central Government to assess the sanitation requirements in the rural areas of the country. However, it is estimated that rural sanitation coverage is around 16 to 20 per cent of the total rural households in the country. The Working Group constituted by the Planning Commission for the 9th Plan had estimated a financial requirement of Rs 6251 crores for attaining 50 per cent rural sanitation coverage.

(d) Under the Restructured Central Rural Sanitation Programme (RCRSP) during 1999-2000, an amount of Rs 10.52 crores was released to the State Government of Tamil Nadu as Central share.

Purchase of A.J.T.

*397. SHRI R.S. PATIL :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have since decided to buy British Aerospace's Hawk-115 AJTs instead of Russia's latest trainer MiG-UTS said to cost much less than the British trainer MiG;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the delivery schedule of the proposed Advanced Jet Trainer along with the cost of other trainers not found fit for acquisition?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Government is yet to take a decision on the procurement of AJT aircraft. The aircraft short-listed for the purpose are British Hawk and French

Alpha Jet. The Russian trainer MiG-AT has not met some of the essential parameters laid down by Indian Air Force for the AJT.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The delivery schedule will be finalised after the decision for procurement of AJT is taken. Commercial proposals in respect of trainers not found fit by IAF for acquisition were not invited. Their cost is therefore not available.

Statutory Rationing System

*398. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Statutory Rationing System is prevalent in some States;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) the reasons for introducing such schemes in these States;

(d) whether any change is envisaged for such scheme;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore;

(f) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for continuation of Statutory Rationing in the State;

(g) if so, the details of the points raised; and

(h) the response of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Statutory Rationing System is prevalent in Kerala and in a part of West Bengal covering Calcutta and other industrial areas of West Bengal (Howrah part of Hooghly district, Barackpore sub division of North 24 Parganas district and Asansol and Durgapur in Burdwan district).

(c) Kerala Government have informed that the Statutory Rationing System under Kerala Rationing Order, 1966 was introduced in order to maintain the supplies of certain essential commodities and for securing their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices. Similarly, the West Bengal Government have informed that the statutory rationing in West Bengal originated in the wake of the Bengal famine in 1943. Thereafter statutory rationing was partially withdrawn from some industrial areas in 1947. In 1964 the West Bengal Rationing Order was introduced formally reestablishing statutory rationing in Calcutta and other industrial areas. According to West Bengal Government, the reason for continuing the system of

statutory rationing is to ensure availability of foodgrains at prescribed scales of distribution.

(d) and (e) Government of Kerala does not propose any change in the statutory rationing system at present. The system of statutory rationing was modified by West Bengal after the introducing of TPDS in June, 1997 because majority of ration card holders in these areas are APL and allocation of foodgrains under TPDS was assured to BPL families, although transitory allocation was made for APL families as well. The system of cordoning around the areas of the state covered by Statutory Rationing has also been withdrawn and traders are now allowed to bring rice into Statutory Rationing areas and stock it for sale on the basis of storage licences issued by State Government.

(f) and (g) Government of Kerala has requested for continuation of allotment of foodgrains for distribution through the statutory rationing system in the state. State Government has requested as follows :

- to continue allotment of foodgrains to all (irrespective of whether they are below or above poverty line) and to enhance allocation for BPL families.
- not to increase prices of PDS foodgrains.
- to improve the quality of foodgrains supplied through PDS.

(h) Government of India has doubled the BPL allocation of foodgrains from 10 kg. to 20 kg./per family per month at 50% of Economic Cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000. At the same time the allocation for APL has been retained at the same level which was allotted at the time of introduction of TPDS, at economic cost. It has also been decided that in case any State/UT demands any additional quantity of wheat or rice over and above their normal monthly allocation, it will be allotted at Economic Cost.

The Central Issue Price of foodgrains have been increased keeping in view the increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) and other associated expenses and budgetary constraints. Moreover, Central Issue Prices (CIP) for BPL allocations had not been increased since the introduction of the TPDS in June, 1997.

In the past relaxation in quality specifications were given at the request of procuring states to mitigate the suffering of farmers due to unseasonal rains/natural calamity. These foodgrains were also well within PFA limits. However, Government has now decided to procure foodgrains strictly as per specifications and to supply only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation through PDS.

Monitoring of Rail Accidents

*399. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an "independent whole-time authority" for going into the causes of railway accidents and to examine the necessary steps to be taken to prevent the accidents;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) No, Sir. However, as per the Railways Act, 1989 serious accidents are being inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety, which is a Statutory Body, independent of Ministry of Railways, and under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. In case of extremely serious accidents such as Khanna and Gaisal accidents in the recent past, Judicial Commissions of Inquiry have been set up. In case of Gaisal accident, CBI has been entrusted to investigate the criminal intent involved, if any. All other accidents are inquired into by a Committee of Officers/Supervisors of appropriate grade depending on the severity of the accident.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Purchase of Wagons

*400. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy in regard to the purchase of wagons by the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have floated tenders in this regard by ignoring the Wagon India Ltd. a public sector undertaking;

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

(e) whether the Government have received any information in regard to big scam in the purchase of wagons;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(h) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Ministry of Railways are procuring wagons through open tender to bring economy, transparency and healthy competition in purchases. Bulk of wagon orders are placed on all established wagon manufacturers based on their past performance and the rates quoted by them in the tender. While deciding wagon orders, Railways consistently follow the policy of extending maximum encouragement to the Public Sector Units.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Wagon India Ltd. (WIL) is not a Public Sector Undertaking but a Joint Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Industry comprising members of wagon building units both in public sector as well as in private sector. WIL does not manufacture wagons themselves. Therefore, question of ignoring WIL does not arise. Orders are placed directly on the wagon manufacturing units.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) to (i) Do not arise.

[English]

Checking of passport

4119. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal is under consideration of the Government to instal computers/machines for checking passports at the immigration counters at the international airports;

(b) if so, the approximate cost of the project; and

(c) the time by which these machines are likely to be installed ?

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

(b) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 11.65 crores.

(c) The project is likely to be completed within two years.

[Translation]

Irregularities in F.C.I. Depot

4120. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vigilance Department of zonal office of Food Corporation of India has alleged irregularities against officers and employees of the FCI Depot situated at Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken against the officers and employees;

(c) whether the officers and employees of this depot had issued identity cards to unauthorised labourers of city unit of unit number (2) in 1996 ignoring the interests of the Corporation;

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

(e) the reasons for which the guilty officers and employees instead of being penalised have been reinstated ?

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

(b) Disciplinary proceedings were initiated against the concerned official and finalised by awarding a penalty of stoppage of one increment for the year 2000 without cumulative effect.

(c) Yes, please.

(d) and (e) One Assistant Manager (D) was placed under suspension for issue of identity cards to the unauthorised labourers and chargesheeted under major penalty. Inquiry was initiated against him and the suspension orders were revoked. However, on completion of inquiry, he was penalised by awarding the penalty of stoppage of 3 increments, without cumulative effect.

Railway cases Pending in Courts

4121. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of Railways pending in the Courts in various districts of Rajasthan;

(b) the time since when these cases are pending; and

(c) the steps taken for their expeditious disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) 1840

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| (b) 1. More than five years | : 380 |
| 2. Between four years and five years | : 317 |
| 3. Between three years and four years | : 391 |
| 4. Between two years and three years | : 334 |
| 5. Between one year and two years | : 418 |

(c) Regular monitoring for early disposal of cases is done at all levels. A close watch is kept on all important cases and these are pursued vigorously.

[English]

Dealership to wards of Officials in NCCF/Super Bazar

4122. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wards of officials in responsible appointments in NCCF/Super Bazar have been registered as dealers in the said agencies except the one where they are themselves employed;

(b) if so, whether such an arrangement is permissible and can such officials be loyal to their job; and

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Both the NCCF and the Super Bazar, Delhi have informed that no such case has come to their notice/knowledge.

Revision of Pensions

4123. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pensions of number of employees who retired from Bhagalpur in 1983 (Eastern Railway) have not been revised as per the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard relating to pre-86 cases, pensioner-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the expeditious disposal of the pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) All the seven cases received for Bhagalpur have already been processed. However, only five have been finalized and the balance two are pending because the applicants/ex-employees have not submitted the name, address and account number of the Pension Disbursing Authority.

(d) The concerned Applicants/ex-employees have already been advised to submit the missing particulars.

**Arrest of Indian Fishermen
by Pakistan**

4124. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Coast Guard failed in giving proper warning signals to fishermen in Daman and Diu;

(b) whether this failure on the part of Coast Guard results in the arrest of fishermen by Pakistan Army invariably; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that the warning system is streamlined and proper and timely warning and signals are given to the fishermen ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Coast Guard (CG) Stations regularly interact with fishing community ashore especially those who operate close to the maritime boundary with Pakistan. In addition regular instructional lectures are conducted to indicate maritime boundaries and safety precautions to be taken. These issues are brought to the knowledge of respective state administration and fisheries departments for strict compliance. CG ships on routine Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance also direct fishing vessels operating close to International Boundary Line to fish well within the Indian waters. Despite these instructions, some fishermen continue to disregard the advice and occasionally get apprehended by Pak Maritime Security Agency when operating within the Pak waters.

[Translation]

Small Power Projects

4125. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bihar Government have demanded any assistance from the Union Government for setting up of small power projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and released by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has provided assistance for setting up of five small hydro power projects with a cumulative capacity of 1.85 MW and five portable micro hydel sets to the State of Bihar so far. The Ministry has not received any further

request from the Bihar Government for setting up of other small power projects during the 9th Five Year Plan. The Ministry has not received any request for release of funds for setting up of small power plants in the State of Bihar during 9th Five Year Plan. However, the Ministry has released a total amount of Rs. 3.34 crores under other programmes of Non-Conventional Energy Sources to the State of Bihar during the 9th Plan period.

[English]

**Accidents Due to Fractures In
Rail Tracks**

4126. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the majority of accidents caused due to fractures in rail tracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for not replacing these fractured tracks;

(c) whether these rail tracks get fractured due to inferior quality of tracks being processed by railways; and

(d) if so, the penal action is being proposed by the Government against the guilty officials of Railways and supplying agencies/firms/manufacturers of such fractured rail tracks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir, only a fraction of accidents are due to rail fractures.

(b) Whenever rail fractures are detected, there is an established system of repairs to track. This system is being followed meticulously.

(c) Rail fractures occur due to many reasons like overloading, over-speeding, flat tyres and also corrosion. Rail fractures can also occur due to existence of manufacturing defects and their propagation while in service.

(d) The rails are procured from Steel Authority of India Ltd., (SAIL), a Government of India Enterprise and the only indigenous source for supply of rails in the country. SAIL has been persuaded from time to time to effect improvements in their production process in order to supply still better quality of rails to Indian Railways. Now with effort put in by Railways Bhilai Steel Plant is manufacturing rails as per specifications.

[Translation]

Watershed Scheme

4127. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to Madhya Pradesh for Watershed Scheme during 1999-2000; and

(b) the amount utilised till the end of March 2000, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no Scheme titled as "Watershed Scheme." However, the Department of Land Resources is implementing an Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) for the development of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed basis under the Guidelines for Watershed Development in the State. Under this programme, no allocation of funds is made to the States. However, funds are released on project to project basis. During the year 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 1011.12 lakhs has been released to Jila Panchayats/DRDAs in the State under the Programme.

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

Tourism Projects

4128. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of projects approved to boost tourism in the States during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise alongwith the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(b) the names of the projects which have been completed alongwith the expenditure incurred on each of these projects, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the States/UT Government every year to create/augment tourism infrastructure facilities. During Eight Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned an amount of Rs. 17124.72 lakhs for 1257 projects for Wayside amenities, Tourist Bungalows, Tourist Complexes, Yatri Niwases, Refurbishment of monuments, Sound and Light Shows, Purchase of equipments for Adventure sports, Fair and Festivals, Production of literature etc. Around 475 projects have been completed during the VIIIth Plan. Statement showing State-wise amount sanctioned and released during VIIIth Plan is in the attached Statement. First instalment of 30% of Central Financial Assistance for the sanctioned tourist infrastructure project/scheme is released

on sanction, 2nd instalment of 50% on receipt of the utilisation certificate and final instalment on receipt of completion and commissioning certificate.

Statement

State wise Central Financial Assistance Sanctioned/ Released During VIII Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	VIII Plan	
		Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	437.69	209.26
2.	Assam	439.84	195.98
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	155.28	80.75
4.	Bihar	408.41	177.03
5.	Goa	599.86	364.79
6.	Gujarat	190.58	101.79
7.	Haryana	747.58	479.25
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1611.21	883.16
9.	J and K	781.97	380.60
10.	Karnataka	1178.48	705.98
11.	Kerala	1014.78	467.52
12.	Madhya Pradesh	80.81	27.70
13.	Maharashtra	1035.31	467.31
14.	Manipur	243.45	127.00
15.	Meghalaya	110.36	43.39
16.	Mizoram	458.77	274.09
17.	Nagaland	223.16	164.76
18.	Orissa	902.34	314.60
19.	Punjab	647.53	278.89
20.	Rajasthan	1408.14	989.57
21.	Sikkim	351.78	206.34
22.	Tamil Nadu	1134.95	663.54
23.	Tripura	278.52	163.08
24.	Uttar Pradesh	741.06	386.73
25.	West Bengal	810.80	337.66
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	183.97	119.50
27.	Chandigarh	117.22	50.91

1	2	3	4
28. Dadra Nagar Havell		108.28	72.23
29. Delhi		336.26	244.17
30. Daman		146.05	95.84
31. Lakshadweep		168.41	93.15
32. Pondicherry		61.87	30.30
Grand Total		17124.72	9196.87

[English]

Civil Air Terminal at Tezpur

4129. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present airfield in Tezpur is located in Air Force area and the user public face a great deal of difficulty while using the air-flights from there;

(b) if so, whether a civil air terminal which was under construction at Tezpur, has since been completed; and

(c) if not, the time by which the civil terminal is likely to become operational ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Tezpur Aerodrome belongs to Indian Air Force. Airports Authority of India is constructing a new civil air terminal complex outside the Air Force area. The work is likely to be completed by July, 2000.

Additional Allocation of Foodgrains Due to Drought

4130. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the States which are affected by drought have demanded additional allocation of foodgrains;

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

(c) the steps taken to enhance allocation of foodgrains to those States during 2000-01 ?

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

(b) and (c) Special additional allocations of foodgrains were given to the States for drought relief during the financial year 1999-2000 as under :-

1. **Manipur** : Special additional allocation of 1000 tonnes of rice per month was given at BPL rate, with the approval of Cabinet from June, 99 to October, 99.

2. **Jammu and Kashmir** : An additional allocation of 7789 tonnes of rice per month was given to Jammu and Kashmir at APL rate for drought relief from September, 99 to February, 2000.

3. **Rajasthan** : The Government of Rajasthan have demanded an additional allocation of 26,000 tonnes of wheat per month from February, 2000 to September, 2000 so as to enable them to distribute wheat to the drought affected BPL families @ 30 kg. per family per month at BPL rate in 26 drought affected districts of the State. Since the allocation of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20kg. per family per month from April, 2000, the request of the State Government has not been acceded to.

Expansion of IGI Airport

4131. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the basic components and dimensions of Indira Gandhi International Airport in terms of total passengers and flights to be handled during peak hours, at present, viz-a-viz the comparative figures of the years 1995 and 1990;

(b) the date on which the first expansion of this Airport was completed; and

(c) the development and expansion work of this airport proposed to be undertaken and the amount likely to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport has a total land area of 5050 acres.

As against the total peak hour handling capacity of 3350 international passengers and 3500 domestic passengers per hour at IGI airport, 2250 international and 1949 domestic passengers were handled per hour in 1990; 2696 international and 2250 domestic passengers per hour in 1995 and 2832 international and 2118 domestic passengers per hour in 2000 so far.

The peak hour aircraft movement capacity at IGI airport is 20-25. The demand was 13 per hour in 1990, 23 per hour in 1995 and 20 per hour in 2000 so far.

(b) The first phase of the International Terminal was commissioned in May, 1986. In August, 1996, a Visitors'

Block having an area of 10500 sqm. was commissioned which was later on modified on the arrival level; to form part of the main Terminal Building. A new Domestic Terminal catering exclusively for Indian Airlines operations was commissioned in July, 1998.

(c) AAI has plans to construct 2nd module of the international passenger terminal building at a cost of Rs. 874.43 crores.

Posting of M.D., N.C.C.F.

4132. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present incumbent to the post of MD, NCCF has been there for more than seven years and is continuing on that post even after superannuation from Government service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to post a regular incumbent on that post ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No Sir. The officiating Managing Director of NCCF has not superannuated from the service.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Cooperative Societies Selection Committee has since prepared a panel for appointment of the regular Managing Director, NCCF.

Change in Administrative Control on P.T.L.

4133. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether workers union of the Praga Tools Limited has requested to take back the administrative control of the company from the Ministry of Industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The problems being faced by the company, which need to be seen in the overall context of problems being faced by the Capital goods industries, would not be resolved merely by change in the administrative control from one Ministry to another.

Ezhimala Naval Academy

4134. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala to cut short delay in setting up of "Ezhimala Naval Academy" in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(d) the time schedule for its completion and the progress made so far in completing the work in time ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) A statement is attached.

Statement

The Naval Academy Project was sanctioned on 23 March 1995 to be completed over a period of eight years. The project implementation commenced after signing the consultancy agreement with the architect on 9 January 1998. The delay in signing of agreement occurred due to :-

(i) Lower relative priority by NHQ against other operational needs on account of resource crunch.

(ii) Protracted price negotiation on consultant fee.

(iii) Extended negotiation for delineation of responsibilities between consultant, Naval Headquarters and Ministry of Defence.

2. The project has been accorded high priority from 1999-2000 and its present status is as follows :-

(a) Consultancy agreement with architect has been signed.

(b) Detailed topographical survey of site, soil investigation and material survey, concept designs of external services, cadets mess and cadets accommodation has been completed.

(c) Sanction for Rs. 2.924 crores being 10% of the total cost of work amounting to Rs. 29.24 crores has been accorded.

(d) The consultant has concurrently commenced work on the concept designs of the academy Main Building complex, including the academic and outdoor training facilities.

- (e) The status of basic infrastructure being provided by Government of Kerala is as under :-
- (i) Water supply schemes from five bore wells, with associated tanks, to provide 9 lakhs litres per day for the construction phase, has been completed.
 - (ii) Drinking water scheme for supply of 73 lakhs litres per day of treated water is under construction.
 - (iii) Electric supply is available for construction phase, through temporarily installed transformers and cables. The 110 KV sub-station for the future functioning of the academy is under construction.
 - (iv) Road from Payyanur railway station to the site has been completed. A peripheral road skirting the site for use by civilian traffic as a by-pass is under construction and would be completed in 2000.

**Railway Officers Working on
Ad-hoc Basis**

4135. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large number of officers are working on ad-hoc basis in Senior Scale in Indian Railways;
- (b) if so, the number of such officers working on ad-hoc basis as on January 1, 2000,
- (c) the reasons for such large scale ad-hocism; and
- (d) the steps, the Ministry of Railways is contemplating to regularise these ad-hoc promotions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Ad-hoc promotions are made in exigencies of work pending availability of regularly selected candidates. General Managers of the Zonal Railways/Production Units and Heads of Other Units are delegated with the power to make ad-hoc promotions to Senior Scale.

(b) Details of such adhoc promotions are not maintained centrally. The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The Railways have to take up large number of construction works throughout the country, as part of the national transport infrastructure building activity. Manpower for supervision of these works is obtained by creation of work charged posts, for the duration of the work. Railways,

therefore, have a significant component of work charged posts (including Senior Scale posts) in all Departments. The work charged posts are temporary and are created for a specific period as per the provisions available in the sanctioned works estimates. The prescribed yardstick for sanction of these posts takes into account the financial outlay, the nature and geographical spread of the work, etc. As the work charged posts, including Senior Scale posts, are created/filled for specific shorter period at a given time, adhoc promotions are resorted to for filling these posts;

(d) Efforts are made to regularise ad-hoc Group 'B' officers working in Senior Scale in a phased manner subject to observance of Government instructions and long term requirements of the Organisation.

Military Ties with Israel

4136. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether three Indian Warships are likely to visit Israel Port in near future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to improve military ties between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Three Indian Naval Ships viz. INS Shakti, INS Gomati and INS Ranvir have paid goodwill visits at Port of Eilat in Israel in the last week of March, 2000. At present, there is no proposal to send Indian Naval Ships to Israel in the near future.

The goodwill visits by Indian Naval Ships to foreign ports help in enhancing military ties by way of increased Navy to Navy interaction and cooperation between the sides.

[Translation]

**Expenditure on Republic Day
Parade/Beating Retreat**

4137. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount spent on Republic Day Parades and Beating Retreats during each of the last three years and the income derived as a result of sale of tickets, separately on these occasions;
- (b) the number of passes issued during the above period for watching Republic Day Parades and Beating Retreats on the requests of Hon'ble Members and other public representatives;

(c) the details of norms laid down for issue of passes on the requests of public representatives;

(d) whether these norms were duly observed;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the effective steps being taken by the Government to reduce the expenditure on Republic Day celebrations ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) Although the Ministry of Defence is responsible for organising the Republic Day Parade and the Beating Retreat Ceremony at New Delhi every year,

the organisation of these ceremonies requires co-ordinated efforts of various Central Ministries and Departments, the State Governments, the Union Territory Administrations, the Central Public Sector Undertakings, Local Bodies and various other agencies. As expenditure on various items regarding these arrangements is borne by the concerned organisations/agencies and is not compiled or exhibited under one Head, it is not possible to indicate the amount spent on these ceremonies during each of the last three years.

2. The details of income from the sale of tickets on these occasions during the last three years are as given below :

	1998	1999	2000
Republic Day Parade	Rs. 9,77,140	Rs. 9,81,070	Rs. 9,90,640
Beating Retreat	Rs. 62,525	Rs. 64,650	Rs. 51,580
Total	Rs. 10,39,665	Rs. 10,45,720	Rs. 10,42,220

3. Invitation cards/passes for the Republic Day Parade/ Beating Retreat Ceremonies are issued by a temporary office set up for the purpose every year and the records pertaining to issue of Invitation Cards are maintained for one year only.

4. As per the laid down norms, Cabinet Ministers, the State Ministers and the Members of Parliament are issued 20, 12 and 6 invitation cards/passes for their guests, respectively. These norms were duly observed. However, additional requirements of Ministers/MPs were also met to the extent possible. For the Republic Day Parade and Beating Retreat Ceremonies of this year, 5315 and 2716 invitation cards/passes were issued to guests of Ministers and MPs respectively.

5. All the concerned organisations/agencies are expected to follow the general guidelines on economy in expenditure issued by Government.

[English]

Abolition of Airports Authority of India

4138. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the traffic jams on the roads specially in Delhi now it is the turn of the airports as reported in 'The Times of India' dated March 14, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government there to;

(c) whether this happened largely due to lack of absence of delegation of authority or decentralisation and over centralisation of the infrastructure;

(d) if so, whether any such jams have been reported from airports like Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Calcutta etc. during the last several years;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to abolish Airports Authority of India; and

(f) if not, the steps taken to ease the Traffic ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) KLM Flight 471 had to wait for in-contact-bay as it arrived 42 minutes ahead of schedule. It was offered a remote bay which it did not accept and waited on taxi way. Another flight SR-194 had to wait because Air India (AI) flight 301 developed a technical snag and could also not shift to remote bay.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Airports Authority of India is continuously streamlining bay allocation system so that such contingencies are easily met with.

[Translation]

Frequency of Holiday Express

4139. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations in regard to increase the frequency of Holiday Express plying between Ajmer and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received for daily running of Ajmer-Mumbai Holiday Special train (Tri-weekly). The same were examined but daily running of Ajmer-Mumbai Holiday Special was not found justified.

[English]

**Introduction of EMU Trains
between Mumbai-Panvel**

4140. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to commission of EMU trains between C.S.T. Mumbai to Panvel via Diva;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Some representations have been received for introduction of EMU trains between Mumbai CST and Panvel via Diva.

Frequent EMU services are available between Mumbai CST and Diva. There are 6 pairs of passengers trains between Diva and Panvel. In addition, Panvel is connected to Mumbai CST/Lokmanya Tilak (T) (Kurla) by 4 pairs of Express trains. All these services are considered adequate for the present level of traffic between Mumbai CST and Panvel.

**Re-Employment to Retired Employees
as Consultants in Air India**

4141. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given approval to Air India to re-employ the retired employees as consultants at General Manager's level;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with their emoluments and perks given to each of them;

(c) whether some officers have also been re-employed by Air India without the permission of the Government as per rules; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with their date of appointment and emoluments etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under the delegation of Financial and Administrative Powers approved by the Board of Air India, the Managing Director is empowered to appoint anybody as Consultant on a Retainer basis. Government approval for the said appointment is not necessary.

(c) and (d) Two consultants were appointed during the last three years. Details are as under :-

Name	Period	Emoluments
(i) Sh. S.H. Supnekar	Jan. 97 to Dec. 98	Rs. 45,000/- p.m.
(ii) Sh. S. Narayanswamy	Oct. 97 to 15 Apr. 2000	Rs. 20,000/- + Transport p.m.

[Translation]

**First Class AC Coach Facility in
Lichchavi Express**

4142. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the first class air conditioned coach facility has been withdrawn from the Lichchavi Express No. 5205/5206 plying between Muzaffarpur and New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from the rail users and representatives of the people to restore the first class AC coach facility; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

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

(b) Due to very poor patronage.

(c) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard.

(d) Due to very poor patronage of the First AC coach and heavy demand from travelling public on AC-II tier coach, the First AC coach has been replaced by AC-II tier coach for larger public satisfaction.

[English]

Helicopter Services in N.E. States

4143. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of helicopter services being operated within the North-Eastern States including Sikkim at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the helicopter services to and from Sikkim; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has deployed a Dauphin 365-N helicopter on wet lease basis each with the Governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. PHHL has also provided a Bell 206L4 helicopter on wet lease basis to the Government of Sikkim. PHHL has also provided two Dauphin helicopters on wet lease basis to the Ministry of Home Affairs with bases at Guwahati (Assam) and Imphal (Manipur).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Locoshed

4144. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways propose to convert the railway locoshed at Gangapur (Rajasthan) into an electric shed,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it would be started functioning?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Flying Training Centre at Ujjain

4145. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether air flying training centre is proposed to be set up at Ujjain airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has given a "No Objection Certificate", in principle, to Ujjain Flying Club for setting up of a flying training institute subject to fulfilment of certain conditions involving safety and security aspects.

[English]

Golconda Fort in Hyderabad

4146. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Normal monuments located in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any proposal to repair the Golconda Fort in Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There are 136 monuments of National Importance in Andhra Pradesh as listed in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Apart from carrying out regular maintenance and repairs the Archaeological Survey of India carries out special repairs as and when required depending on the specific requirement of the monument subject to the availability of funds.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement

List of Centrally Protected Monuments in Andhra Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of Monuments/Sites	Location	District
1	2	3	4
1.	Hill Fort and buildings therein and the fortifications at the foot of the hill	Gooty	Anantapur
2.	Madhavaraya temple (old Vishnu temple)	Gorantla	-do-
3.	Outer wall of the Mahalakshmi temple	Goripalli	-do-
4.	Group of sculptures	Hemavati	-do-
5.	Group of old temples together with adjacent land	Hemavati	-do-

1	2	3	4
6.	Large dolmen on a rocky hillock	Kalyandurg	Anantapur
7.	Mallikarjuna (siva) temple	Kambaduru	-do-
8.	Virabhadra temple	Lepakashi	-do-
9.	Basavannah temple	Lepakashi	-do-
10.	Hill fort	Madakasira	-do-
11.	Large bastion and on old gateway	Madakasira	-do-
12.	Extensive hill-fortress with outlying fortification excluding the fort gate	Rayadurg	-do-
13.	Palace and two temples of Rama and Krishna	-do-	-do-
14.	Chintalarayaswami temple	Tadpatri	-do-
15.	Rameswaraswami temple	-do-	-do-
16.	Sitatritam steeped well with entrance in the from of a bull	Penukonda	-do-
17.	The Hill fort and northern gateway with inscriptions	-do-	-do-
18.	The citadel and ruined buildings on the hill	-do-	-do-
19.	Watch tower known as Rama's bastion	-do-	-do-
20.	Small pavillion	-do-	-do-
21.	Old gopuram	-do-	-do-
22.	Old stamba or lamp pillar in the sub collector's office compound	-do-	-do-
23.	Extensive Hill Fortress with out lying fortification	Rayadurg	-do-
24.	Hill Fort and a large wall	-do-	-do-
25.	Lower Fort and structure	Chandragiri	Chittoor
26.	Upper Fort	-do-	-do-
27.	Venkateswara Vishnu temple	Mangapuram (hamlet of Mittapalam)	-do-
28.	Chennakeswaraswami temple	Sompalle	-do-
29.	Fort	Gurramkonda	-do-
30.	Lower Fort, Center Fort wall, moat, old fort gateway, old hanuman temple, old mandapam	-do-	-do-
31.	Palliswara Mudaiya Madeya temple	Kalakada	-do-
32.	Parasuramesvara temple	Gudimallam	-do-
33.	Mahal	Gurramkonda	-do-
34.	Bhimeshwara swamy temple	Pushpagiri, (hamlet of kotluru)	Cuddapah
35.	Indranadheshwara swamy temple	-do-	-do-
36.	Kamalasambnashwara swamy temple	-do-	-do-
37.	Raghaveswara swamy temple	-do-	-do-
38.	Sivakesavaswamy temple	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
39.	Trikoteswara swamy temple	Pushpagiri, (hamlet of kotluru)	Cuddapah
40.	Vaidhyanadha swamy temple	-do-	-do-
41.	Ancient Village sites	Paddamudiyam	-do-
42.	Kondarama temple	-do-	-do-
43.	Mukundesvara temple with inscriptions	-do-	-do-
44.	Narasimha temple	-do-	-do-
45.	Vigneswara swamy temple	Chilamakuru	-do-
46.	Remains of the buried jain temple	Danabalapadu	-do-
47.	Fort with enclosed ancient buildings, Madhavaperumal temple	Gandikota	-do-
48.	Visvanatha swamy temple	Sivalpallu	-do-
49.	Saumyanatha temple	Nandalur	
50.	Athirala Parasurama temple	Poli	
51.	Sri Kodandarma swamy temple and adjoining buildings	Vontimitta	Cuddapah
52.	Fort, Moat and buildings	Siddhout	-do-
53.	Old Vishnu temples with inscriptions	Peddanudiyam	-do-
54.	Ruined Buuddhist stupa and other remains	Amaravati	Gumtur
55.	Inscribed rock to the west of Dharanikota	Amaravati	-do-
56.	Fort in ruins	Dharanikota	-do-
57.	Ancient siva temple with inscription	Ayyangaripalam	-do-
58.	Bhavanarayana temple	Bapatla	-do-
59.	Ruined Buddhist stupa	Bhattiprolu	-do-
60.	Kapotswara temple with the inscripational monuments within the temple site (slabs in the temple site)	Chejerla	-do-
61.	Mounds with ancient remains	Grandhesiri	-do-
62.	Inscribed marble pillar near the Gopala temple	Ipuru	-do-
63.	Ancient Buddhist remains and Brahmi inscriptions on the mound	Manchikallu	-do-
64.	Mounds with ancient remains	Velpur	-do-
65.	Fort-storeyed rock-out Hindu temple	Undavalli	-do-
66.	The Sculptures, carvings, images or other like objects discovered within the revenue limit	Buddam	-do-
67.	Mound	Nagulavaram	-do-
68.	Hill of Nagarjunakonda with the ancient remains	Pullareddigudem (Agarharam)	-do-
69.	The Sculptures, carvings, images on the ancient mound	Pullareddigudem	-do-
70.	Mounds containing Buddhist remains such as stupas	Adurru	East Godavari
71.	Rock-cut caves and cisterns and reamins of Buddhist Stupas, Chatyas and Viharas (monasteries) on the hill pandavula or pandavakonda	Kapavaram	-do-

1	2	3	4
72.	Buddhist remains at Kodavali	Kodavali	East Godavari
73.	Bhimeswara temple	Samalkot, Bhimavaram	-do-
74.	Bhimeswara temple	Draksharama	-do-
75.	Gollingeswara group of temples	Biccavolu	-do-
76.	Monolithic Ganesh Image	-do-	-do-
77.	Charminar	Hyderabad	Hyderabad
78.	Golkonda Fort, Fortifications	-do-	-do-
79.	Pre-historic site	Janapet	Khammam
80.	Ancient site and remains comprised in survey plot No.37	Munagacherla	Krishna
81.	Ancient site with the mound marking the Buddhist Stupas in it	Alluru	-do-
82.	Buddhist remains in a mound	Ghantasala	-do-
83.	Mound containing Buddhist remains and ancient village site	Gudivada	-do-
84.	Hillock containing the mound marking the ancient remains of Buddhist stupas situated on it.	Gummadiduru	-do-
85.	Bandar Fort	Masulpathnam	-do-
	(1) Armoury known as Fort and customs office, Bandar For customs office,		
	(2) Belfry		
86.	Dutch cemetery	-do-	-do-
87.	Buddhist remains of a Stupa on the hill	Jaggayyapeta	-do-
88.	Four pillars in the ruined mandapam in Jammidoddi	Vijayawada	-do-
89.	Two rock-cut cave temples on the Indrakila hill known as Akkanna caves Kiratarjuna pillar and slab the Indrakila hill inscribed pillar and slab in Malleswaraswami temple	-do-	-do-
90.	Rock-cut cave temples on the Hill	Mogalrajapuram	-do-
91.	Sculptures, carvings, images other like objects found in the vicinity of the old Mosque	Gudur	-do-
92.	Inscribed Pillar and slab in Malleswaraswami temple	Vijayawada	-do-
93.	Kiratharjuna Pillar on the Indrakila Hill	Vijayawada	-do-
94.	Ruined fort and buildings therein except Ramazan masjid	Adoni	Kurnool
95.	Inscribed stone lying to the east of siva temple	Rayachoti	-do-
96.	Inscribed boulder bearing Andhra records of 150 A.D.	Chinnakadaburu	-do-
97.	A prominent granite hillock bearing Asokan inscriptions	Jonnagiri	-do-
98.	The One Asokan inscription, Two early Chalukya inscriptions and One late Chalukya inscriptions	Rajulamandagiri	-do-
99.	Mausoleum Known as Abdul Wahab Khan's Tomb and adjoining buildings	Kurnool	-do-

1	2	3	4
100.	Gateways and the bastions of the old fort, viz (1) Bastion No.1 Beach Ghantki Buruzu (2) Bastion No. 2 Lal Bangalow Buruzu (3) Gateway to Gopala Darwaja (4) Gateway to Panikiddi	Kurnool	Kurnool
101.	Nandavaram Temple including the sculpture of Subrahmanya	Nandavaram	-do-
102.	Old Cave Temple	Yaganti	-do-
103.	Uma-Mahesvaraswami Temple	Yaganti	-do-
104.	Ancient Mound	Kondapur	Medak
105.	Alampur Temples	Alampur	Mehaboobnagar
106.	Mound known as 'Bodipati Dibba'	Ramatirtham (Hamlet of Varini)	Nellore
107.	Ancient Mound	Ramatirtham	Nellore
108.	Hill Fort with Ancient buildings therein	Udayagiri	Nellore
109.	Krishna Temple in a part of Donka with Gopuram, Kalyanamandapam and Masonry built Tank	Udayagiri	Nellore
110.	Ranganayakula Temple	Udayagiri	Nellore
111.	Ancient Mounds	Kanuparti	Prakasam
112.	A group of eight rock-cut temples in Bhairavakonda hill	Kottapalli	Prakasam
113.	Chola Temple	Motupalle	Prakasam
114.	Ancient Mound	Pedaganjam	Prakasam
115.	Pitikeswara group of temples including Approach road	Pittikayagulla	Prakasam
116.	Ancient Site	Pusalapadu	Prakasam
117.	Remalingesvara group of temples	Satiavel	Prakasam
118.	Ancient Buddhist site	Kalingapatnam	Srikakulam
119.	Sir Somesvara temple	Mukhalingam	Srikakulam
120.	Bhimesvara temple, Mukhalingesvara temple	Mukhalingesvara	Srikakulam
121.	Buddhist remains : (1) Six Images (2) Three images and some more images on the hill (3) One image (4) Three images	Salihundam	Srikakulam
122.	Eastern Portion of Salihundam hill containing Buddhist remains (A Chaitya and four stupas)	Salihundam	Srikakulam
123.	Ancient Buddhist Mounds locally known as 'Dhana Dibbalu'	Kotturu (near Gokivada forest)	Vishakhapatnam
124.	Buddhist rock-cut stupas, Dagabas and caves and the ruins of a structural Chaitya with its outbuilding and other Ancient remains on two adjoining hills known as Bojjanna Konda.	Sankaram	Vishakhapatnam

1	2	3	4
125.	(Durga Bhairavakonda) having an ancient monument called Durga	NNilavati	Vizianagaram
126.	Ruined Buddhist Monastery at Gurubhaktulakonda	Ramatirthalu Ramatirtham	Vizianagaram
127.	The old, Dibbesvarasvamipur temple	Sarapalli (Sarapalle)	Vizianagaram
128.	Thousand Pillared temple	Hanamkonda	Warangal
129.	Ramappa temple	Palampet	Warangal
130.	Warangal Fort, Defence and gateways	Warangal	Warangal
131.	Mounds containing Buddhist remains	Arugolanu	West Godavari
132.	Mounds locally as Bhimalingadibba	Denduluru	West Godavari
133.	Buddhist monuments (1) Rock-cut temple (2) Large Monastery (3) Small Monastery (4) Brick Chaitya (5) Ruined Mandapa (6) Stone built Stupa and Large group of stupas.	Guntupalle	West Godavari
134.	The caves and structural stupa of Archaeological interest on Dharmalingesvarasvami hill	Jilakarragudem (Hamlet of Gutupalle)	West Godavari
135.	The mounds of Pedavegi : Dibba No. 1 Dibba No. 2, Dibba No. 3, Dibba No. 4, Dibba No. 5.	Pedavegi	West Godavari
136.	Ancient Mounds	Pedavegi	West Godavari

*[Translation]***Train Accidents of Surat-Bhusaval Line**

4147. SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passenger and goods train accidents occurred on Surat-Bhusaval railway line, during each of the last three years;

(b) the total loss of life and property in these accidents; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the victims ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) Compensation will be paid as per decree given by Railway Claims Tribunal.

Statement

(a) and (b) Year-wise details of consequential train accidents on Surat-Bhusaval section are as follows :

Year	Passenger	Goods	Loss of life	Loss to property
1997-1998	-	6	1	1,27,30,000
1998-1999	-	1	-	80,000
1999-2000	2	5	-	40,35,000

*[English]***Gauge Conversion**

4148. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Railway Lines in Gujarat on Western Railways which are still in Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge Lines;

(b) if so, the details of such railway lines; and

(c) when these Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge lines are likely to be converted into Broad Gauge lines ?

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

(b) and (c) Gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj, Wankaner-Dahinsara-Naviakhi-Maliya Miyana, Dharangdhara-Kuda, Rajkot-Veraval, Surendernagar-Bhavnagar-Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with branch lines, Viramgam-Mahesana-Patan and Gandhidham-Palanpur are sanctioned. Out of these, Gandhidham-Bhuj, Wankaner-Dahinsara-Navalakh-Maliya Miyana, Dharangdhara-Kuda, are targetted for completion during 2000-2001. Rest of the projects will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Surveys for gauge conversion of Bhuj-Naliya, Wansjaliya-Jetalsar, Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-Udaipur, Mahesana-Taranga Hill, Kalol-Kadi-Katosan Road and Pratapnagar-Dabohi-Chhota Udepur MG lines have been taken up. Further consideration of these projects would be possible once the survey report becomes available/finalised.

The remaining MG/NG lines would be considered for conversion into Broad Gauge once the projects already taken up get completed and the resources position improves and based on their traffic potential at that time.

Gauge Conversion

4149. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to convert various Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines into Broad Gauge;

(b) the number of such lines have been converted into Broad Gauge during the last five years; and

(c) the number of such lines have been converted into Broad Gauge in Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Baroda and Ratlam Division in Western Railway particularly in Jamnagar, Damod Railway Stations etc. in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion of selected MG/NG lines is being done.

(b) 50 numbers of meter gauge/narrow gauge sections have been converted into Broad Gauge during the last 5 years.

(c) Three MG sections e.g. Mahesana-Abu Road, Naviakhi-Dahinsara and Morbi-Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana have been converted into Broad Gauge in these Divisions.

Delegation of Powers under Essential Commodities Act

4150. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have delegated its powers under Essential Commodities Act regarding supply of unadulterated petrol and diesel to Oil Corporation Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this Act only deals with distribution of essential commodities to genuine consumers at genuine rates and quality of products is dealt as per provisions of ISI;

(d) if so, the institution which has laid down the specifications of products including petroleum products and the procedure of taking samples;

(e) whether the above provisions are final or these can be avoided superseded by any department/departmental order as per their own desires; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Setting up of Rural Road Development Authority

4151. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Rural Road Development Authority (RRDA).

(b) if so the main objectives of the establishment of RRDA;

(c) whether Rural Road Network is likely to be expanded through RRDA; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to construct and develop rural roads in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (d) The Central Government are in the process of formulating a National Rural Connectivity Programme (NRCP) and have set up a National Rural Road Development Committee whose recommendations are awaited.

Civic in Educational Institutions

4152. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give new thrust to Civic in Educational Institutions during the Golden Jubilee year of Indian Republic;

(b) if so, the details of programmes envisaged to be implemented among the students and younger generation;

(c) the celebration programmes are contemplated by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the funds allocated therefor during the year 1999-2000, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) the Government have decided to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Indian Republic through showcasing our cultural heritage and progress by way of creation of permanent assets and by organising various events. No State-wise allocation of funds for such celebrations has been contemplated so far.

Watershed Scheme

4153. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed watershed schemes aiming at preserving rain waters and improving ground water levels and also for helping the farmers of the districts affected by the dry spell conditions;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have also been recognising the necessity of watershed in the State; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the Union Government have so far provided funds for the implantation of the said scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) There is no scheme titled as "Watershed Scheme" However, the Department of Land Resources is implementing the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) for development of wasteland/degraded lands on watershed basis. For the development of dry and arid areas of the country, the Department is implementing Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development

Programme (DDP). All the three programmes are being implemented on the Guidelines for Watershed Development aiming at preserving rain waters and improving ground water levels and also for helping the farmers of the districts affected by the dry spell conditions recognising the necessity of watershed management. Fund provided to Andhra Pradesh State during the year 1999-2000 under the three Schemes are as under :

Name of the schemes	Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
I. IWDP	949.98
II. DPAP	2670.75
III. DDP	437.06

Identification of Small Hydro Power Projects

4154. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether 158 Small Hydro-Power Projects with a 900 MW capacity have been identified in Bihar State;

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

(c) The time by which all these projects are likely to be completed and made functional ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) 159 potential sites aggregating 160 MW for small hydro power projects have been identified in the State of Bihar.

(b) So far 6 projects have been installed and 14 projects are under construction. Detailed survey and investigations at 120 sites are in progress and detailed project reports for 19 projects are being prepared.

(c) The Bihar State Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. proposes to take up 10 projects during the 9th Plan, 12 projects during the 10th Plan 20 projects during the 11th Plan, if necessary clearances such as forest, environment etc. are accorded.

Links of Mumbai Travel Agent

4155. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Mumbai travel agent provided passport to four ISI agents who were alleged to have links with hijackers of the Indian Airlines flight IC 814;

(b) if so, the measures are taken by the Government to check the antecedents of persons who are given licences of running travel agencies in the country and abroad;

(c) whether there is any proposal to verify the antecedents of existing travel agents and the employees working with them and to make the registration of them compulsory with the police concerned;

(d) if so, whether there is a proposal to cancel the travel agency of the Mumbai travel agency involved in providing passports to ISI agents;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (f) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is conducting an investigation into the criminal case registered against the hijacking. The investigation is yet to be completed.

Misappropriation of Rural Development Funds in Assam

4156. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Rural Development funds in Assam meant for IAY, JRY, Million Wells etc. are being misappropriated particularly in Nalbari, Barpeta and Bongaigaon;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof, and the action taken against the officials, found guilty in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has not received any complaint regarding misappropriation of rural development funds specifically to Nalbari, Barpeta and Bongaigaon District of Assam. However, complaints have been received about misappropriation of funds meant for poverty alleviation and rural development programmes in Assam, in general.

(b) and (c) These complaints have been forwarded to the State Government for examination and for taking appropriate action. A Team of officers from the Ministry of Rural Development had also visited a few District in Assam recently to review the implementation of the poverty alleviation and rural development programmes. Based on

their discussion with the officials of District Rural Development Agencies, beneficiaries of the programmes and observations from the field visits, the Team suggested to the representatives of Assam Government to strictly comply with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development for implementation of its programmes.

[Translation]

Threat to Culture

4157. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any threat of cultural distortion in India due to unrestricted visits of foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government to deal with the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Welfare Fund for Widows of Soldiers

4158. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a large number of non-Governmental Organisations functioning for the welfare of widows of defence personnel;

(b) whether they are registered and what are their mode of collection and accounting of funds;

(c) whether any grant is given to them by the Government and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a large scale misappropriation of welfare fund and its utilisation; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to identify and penalise such non-Governmental Organisations and individuals ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Government have no information about non-Governmental organizations engaged in welfare activities for war-widows, nor has any grant been provided by the Government to any such organization except the War Widows Association in New Delhi. The War Widows

Association is a registered body under Societies Registration Act and is engaged in the welfare of war widows. The Association has, since 1988, been given a grant of Rs. 4,29,534/-. Government have not received any complaint regarding misappropriation of funds provided to the Association.

**Withdrawal of Subsidy for the
Development of NCES**

4159. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the subsidy given by the Government for the development of non-conventional energy sources is revised or withdrawn;

(b) whether the uniformity of sales tax has formally been accepted by all the State Governments and the subsidy provided by various States to these industries is withdrawn in its totality;

(c) if so, whether the industry associations of non-conventional energy sources has approached the Government to give some alternative subsidy or requested the State Government to restore the subsidy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The financial subsidy provided by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for development of various programmes of non-conventional energy has not been withdrawn or revised during the current financial year.

(b) to (d) All the State Governments have not accepted the uniform sales tax formulation. There is no uniform subsidy provided by the States to non-conventional energy systems/devices. No proposal has been received from the Industry Associations of Non Conventional Energy Sources to provide alternate subsidy.

[Translation]

**Construction of Godowns under
Grid Godown Scheme**

4160. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought financial assistance for construction of godowns under the Grid Godown Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the financial assistance is likely to be provided in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought financial assistance of Rs. 497.23 lakhs for construction of 24 godowns under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for construction of godowns for strengthening of the PDS infrastructure in the State.

(c) The scheme will be considered for sanction after the State Government submits utilisation certificate in respect of similar assistance sanctioned in earlier years as per the prescribed guidelines.

[English]

Maintenance of Forts

4161. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the forts situated in various States in the country are controlled and maintained by the Army/ State Government/A.S.I. as well;

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

(c) the authority which controls and maintains the temples constructed inside these forts;

(d) whether some temples constructed inside the forts are reported to have been demolished;

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

(f) the number of forts encroached upon by the civilians/State Governments/Police or by some business units, fort-wise; and

(g) the action plan chalked out to protect these forts and evict them from the clutches of unauthorised encroachers ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, 21 Forts are under the charge of the Army; 200 Forts have been declared to be of National importance and are maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI); and 178 forts are under the control of various States. A Statement showing the State-wise details of forts under the control of the Army is attached. Details in respects of other forts are not available.

(c) Temples located inside forts under Army's charge are maintained by Army or Private bodies/persons.

(d) and (e) No case of demolition of temples constructed inside these forts has come to the notice of the Government.

(f) The details of encroachment of forts under control of Army are given in the statement attached.

However, no specific information in respect of other forts is available.

(g) Whenever encroachments are noticed within the protected area of the fort, measures to prevent the same are taken under the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

Statement

Details of Forts on the charge of the Army

Sl.No.	State	Name of the Fort	Location	Encroachment	Remarks
1.	Maharashtra	Sitabuldi	Nagpur	Nil	
		Ahmednagar Fort	Ahmednagar	Nil	
		Purandhar Fort	Pune	Nil	
2.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad Fort	Ahmedabad	0.526 acres in Moat around the Fort since 1986. Matter subjudice.	
		Bhujia Fort	Bhuj	Nil	
3.	Rajasthan	Sewar Fort	Bharatpur	Nil	
4.	Tamil Nadu	St. George Fort	Chennai	Yes, partially	National monument
5.	Karnataka	Belgaum Fort	Belgaum	Construction of Mosque/Dargah and partial encroachment by Karnataka St. Road Corporation	
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Golconda Fort	Hyderabad	Nil	
7.	Punjab	Ferozpur Fort	Ferozpur	Nil	
		Govind Garh Fort	Amritsar	Yes, by civilians	
8.	Delhi	Red Fort	Delhi	Nil	Part under ASI
9.	West Bengal	Fort William	Calcutta	Nil	
10.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad Fort	Allahabad	Nil	Part under ASI
		Agra Fort	Agra	Nil	
		Fatehgarh Fort	Fatehgarh	Nil	
		Bareilly Fort	Bareilly	Nil	
		Mhow Fort	Mhow	Nil	
11.	J and K	Zorawar Fort	Leh	Nil	
		Hari Prabhat Fort	Srinagar	Nil	
		Khamba Fort	Jhangar (Nowshera)	Nil	

[Translation]

Excavation work at Fatehpur Sikri

4162. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :
DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has discovered Jain temples and other sculptures of second century during the recent excavation of Fatehpur Sikri;

(b) if so, the scheme formulated for carrying out further excavation work in this regard; and

(c) the arrangements being made for the protection of this heritage of historical importance ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The ongoing excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India at Bir Chhabili-ka-tila in Fatehpur Sikri in District Agra has yielded thirty-four pieces of sculptures. Some of them are of the Jain Tirthankaras namely, Rishabhanatha, Sambhavanatha, and Kunthunatha, and a few are of Jain Goddesses Ambika and Sarasvati, all datable to the 9th-11th century A.D.

(c) The site lies in the prohibited area of the centrally protected monument of Fatehpur Sikri.

Watch on Activities of High Officials of Army

4163. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any intelligence agency keeps a watch on activities of both serving and retired high officials of Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether there is any proposal to set up any such agency now keeping in view their involvement in smuggling and other illegal activities ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) No intelligence agency is tasked for this kind of watch. However, the intelligence agencies take note of anything illegal if it comes to their notice during the course of their normal duties for appropriate follow up.

[English]

Suppliers of Super Bazar

4164. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any norms for the selection of items and suppliers by Super Bazar and NCCF;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether violation of norms has been noticed by the Government during the last five years and the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No Sir. The selection of items and Suppliers by Super Bazar and NCCF is done by them independently as a part of their commercial activity.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Air Defence Bases

4165. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the early 1980 it was decided to strengthen and create Air Defence Bases at Falodi, Deesa etc. for early detection of enemy planes;

(b) if so, the reasons as to why these Air Bases have not been developed so far;

(c) whether in view of changed scenario and Pakistan's aggressive postures, lack of Air Defence Bases is likely to jeopardise National Security; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work on developing Air Defence Bases in Rajasthan and Gujarat is proposed to be started and the target date of its completion ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In mid 1980s, there were plans to develop small air bases at Falodi, Deesa and Mahajan. However, these airbases could not be taken up due to financial constraints.

(c) and (d) Government is aware of the security scenario at Western border. The case for development of airfield at Falodi has been revived. The project is being planned to be completed by the year 2004.

Employment Assurance Scheme

4166. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government allots funds under the Employment Assurance Scheme to State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allotted to Kerala during each of the last three years;

(d) whether Kerala has not been getting its allotment for the current year 1999-2000 and, if so, the reasons for delay and whether the release of the allotment will be expedited; and

(e) whether the Government intends to discontinue the scheme and if so, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Employment Assurance Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme. Funds for this scheme are shared in the ratio 75:25 between the Centre and the States. Prior to 1.4.99, EAS was a demand driven scheme with no fixed allocation for States. The EAS has been restructured w.e.f. 1.4.99 and has become an allocation based scheme. The central share is allocated to the States/UTs on the basis of proportion of the rural poor in a state to the total rural poor in the country.

(c) Funds allocated/released under EAS to Kerala during last three years were as follows :

Year	Amount (Allocated/ Released)
1997-98	Rs. 3989.00 lakhs
1998-99	Rs. 3661.00 lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 3589.13 lakhs

(d) The Central allocation for Kerala during 1999-2000 was fixed at Rs. 3589.13 lakhs and this amount was released in two installments as per provisions of the guidelines during the year.

(e) No such proposal is under consideration.

[Translation]

Price of Soyabean

4167. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether soyabean is being procured at different places on lower price in comparison to the fixed rate is leading to huge losses to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to protect the interests of the farmers;

(c) whether the rate of soyabean oil has been increased recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the slump in the price rate of soyabean seeds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Soyabean of fair average quality (FAQ) is being procured by NAFED from M.P., Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The Minimum Support Price for soyabean, it may be mentioned has been raised from Rs. 795 per quintal in 1998 to Rs. 845 per quintal in 1999.

One of the problems being faced by the farmers is the availability of soyabean of lower standard than FAQ. As per FAQ standard moisture is permitted upto 12% and discoloured Soyabean upto 3%. Due to heavy rains at the time of harvesting, the harvested soyabean had moisture content of 15% and discoloured soyabean upto 20%. There was a demand from farmers of Madhya Pradesh in October 1999 to dilute FAQ standard so that they could get the same price for this quality of soyabean as of FAQ variety.

(c) The wholesale prices of soyabean oil in the last six months have been as under :

Month	Price Rs/Quintal Refined Soyabean Oil
November' 99	2380
December' 99	2406
January' 2000	2387
February' 2000	2255
March' 2000	2330
April' 2000	2420

(d) The reason for the present price situation of soyabean is the lack of demand and low prices of Indian de-oiled soya cake in the international market.

Water Shed Scheme

4168. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in the country particularly in Maharashtra where 'Watershed Scheme' is already in operation during the last and current financial year. State-wise; and

(b) the number of villages to be included in the current financial year, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no such scheme titled as "Watershed Scheme". However, the Department of Land Resources is implementing Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) for the development of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed basis. 9 projects under IWDP covering 159 villages are being implemented in the State of Maharashtra. State-wise list of projects sanctioned from 1995-96 to 31-3-2000 under IWDP is enclosed. No further village has been added in any state during the current financial year as no project has been sanctioned till date under this Programme.

(b) Complete proposals from all the States under IWDP for the current financial year have not yet been received. Hence, it is not possible to indicate the number of villages to be included under this Programme in the current financial year.

Statement

No of Projects under IWD programme

Sl.No	State	No. of Projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	4
4.	Bihar	2
5.	Delhi	
6.	Gujarat	14
7.	Haryana	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3
10.	Karnataka	14
11.	Kerala	1
12.	Maharashtra	9
13.	Manipur	7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	21
15.	Meghalaya	2

1	2	3
16.	Mizoram	
17.	Nagaland	7
18.	Orissa	15
19.	Punjab	1
20.	Rajasthan	13
21.	Sikkim	6
22.	Tamil Nadu	11
23.	Tripura	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	32
25.	West Bengal	
Total		193

[English]

Demand and Supply of foodgrains

4169. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

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

(a) the total quantum of wheat, rice, sugar, kerosene and edible oils demanded by the State Governments and total quantity allocated to them during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, year-wise and item-wise;

(b) whether allocation of these items to some States is less than their demand;

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

(d) the steps taken to increase the existing allocation as demanded by the State Governments; and

(e) what is the provision for the population born after 1991 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) The quantum of wheat and rice, sugar, edible oils and kerosene allocated to each State/Union Territory during the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given at the enclosed Statement-I-II-III and IV respectively. The allocation made during the current year 2000-2001 for wheat and rice, sugar and kerosene is given at the enclosed Statement V, VI and VII respectively.

Demand for the Public Distribution System (PDS) commodities is generally higher than the allocations made by the Government of India as they are subsidised. Requests are received from the States/Union Territories from time to time for enhancing their allotments.

Under the Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) introduced from June, 97 allocations of wheat and rice were made to the States/UTs for the families below poverty line (BPL) to provide 10 kg. foodgrains per family per month. Transitory allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) was also made for families above poverty line (APL) equal to the difference between the past 10 years' annual average lifting of foodgrains by a State/UT and its requirement of foodgrains for BPL families. Thus the allocation of wheat and rice under TPDS is not demand based. PDS is not a substitute for the open market but only a supplement to it. However, considering the demands of the States/UTs additional allocations of wheat and rice were also made from time to time to the States/UTs under TPDS subject to availability and subsidy constraints. The allocation of foodgrains to BPL families has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per BPL family per month from April 1, 2000. The allocation for APL families has also been continued as fixed at the time of the introduction of TPDS in June, 97. Additional quantities of wheat and rice, over and above the normal monthly allocations, if demanded by the States/UTs will be considered subject to availability and at economic cost.

Levy sugar quota of the States/UTs is not allocated based on their demand though various State Governments/UTs have been requesting the Central Government

from time to time to enhance their respective quota of sugar primarily on the ground of increase in population. The Government has decided to allot levy sugar to States/UTs w.e.f. 1.3.2000 on the basis of the projected population as on 1.3.1999. Accordingly, from March, 2000 allotment of levy sugar has been enhanced. Further in case of North East and hilly states entitlement of levy sugar has also been increased from 425 gms. to 700 gms. per head per month.

Allocation of Kerosene is made on historical basis. i.e., past year's surplus plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level. Kerosene is a deficit product. Requests are received from State Governments for increase in their allocation of kerosene from time to time. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet fully such demands. Possible increase, however, is given, out of the additional availability at the country level, in accordance with a formula under which higher allocation out of additional quantity, is given to States with lower per capita-availability, so as to reduce inter-state disparity over a period of time.

From February, 2000 onwards monthly allocation of imported RBD Palmolein, being made for PDS, is the same as the quantity demanded by States/UTs.

(e) Under TPDS, foodgrains are allotted on the basis of BPL percentage based on the projected population of 1995 and levy sugar is being allotted on the basis of projected population as on 1.3.1999 w.e.f. 1.3.2000.

Statement-I

Statement showing allocations of rice and wheat to States/UTs from 1997-98 (June, 97 March, 98), 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(in '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Wheat			Rice		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153.00	137.00	141.00	1889.00	2350.40	2300.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.91	7.20	7.80	86.66	109.20	109.20
3.	Assam	263.08	363.60	213.90	480.85	620.00	670.00
4.	Bihar	674.20	831.04	861.04	422.80	507.36	507.36
5.	Delhi	531.47	694.80	724.80	134.30	164.68	154.68
6.	Goa	26.10	33.72	33.72	61.80	75.96	75.96
7.	Gujarat	607.50	494.00	739.50	238.00	356.00	292.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Haryana	150.50	156.60	156.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	107.02	139.70	142.44	112.19	144.87	146.76
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	230.59	364.55	364.55	342.76	386.53	433.27
11.	Karnataka	200.00	300.00	420.00	780.00	940.00	900.00
12.	Kerala	304.04	452.64	452.64	1511.36	1788.84	1743.84
13.	Madhya Pradesh	464.90	503.88	503.88	343.50	417.20	412.20
14.	Maharashtra	1061.80	1178.16	1208.16	535.40	722.48	762.48
15.	Manipur	21.06	32.60	23.22	81.40	122.52	125.00
16.	Meghalaya	21.54	29.52	14.46	165.28	209.58	207.58
17.	Mizoram	13.94	24.06	14.08	90.19	125.08	125.08
18.	Nagaland	27.53	38.06	23.49	96.97	125.80	125.10
19.	Orissa	199.00	435.00	420.00	515.40	656.98	1169.85
20.	Punjab	51.30	61.56	61.56	9.60	11.52	11.52
21.	Rajasthan	641.30	839.56	633.22	46.86	47.47	15.86
22.	Sikkim	4.48	10.68	2.09	66.78	87.72	87.72
23.	Tamil Nadu	200.00	360.00	360.00	1029.71	1310.76	1814.76
24.	Tripura	14.88	21.60	17.16	139.65	200.00	197.50
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1007.22	1319.04	1529.44	441.59	632.40	739.70
26.	West Bengal	983.22	1047.35	1061.10	406.90	567.25	518.60
27.	A and N Islands	9.00	7.50	9.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
28.	Chandigarh	13.98	21.60	21.60	2.34	3.60	3.60
29.	D and N Havell	1.48	3.00	3.00	3.95	6.60	6.60
30.	Daman and Diu	1.10	2.40	2.40	3.18	7.20	7.20
31.	Lakshadweep	0.50	0.25	0.50	8.70	3.15	6.30
32.	Pondicherry	3.32	9.00	9.00	16.14	26.00	24.00
Total		7994.94	9919.66	10175.35	10093.26	12757.15	13724.62

Statement-II

Statement showing Levy Quota and Festival Quota of Sugar (Based on Population as per 1991 Census)

(Figures in MT)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Monthly Quota w.e.f. 1.1.96	Revised Quota (w.e.f. Jan, 2000)	Annual Festival
1	2	3	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28267	28267	7614

1	2	3	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	366	602	94
3.	Assam	9524	15687	2896
4.	Bihar	36707	36707	10078
5.	Goa	508	508	150
6.	Gujarat	17557	17557	4878
7.	Haryana	6995	6996	1924
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2197	3619	608
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3567	5404	868
10.	Karnataka	19117	19117	5350

1	2	3	5	6	1	2	3	5	6
11. Kerala		12368	12368	3600	23. Tripura		1173	1932	302
12. Madhya Pradesh		28127	28127	7536	24. Uttar Pradesh		59122	59122	15936
13. Maharashtra		33550	33550	9014	25. West Bengal		28934	28934	7796
14. Manipur		782	1288	208	26. A and N Islands		282	282	74
15. Meghalaya		752	1239	200	27. Chandigarh		391	391	112
16. Mizoram		293	483	78	28. D and N Haveli		60	60	14
17. Nagaland		542	847	128	29. Daman and Diu		43	43	12
18. Orissa		13456	13456	3730	30. Delhi		11973	11973	2316
19. Punjab		8619	8619	2392	31. Lakshadweep		81	81	22
20. Rajasthan		18704	18704	5092	32. Pondicherry		360	360	64
21. Sikkim		174	287	50	33. Karaikal		86	86	18
22. Tamil Nadu		23741	23741	6790	34. Mahe		18	18	14
					35. Yanam		08	08	02

Statement-III

State-wise Demand and Allocation of imported Edible Oils for PDS during
1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Figures in tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UT	1997-1998		1998-1999		1999-2000	
		Demand	Allocation	Demand	Allocation	Demand	Allocation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	65200	28000	69000	56000	98000	58700
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	300	300	1200	800	Nil	Nil
5.	Goa	3500	3500	2000	2000	3600	2430
6.	Gujarat	20000	20000	36000	28000	40330	25400
7.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	400	400	200	200
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1400	1400	1800	1300	3200	2060
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	400	400	875	616	1500	1262
10.	Karnataka	10000	10000	10000	8000	14000	13600
11.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Maharashtra	30000	30000	48000	40231	56000	41800
14.	Manipur	800	800	2400	1600	7800	5215
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	400	400	1000	560
16.	Mizoram	800	800	800	270	600	306
17.	Nagaland	1600	1600	2400	2400	4800	3740

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Orissa	7300	7300	11000	9000	20900	10000
19.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	8000	2000	Nil	Nil
21.	Sikkim	880	880	1480	1000	2200	1720
22.	Tamil Nadu	4000	4000	5500	5000	5400	3950
23.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	200	200	1100	660
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1700	1700	15000	5000	5000	5000
25.	West Bengal	20000	20000	14000	14000	53000	28000
26.	A and N Islands	100	100	400	275	250	177
27.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	D and N Haveli	320	320	560	500	960	808
29.	Daman and Diu	500	500	800	790	1850	1561
30.	Delhi	2104	2104	8704	6398	5900	4950
31.	Lakshadweep	400	400	400	300	400	334
32.	Pondicherry	2000	2000	6000	4000	11000	6800
Total		173304	136104	245319	190480	338990	217233

Statement-IV

State-wise SKO Allocation for the period from
1997-98 to 1999-2000

(In MTs)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	4743	7155	6736
2.	Andhra Pradesh	650785	675056	679848
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9948	10240	10295
4.	Assam	263760	271235	272623
5.	Bihar	679329	863745	870036
6.	Chandigarh	21562	21778	15408
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3202	3237	3238
8.	Delhi	245768	248325	204672
9.	Diu/Daman	3033	3064	2438
10.	Goa	27954	28257	28075
11.	Gujarat	822339	831600	832432
12.	Haryana	164653	170563	171731
13.	Himachal Pradesh	58984	60737	61067

1	2	3	5	6
14.	J and K	88828	91433	91921
15.	Karnataka	513054	528301	531167
16.	Kerala	289540	300006	302078
17.	Lakshadweep	906	919	921
18.	Madhya Pradesh	532741	661812	666632
19.	Maharashtra	1558397	1576298	1577953
20.	Manipur	22064	22670	22781
21.	Meghalaya	20245	20847	20960
22.	Mizoram	7868	8102	8146
23.	Nagaland	13797	14207	14284
24.	Orissa	239501	316597	318903
25.	Pondicherry	15329	15342	15363
26.	Punjab	337118	342376	343127
27.	Rajasthan	361736	440060	443265
28.	Sikkim	7794	7885	7895
29.	Tamil Nadu	698837	716830	720076
30.	Tripura	31451	32386	32562
31.	Uttar Pradesh	1178862	1391123	1401255
32.	West Bengal	785065	808013	812301
Total		9659193	10490199	10490199

Statement-V

Statement indicating monthly allotment of Rice and Wheat for various States and UTs under Targeted P.D.S. from April, 2000 onwards.

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	BPL	APL	SUB Total	ADDL.	Total	BPL	APL	Sub-Total	ADDL.	Total	Total Food-grains
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	75.56	153.92	229.48		229.48	0.00	8.00	8.00		8.00	237.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.40	5.86	7.26		7.26	0.14	0.53	0.67		0.67	7.93
3.	Assam	38.12	25.94	60.06		60.06	0.00	10.30	10.30		10.30	74.36
4.	Bihar	68.72	7.92	76.64		76.64	103.08	11.88	114.96		114.96	191.60
5.	Delhi	0.00	13.61	13.61		13.61	0.00	42.64	42.64		42.64	56.25
6.	Goa	0.52	3.57	4.09		4.09	0.24	1.69	1.93		1.93	6.02
7.	Gujarat	4.50	0.00	4.50		4.50	35.50	29.50	65.00		65.00	69.50
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	14.66	0.72	15.38		15.38	50.38
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	5.23	5.23		5.23	8.52	3.20	11.72		11.72	16.95
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	9.40	12.51	21.91		21.91	2.96	7.36	10.32		10.32	32.23
11.	Karnataka	46.00	37.00	83.00		83.00	11.50	9.25	20.75		20.75	103.75
12.	Kerala	30.70	109.97	140.67		140.67	0.00	22.72	22.72		22.72	163.39
13.	Madhya Pradesh	48.00	10.35	58.35		58.35	58.68	12.65	71.33		71.33	129.68
14.	Maharashtra	42.32	22.38	64.70		64.70	78.60	41.38	119.98		119.98	184.68
15.	Manipur	2.60	2.86	5.46		5.46	0.00	1.71	1.71		1.71	7.17
16.	Meghalaya	2.86	9.53	12.39		12.39	0.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	13.39
17.	Mizoram	1.06	6.81	7.87		7.87	0.00	1.01	1.01		1.01	8.88
18.	Nagaland	1.54	8.63	10.17		10.17	0.38	1.54	1.92		1.92	12.09
19.	Orissa	63.64	3.72	67.36		67.36	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	67.36
20.	Punjab	1.36	0.28	1.64		1.64	7.24	1.51	8.75		8.75	10.39
21.	Rajasthan	0.50	0.78	1.28		1.28	42.90	32.68	75.58		75.58	76.86
22.	Sikkim	0.68	2.97	3.65		3.65	0.00	0.10	0.10		0.10	3.75
23.	Tamil Nadu	91.58	38.44	130.02		130.02	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	130.02
24.	Tripura	4.62	9.12	13.74		13.74	0.00	1.28	1.28		1.28	15.02
25.	Uttar Pradesh	63.00	11.20	74.20		74.20	128.00	22.17	150.17		150.17	224.37
26.	West Bengal	44.14	10.73	54.87		54.87	47.30	64.70	112.00		112.00	166.87
27.	A and N Islands	0.30	2.35	2.65		2.65	0.14	0.68	0.82		0.82	3.47
28.	Chandigarh	0.04	0.17	0.21		0.21	0.32	0.97	1.29		1.29	1.50
29.	D and N Havelli	0.24	0.18	0.42		0.42	0.06	0.05	0.11		0.11	0.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
30.	Daman and Diu	0.04	0.11	0.15		0.15	0.02	0.04	0.06		0.06	0.21
31.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.55	0.55		0.55	0.00	0.04	0.04		0.04	0.59
32.	Pondicherry	1.30	0.29	1.59		1.59	0.00	0.02	0.02		0.02	1.61
Total		644.74	516.98	1161.72		1161.72	540.24	331.32	871.56		871.56	2033.28

Statement-VI

State/UT-wise requirement of Levy Sugar under PDS from March, 2000 onwards (Based on Projected Population as on 1.3.2000.)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Monthly quota (For the State) In MTs	Annual Festival Quota In MTs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31712	7614
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	377	74
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	809	94
4.	Assam	18114	2896
5.	Bihar	41707	10078
6.	Chandigarh	525	112
7.	D and N Haveli	78	14
8.	Delhi	17054	2316
9.	Goa	671	150
10.	Daman and Diu	59	12
11.	Gujarat	2012	4878
12.	Haryana	8307	1924
13.	Himachal Pradesh	4582	608
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	6796	868
15.	Karnataka	21860	5350
16.	Kerala	13592	3600
17.	Lakshadweep	112	22
18.	Madhya Pradesh	33294	7536
19.	Maharashtra	38301	9014
20.	Manipur	1709	208
21.	Meghalaya	1651	200
22.	Mizoram	645	78
23.	Nagaland	1140	128
24.	Orissa	15102	3730

1	2	3	4
25.	Pondicherry	627	88
26.	Punjab	9896	2392
27.	Rajasthan	22372	5092
28.	Sikkim	379	50
29.	Tamil Nadu	26033	6790
30.	Tripura	2566	302
31.	Uttar Pradesh	70722	15936
32.	West Bengal	33138	7796
Total		444142	99950

Statement-VII

*SKO Allocation for the month of April 2000
(Provisional) to the States/UT opting for
uniform allocation*

(Figures in MTS)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Month wise allocation for April 2000
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	56654
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	858
3.	Assam	22719
4.	A and N Islands	561
5.	Bihar	72503
6.	Chandigarh	1284
7.	Delhi	17056
8.	Daman and Diu	203
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	270
10.	Goa	2340
11.	Gujarat	69369*
12.	Himachal Pradesh	5089
13.	Haryana	14311
14.	Karnataka	44264

1	2	3
15.	Kerala	25173
16.	Lakshadweep	77
17.	Madhya Pradesh	55553
18.	Manipur	1898
19.	Mizoram	679
20.	Maharashtra	131496
21.	Meghalaya	1747
22.	Nagaland	1190
23.	Orissa	26575
24.	Pondicherry	1280
25.	Punjab	28594
26.	Rajasthan	36939
27.	Sikkim	658
28.	Tamil Nadu	60006
29.	Tripura	2713
30.	Uttar Pradesh	16771
31.	West Bengal	67692
Total		866522

* Gujarat allocation includes 390 MTs to be given to fishing sector every month throughout the year.

*SKO Allocation for the Month of April 2000
(Provisional) to the States/UTs opting for
Block-wise allocation*

(Figures in MTS)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Month wise allocation for April 2000
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	6128*
Total		6128

* Jammu and Kashmir allocation includes 300 MTs meant for Leh and Kargil Districts every month throughout the year. The SKO allocation to J and K State is given in two blocks, i.e., summer (April – Sept.) and Winter (Oct.–March) @ 60% of annual allocation during winter and 40% in summer blocks.

Amendments of Constitution

4170. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Constitution and grant more autonomy to the States in deciding on the mode of functioning of the various tiers of Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any requests for amendments to article 243-C of the Constitution from some States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Amendment of Article 243-C (2) and (5) of the Constitution of India is proposed to vest discretionary powers with the State Legislatures for declaring the Chairpersons of the immediate lower tier Panchayats as members of the next higher tier Panchayat and to determine the manner of election of Chairpersons of Panchayats at the Village, Intermediate and District levels.

(c) and (d) A reference in this behalf was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The views of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have since been sought in respect of the Constitution (87th Amendment) Bill, 1999.

Drinking Water In Gujarat

4171. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Gujarat which have not got proper drinking water facility till now;

(b) the number of villages having seasonal difficulty;

(c) the number of villages declared "No source of Water"; and

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to provide drinking water to the above villages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. The State Governments implement the programme under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement their individual water supply schemes.

As per the information received till 1st March 2000, from the State Government of Gujarat, out of a total of 30269 rural habitations in the State, 26207 are "Fully Covered", 3727 are "Partially Covered" and 335 are "Not Covered" with drinking water facilities. The State

Government has also informed that 6312 villages have seasonal difficulty in the State.

The State Government has prepared action plan to provide drinking water to all rural habitations in the next five years. This objective could be achieved, subject to availability of funds.

Import of Wheat

4172. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :

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

- (a) whether an inquiry was ordered into the import of wheat from Australia and Canada on July 20, 1998;
- (b) if so, the progress made so far in the matter;
- (c) the reasons for the delay in the matter; and
- (d) the time by which the same will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 20.7.1998 to look into the wheat imports on Government account made during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99. CBI has registered a PE. 14 (A)/98-Delhi dated 4.8.98 to enquire into the import of wheat contracted by STC from Australian Wheat Board on 26.2.1998. The relevant records pertaining to State Trading Cooperation (STC), Food Cooperation of India (FCI), Department of Agriculture, Department of Food and Cabinet Secretariat have been collected and the same have been scrutinized by the CBI. CBI have expressed their inability to proceed further in respect of Canadian wheat contract unless there are specific allegations/issues.

Price Rise of Essential Commodities

4173. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the price of the essential commodities are continuously increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are failed to control the price-rise of the essential commodities and protect the interest of common people;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

- (d) the steps being taken and proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) During the last one year, the prices of most of the essential commodities have remained at reasonable levels or declined. The percentage variations in the Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) based on 1993-94 base year in respect of selected essential commodities for the last one year as on 1.4.2000 are given below :

Commodity	Percentage variation
	(1.4.2000)
	(3.4.1999)
Rice	0.7
Wheat	6.9
Gram	14.9
Arhar	-1.0
Sugar	4.1
Groundnut oil	-2.1
Mustard oil	-14.1
Vanaspati	-22.8
Tea	-3.6
Potato	-9.8
Onion	-40.8
Salt	-14.5

(b) to (d) The Government has taken a number of steps to control the prices and augment the availability of essential commodities in the country. Apart from certain long term measures to increase production of essential goods, imports of items which are in short supply, like pulses and edible oils are allowed under OGL. Pulses are allowed to be imported at zero per cent import duty. Export of onion has been placed under quantitative restriction. Some of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, palmolein and kerosene are also supplied to the population living below the poverty line through the outlets of public distribution system at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders, black marketers and other indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act by the State/UT Governments.

Railway Projects in Gujarat

4174. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
 SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
 SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA
 SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :
 SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
 SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
 SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA :
 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received some request from the Government of Gujarat and other organisations for construction of new railway lines, extension of railway lines, gauge conversion of metre/narrow gauge rail lines into broad gauge and doubling of rail lines during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Railways thereon alongwith expenditure incurred on survey, project-wise;

(c) the details of the new railway lines laid, converted into broad gauge and doubled during the last three years alongwith expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) the details and the present status of on-going rail projects/pending rail projects alongwith funds earmarked and expenditure incurred thereon so far, project-wise; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed ?

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

(b) Details are as under :

S. No.	Project	Expenditure incurred for (Rs. in crores.)		Action taken
		Project	Survey	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Varaval and its extension upto Kodinar/Somnath	18.19	0.0764	Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Varaval is sanctioned. Earthwork, minor bridges and strengthening of major bridges have been taken up and are in progress. The work is expected to be completed during the coming years depending upon availability of resources. A survey for extension of line upto Kodinar/Somnath has already been completed and the survey report is under examination.
2.	Gauge conversion of Surendranagar-Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension upto Pipavav	15.01	0.12	The earthwork and bridge work on this project is already in good progress. It is proposed to take up the track work through a Special Purpose Vehicle in which Railway, Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd. will hold equity and part funds will be from market borrowings. A Memorandum of Understanding in this connection has recently been signed with Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd. to implement the scheme accordingly.
3.	(a) Gauge conversion of Virangam-Mehsana (A part of Bhildi-Virangam project)	11.43	0.4158	Work has been sanctioned. Work is being progressed as per availability of resources. No target date has been fixed.
	(b) Mehsana-Patan (A part of Bhildi-Virangam project)			Work of gauge conversion of Mahesana-Patan is being progressed as per availability of resources. Work of reconstruction of bridges in this section has already been completed. No target date has been fixed.

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Navlakhi-Dahinsara, Morbi-Wankaner and Morbi-Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana	19.42	Nil	Work on gauge conversion of Navlakhi-Dahinsara and Morbi-Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana MG line has already been completed. The work on rest of the section i.e. Wankaner-Morbi is in good progress and will be completed during 2000-01.
5.	Gandhidham-Bhuj-Nalia	8.30	0.0460	Work on Gandhidham-Bhuj is sanctioned and is in good progress and is targeted for completion during 2000-01. Survey for gauge conversion of Bhuj-Nalia has already been completed and survey report is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Defence. Further decision will be taken in due course based on the availability of resources and results of the survey.
6.	Gandhidham-Samakhiali-Palanpur	10.00	0.1409	Work has been sanctioned in the Budget 1998-99 and will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. Necessary action has already been initiated in this regard.
7.	Dharangadhara-Kuda Salt siding	3.09	0.0050	Works has been included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98. Work is being executed on cost sharing basis with the Government of Gujarat and Ministry of Industry and expected to be completed during 2000-01 subject to the balance amount from co-sharers becoming available.
8.	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej	Nil	0.0407	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej has been covered in the proposed 3rd line from Ahmedabad to Virar. However, after considering the proposals for new works and the availability of resources, it has not been found possible to include the conversion of this section in the Budget 2000-01.
9.	Ankleshwar-Rajpipla	Nil	Nil	Surveys conducted in the past have revealed inadequate traffic prospects for this line. As such, it has not been found possible to take up the work for the present.
10.	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar	Nil	0.0812	A survey for gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar - Udaipur is already in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.
11.	Ahmedabad-Vijapur	Nil	Nil	This proposal is under examination.
12.	Dabhoi-Miyagam	Nil	0.0237	Survey for gauge conversion of this line has already been completed as an alternative line of the proposed alignment for 3rd line between Virar-Ahmedabad. However, this line could not be considered as part of 3rd line as the alignments on western side of Virar-Ahmedabad BG line has been found most suitable for the 3rd line on operational consideration. In view of this, conversion of this line would not be possible in the near future.

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Chhotaudepur-Pratapnagar	Nil	0.1224	A survey for gauge conversion of this line is already in progress. Further consideration of this project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.
New Line				
14.	Kapadvanj-Modasa	50.00	0.0089	The Gauge conversion work between Nadiad and Kapadvanj which was a part of the sanctioned project was completed in 92-93. On the new line portion, work is now in good progress and is expected to be completed during 2000-01.
2.	Godhra-Dahod-Indore and Dewas-Maksi	21.09	0.57	This work is being executed in phases. The first phase work between Dewas and Maksi is now in progress. Work is in progress on all 8 major bridges. Work on all 49 minor bridges have been completed. The other items like earthwork and ballast supply are also in progress. This section is expected to be completed in the 9th Plan period, subject to availability of resources.
Doubling				
3.	Additional track for Ahmedabad-Gandhidham-Kandla	Nil	Nil	Double line already exists between Ahmedabad and Viramgam. Beyond Viramgam, the present level of traffic can be handled conveniently on the existing single line. Doubling of this section would be considered as and when the traffic reaches the level to justify its doubling.

(c) Navlakhi-Dahinsara and Morbi-Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana MG line a part of Wankaner-Maliya Miyana gauge conversion project has been converted into BG. An

expenditure of Rs. 19.42 crs. has been incurred on this project so far.

(d) and (e) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Ongoing/Pending Rail Projects in Gujarat

Sl. No.	Project	Length (Km)	Cost Rs. in Cr.	Expenditure up to 31.3.2000	Budget Outlay 2000-01	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Line						
1.	Kapadvanj-Modasa	59.71	62.74	50.00	10.00	Position is explained above in reply to part (b).
2.	Godhra-Indore Dewas-Maksi	318	597	21.09	10.00	Position is explained above in reply to part (b).
3.	Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti-Kaloi	20	52	0.00	2.00	New work included in the Budget 2000-2001.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gauge Conversion						
1.	Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad			0.00	15.00	Work already completed and commissioned. Residual works are in progress.
2.	Bhildi-Viramgam	157	64.88	11.43	6.90	Position is explained above in reply to part (b).
3.	Rajkot-Veraval	185	153.4	18.19	10.00	Position is explained above in reply to part (b).
4.	Wankaner-Malia Miyana	97	82.48	19.42	30.00	Position is explained above in reply to part (b).
5.	Gandhidham-Bhuj	58	52	8.30	20.00	Position is explained above in reply to part (b).
6.	Surendernagar-Bhavnagar	385	536.1	15.01	53.00	Position is explained above in reply to part (b).
7.	Dharangadhara-Kuda siding	22	13.27	3.09	0.01	Position is explained above in reply to part (b).
8.	Gandhidham-Palanpur	313	337.8	10.00	3.00	Position is explained above in reply to part (b).
Doubling						
1.	Surat-Kosamba PH-1 of 3rd line between Vadodara and Virar	31	49	0.00	1.00	New work included in the Budget 2000-2001.

*[Translation]***Air Services in Himachal Pradesh**

4175. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand air services in Bhunter of Kullu district and Gagal of Kangra district and to construct an airport at Bilaspur district headquarters with a view to promote tourism in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a team of officers had conducted a survey in this regard and submitted a report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon alongwith the present status of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) At present only 18 seater aircraft are operating to Bhunter of Kullu district and Gaggal of

Kangra district. There is a proposal from the State Government for development of Gaggal and Bhunter airports and for construction of a new airport at Bilaspur.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The team has concluded that the construction of a new airport at Bilaspur will require intense cutting and filling work. On account of prohibitive cost and operational hazards due to existence of high hills around the proposed site, the proposal has been found to be unviable. As regards development of existing Gaggal and Bhunter airports, funds have been allocated to State Government by Tenth Finance Commission and Airports Authority of India (AAI) will execute these works as deposit works for the State Government, based on the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between AAI and the State Government of Himachal Pradesh.

*[English]***Introduction of Direct Train between Mysore-Hubli**

4176. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commuters travelling from Mysore to Hubli or Davangere have to change trains at Arasikere;

(b) if so, whether there is any direct train between Mysore-Hubli via Hassan and Arasikere;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce direct passenger train between Mysore-Hubli via Hassan and Arasikere; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced ?

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

(b) At present, 1035/1036 Mysore-Mumbai Express (weekly) provides direct train service between Mysore and Davangere/Hubli via Hassan-Arsikere.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to introduce any direct train between Mysore and Hubli via Hassan-Arsikere.

[Translation]

Hike in Prices of Eatables

4177. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been 12 per cent hike in the prices of eatables at New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) if so, whether 12 per cent hiked licence fee is being charged from the concerned contractors where the price hike has been effected; and

(c) if so, the details of hike effected in the licence fee of the contractors, the prices of eatables and the prices of fresh fruits/juice at the New Delhi Railway Station from July, 1999 to February 2000 ?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Railways charge a percentage on sales turnover as licence fee from catering/vending licencees. This percentage charge had not been revised since 1987 when it was fixed at the rate of 3 to 5% of sales turnover. However, during this period selling price of eatables have been revised from time to time.

The price of eatables and fresh fruits/fruit juice are fixed by the Zonal Railway based on local market conditions.

[English]

Extension of runway of Calicut Airport

4178. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress achieved in the construction of runway extension work of Calicut Airport from 6000 ft. to 9000 ft.;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to expedite the work;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any plan to introduce night landing facility at Calicut Airport; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The extension of runway from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft. has already been completed at Calicut airport. Work on further extension of runway 7500 ft. to 9380 ft. is in progress. There has been delay in execution of this work due to prolonged heavy rains and labour problems. Additional manpower and machinery have been mobilised to complete the extension of runway by 31.12.2000.

(d) and (e) Night Landing facility is available at Calicut airport.

Black Marketing of Railway Tickets

4179. DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any raids have been conducted by the railway vigilance with the assistance of local police throughout the country to contain black marketing of the railway tickets;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) During year 1999 and 2000 (upto March), 63 raids were conducted by railway vigilance on various zonal railways with the assistance of local police/GRP/CBI to contain the black marketing of railways tickets. As a result, 106 touts/unauthorised travel agents were apprehended.

Railway tickets worth Rs. 3,73,622/- were seized from the touts and unauthorised travel agents.

- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Halt Station in Delhi

4180. SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Railways for construction of halt railway station between Tilak Bridge and Anand Vihar, Delhi;

(b) if so, the time by which the above halt station is likely to be constructed; and

(c) the time by which the construction work on Mandawali Railway halt is likely to be completed and the total expenditure is likely to be incurred therein ?

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

(b) and (c) Mandawali halt station between Tilak Bridge and Anand Vihar Stations is likely to be constructed by 31.9.2000 at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 lakhs.

[English]

**Construction of Houses under
Indira Awaas Yojana**

4181. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER :
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation made and target fixed for the construction of Houses under Indira Awaas Yojana for the current financial year, State-wise;

(b) whether sufficient funds have been earmarked for the purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are satisfied with the pace of construction of these houses; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) :
(a) "State-wise allocation and target under Indira Awaas Yojana during the current financial year are being finalized.

(b) and (c) Rs. 1710 crore has been allocated for Rural Housing Schemes including Indira Awaas Yojana during 2000-2001. Funds are allocated by the Planning Commission on year to year basis.

(d) and (e) While the progress has, generally, been satisfactory, timely action is initiated, as required, to accelerate the same and improve the implementation of the programme.

Development of Airports

4182. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made with regard to the expansion and modernisation and development of international and domestic airports in the country, airport-wise;

(b) the amount spent on these projects during the last two years, airport-wise and project-wise;

(c) the time by which the each project is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government propose to invite foreign capital for constructing new airports;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(g) the foreign capital expected to be generated for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The progress made airport-wise with regard to the expansion and modernisation of international and domestic airports, amount spent project-wise during last two years and actual/probable date of completion are at the enclosed Statement I, II and III.

(d) and (e) The policy on Airport Infrastructure (Para 15.4), as approved by the Cabinet, permits foreign equity participation upto 74% with automatic approvals and upto 100% with special permission.

(f) and (g) The projects for construction of new airports are at preliminary stage. Therefore, no information on likely estimated expenditure and foreign capital can be submitted at present.

Statement-I

Details of Airport-wise Progress made, amount spent during the last two years and the probable date of completion with regard to the expansion and modernisation of International Airports

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Amount spent during last two years 4/98 - 3/2000	Physical progress	Actual/Probable date of completion
1	2	3	4	5
MUMBAI AIRPORT				
Works Completed				
1.	New Intl. Passenger Terminal Complex Ph.III	44.67	100%	August, 1999
2.	Recarpeting of runway 14/32	3.27	100%	April, 1999
3.	Hard stand behind domestic remote	0.72	100%	November, 1998
Works in Progress				
4.	Extension of FT/T and construction of parallel T/T balance portion	4.00	87%	June, 2000
5.	Construction of bay No.14	0.50	25%	March, 2001
6.	Aerobridges at Bay No.17, 18 and 19 along with security hold	27.25	56%	July, 2001
7.	Misc. works	34.68		
Total		92.84		
IGI AIRPORT, NEW DELHI				
Works Completed				
1.	Reconstruction of Terminal IA	5.50	100%	June, 1998
Works in Progress				
2.	Construction of Export Cargo Ph. II	6.86	97%	April, 2000
3.	Construction of taxi link joining runway 09 beginning with runway 10 beginning	1.44	Civil - 68% Elect - 40%	June, 2000
4.	Construction of Import Cargo Ph. III	6.76	70%	September, 2000
5.	Reconstruction of Apron for Bays 23 to 32	4.25	72%	November, 2000
6.	Upgradation of Main runway - ILS Cat. III I/C Strengthening/Resurfacing of Main runway	2.69	19%	October, 2000
7.	Strengthening of secondary runway 09/27 and parallel T/T	5.52	60%	October, 2000
8.	Misc. works	29.30		
Total		92.32		

1	2	3	4	5
CHENNAI AIRPORT				
Works completed				
1.	Strengthening and grade correction of existing secondary runway 12/30	8.35	100%	November, 1999
2.	Construction of 3 numbers Remote Parking Bays at Domestic Apron	1.82	100%	October, 1999
3.	Construction of 1 No. Remote Parking Bay I/C Drain at International Apron	2.97	100%	November, 1999
4.	Design and construction of Admn. Building	9.66	98%	March, 2000
Works In Progress				
5.	Construction of Integrated Cargo Complex	6.75	63%	March, 2001
6.	Extension of Air Site Corridor 4 Bay No. 29 and 32 I/C RCC Structure	0.93	35%	September, 2000
7.	Extension of RCC Canopy on the City Side of Anna International Airport	1.23	53%	June, 2000
8.	Extension and modification of Anna International Terminal (NITC) Ph. II	1.35	1.6%	December, 2002
9.	Misc. works	20.69		
Total		52.90		
NSCBI AIRPORT, CALCUTTA				
Works Completed				
1.	Construction of NTC - Construction of new apron for third Aerobridge	1.36	100%	February, 1999
Works In Progress				
2.	Reconstruction of Bay No. 1 and 2 and strengthening of non-load bearing area of Bay No. 13, 15 and 16	3.00	61%	June, 2000
3.	Reconstruction of T/T from 'C' T/T to "D" T/T	2.94	68%	August, 2000
4.	Construction of Hangar-SH. Construction of Hangar and Annexure	0.01	Work just started	September, 2001
5.	Extension of Car Park and Additional Taxi Lanes of NDTC	0.56	38%	November, 2000
6.	Modification of ITB Ph. I	5.04	90%	June, 2000
7.	Misc. works.	16.57		
Total		29.48		
TRIVANDRUM AIRPORT				
Works completed				
1.	Extension of Apron	2.52	100%	March, 1999

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Construction of Fillet at Junction of D and E Taxi	0.34	100%	September, 1999
3.	Modification to Terminal II SH : Providing AC Duct covering/False Ceiling	0.69	100%	June, 1999
4.	Misc. Works completed/in progress	8.13		
Total		11.68		

Statement-II

Details of Improvement of infrastructure at various Domestic Airports
(As on 31.03.2000)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of work	Expenditure during the last two years	Physical progress	Probable date of completion
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Strengthening of Apron and Taxiway at Agartala Airport.	229.23	54%	Jun 2000
2.	Extension and strengthening of Runway at Ahmedabad Airport.	2278.00	65%	Mar 2001
3.	Expansion of Terminal Building, Apron at Agra Airport.	—	100%	Completed.
4.	Resurfacing of Runway, providing Shoulders and Turning Pad at Bhopal Airport.	86.00	100%	Completed.
5.	Expansion of Terminal Building at Bhopal Airport.	45.00	100%	Completed.
6.	Construction of New Terminal Building at Bagdogra Airport.	815.00	98%	Apr 2000
7.	Resurfacing of Runway at Bhunter Airport.	—	100%	Completed.
8.	Extension of Runway at Bhubaneshwar Airport.	576.00	72%	Jun, 2000
9.	Construction of New Terminal Building at Bhubaneshwar Airport.	138.00	100%	Completed.
10.	Construction of New Arrival Building at Bangalore Airport.	1629.00	100%	Completed.
11.	Extension of Runway at Calicut Airport	3555.00	92%	Dec, 2000
12.	Construction of Terminal Building at Dimapur Airport.	—	100%	Completed.
13.	Extension of Apron at Goa Airport.	495.00	100%	Completed.
14.	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building at Guwahati Airport.	368.00	85%	Jul, 2000
15.	Construction of New International Block at Hyderabad Airport.	477.00	100%	Completed.

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Construction of Technical Block cum Control Tower at Imphal Airport.	249.00	100%	Completed.
17.	Extension of Runway and Apron at Indore Airport.	83.00	100%	Completed.
18.	Construction of Technical Block cum Fire Station at Indore Airport.	71.00	100%	Completed.
19.	Extension of Runway at Jabalpur Airport.	630.00	100%	Completed.
20.	Construction of New Airport at Kargil Airport.	2843.00	70%	Oct 2000
21.	Construction of New Terminal Building, Control Tower at Lilabari Airport.	450.00	52%	Jun 2000
22.	Extension of Runway at Lilabari Airport.	999.00	81%	Dec 2000
23.	Extension and strengthening of main Apron. Construction of New Taxi-track at Lucknow Airport.	410.78	46%	Jun 2000
24.	Construction of New Terminal Building at Lucknow Airport.	-	100%	Completed.

Statement-III

Details of improvement of infrastructure at various Domestic Airports

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of work	Expenditure during the last two years	Physical progress	Probable date of completion
25.	Construction of Technical Block cum Control Tower at Chennai Airport.	447.00	75%	Dec 2000
26.	Construction of New Terminal Building at Nagpur Airport.	-	100%	Completed.
27.	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building at Patna Airport.	318.00	100%	Completed.
28.	Construction of Civil Air Terminal Complex at Portblair Airport.	1407.00	84%	May, 2000
29.	Strengthening of Runway, Apron and Taxiway at Rajkot Airport.	573.85	100%	Completed.
30.	Construction of New Terminal Building at Raipur Airport.	60.00	100%	Completed.
31.	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building at Silchar Airport.	169.00	100%	Completed.
32.	Construction of New Air Terminal Complex at Tezpur Airport.	737.00	90%	July, 2000
33.	Development of Airport for B-737 and AB-320 class of aircraft at Tirupati Airport.	583.00	100%	Completed.
34.	Extension of Runway at Udaipur Airport.	-	100%	Completed.
35.	Development of Airport at Vijayawada Airport (Runway, Apron).	800.00	100%	Completed.

[Translation]

Cultural Programmes

4183. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation has made a turnover of Rs. 297.10 crores even during the period of economic slump;

(b) if so, the turnover in terms of rupees made by India Tourism Development Corporation in Uttar Pradesh especially, in Varanasi and Bharohi during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have any ambitious scheme for the development of tourism in the heritage city of Varanasi;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Ministry of Tourism is going to organise cultural and Discovery of India programmes in different parts of the country in the Millennium year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the places selected therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir. ITDC's turnover during 1998-99 was Rs. 297.10 crores.

(b) During the last three years, ITDC made a total turnover of Rs. 12.25 crores in the State of Uttar Pradesh including provisional figure for the year 1999-2000 and Rs. 5.76 crores in respect of ITDC unit in Varanasi.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for implementation of specific projects identified every year in consultation with the State Governments subject to availability of funds. During 1999-2000 the project for construction of Tourist Complex at Varanasi has been sanctioned for Central financial assistance of Rs. 40.00 lakhs with release of first installment of Rs. 12.00 lakhs.

(e) and (f) Government has extended Visit India Year up-to 1.1.2001. The major events have been identified for organising them during Visit India Year in collaboration with the State Governments/U.T.'s administration. These events will be a part of celebration of Visit India Year.

**Direct-Flight from Patna to
Saudi Arabia**

4184. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no direct flight from Patna to Saudi Arab due to which Haj Pilgrims have to go to Haj via Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received requests from the people to introduce a direct flight to Saudi Arab from Patna; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) There is no direct flight from Patna to Saudi Arabia.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Washing away of Evidence from
Hijacked Plane**

4185. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newitem captioned "Forensic evidence on IC 814 lost" as appearing in the Hindustan Times dated February 14, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On arrival of the hijacked aircraft at Delhi Airport on 1st January, 2000, an anti-sabotage check was conducted by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security in association with the engineers of Indian Airlines and the aircraft was released to Indian Airlines on the same day. The aircraft was flown to its base i.e. Mumbai.

[Translation]

Subsidy on PDS

4186. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) whether the aim of price determination policy regarding present Public Distribution System of the Government is not to reduce the amount of subsidy;

(b) if so, the assessment made by the Government with regard to the fluctuation in amount of annual subsidy due to the recent changes made in Public Distribution System and increase in the prices of the commodities being distributed under PDS; and

(c) the benefits likely to reach the common men/consumers in the future through this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The aim of the price determination policy for PDS is to restrict the subsidy on foodgrains to the Targetted population only.

(b) Annual subsidy is likely to reduce by over Rs. 1000 crores.

(c) With the abolition of subsidy for APL population, the targetted population will get increased quantity of foodgrains through TPDS at a reasonable price as the allocation for BPL families has been doubled from 10 kg per month per family to 20 kg per month per family.

[English]

Construction of road-over Bridges in Punjab

4187. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of places where road-over bridges are being constructed at present in Punjab alongwith estimated cost thereof;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon and funds earmarked therefor in the current budget;

(c) the time by which above bridges are likely to be completed;

(d) whether there is any proposal to construct an over-bridge at Mandi Gobindgarh; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to construct ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of Work	Year of Sanction	Rly's share	State Govt's share	Expenditure upto 31.3.2000	Budget allotment for 2000-01	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	ROB in lieu of level crossing No.2-A/2 at Ludhiana	95-96	267	714	281	31	Railway's portion completed, approaches are likely to be completed early.
2.	Bhatinda-Firozpur ROB in lieu of level crossing No.25-B.	96-97	356	617	196	165.09	Work is in progress and is expected to be completed by Sept. 2000.
3.	Ramamandi-ROB in lieu of level crossing No.68-A on Ludhiana Amritsar section.	96-97	314	379	259	34.79	ROB commissioned.
4.	Ludhiana ROB in lieu of level crossing No.A-2 on Ludhiana-Dhuri section.	96-97	234	735	1	100	Target can not be fixed as State Govt. is yet to finalise the scheme for approaches.
5.	Jalandhar-ROB in lieu of Do-Moria pul	97-98	490	1328	-	150.04	Target not yet fixed as State Govt. is yet to finalize the revised plan for approaches.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Sirhind-ROB in lieu of level crossing No. 144-B	98-99	459	463	-	100	Target not yet fixed however, profile sketch has been approved.
7.	Rajpura-ROB in lieu of level crossing No.135-A	99-2000	436	456	-	110	Target not yet fixed, as profile sketch is yet to be approved and State Govt. is yet to furnish part estimate for approaches.
8.	Sunam-ROB in lieu of level crossing No. A-76	99-2000	574	662	-	100	Target not yet fixed, as profile sketch yet to be approved and State Govt. is yet to furnish estimate for approaches.
9.	Bhatinda ROB in lieu of level crossing No. 245-A.	2000-01	700.49	1204.17	-	100	Target not yet fixed as the work has been proposed in the Works Programme of 2000-2001 and will be treated as sanctioned on passing of Railway Budget.
10.	ROB at Darrabassi,	On BOT	-	-	-	-	Wok is being executed by Punjab Govt. on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) basis. For early completion initiative has be to taken by State Govt. and as such target can not be fixed.

Slums along Metro Rapid Transit System in Chennai

4188. SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Administration of Chennai are aware of the slums all along the Metro Rapid Transit System in Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to clear them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Slum Clearance Board of Tamil Nadu, which is responsible for relocating the slum dwellers, has been requested for removing the hutments coming in the way of Chennai MRTS Phase-II. The work is in progress.

[Translation]

Introduction of Deshratan Express from Sewan to Delhi

4189. SHRI MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce a train between New Delhi and Sewan in Bihar,

the home district of Dr. Rajendra Prasad on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Indian Republic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

Capacity of Coach Repairing Workshop at Ranigunta

4190. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coach repairing workshop at Ranigunta near Tirupati is working at its working at its full capacity;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to utilise its full capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The shop has been built for giving an ultimate periodic overhauling (POH) outturn of 200 Units of coaches per month. But, based on current arising, staffing has been done to give a POH outturn of 80 coach units a month and this capacity is being fully utilised.

(c) With the overall increase in BG coach holding on Indian Railways, the outturn of coaches from this shop will be increased gradually in order to achieve the ultimate POH capacity of the shop.

[Translation]

Difficulties faced by Foreign Tourists

4191. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign tourists and other passengers have to face a lot of problems owing to lack of coordination between the various agencies working at the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Airport Facilitation Committees, Airport Security Committees and Standing Facilitation Committee chaired by the DGCA meet regularly where representatives of all agencies including airlines are members. Problems being faced by passenger including foreign tourists are discussed in these meeting and remedial action taken accordingly.

[English]

Construction of Adipur-Mundra Rail Line

4192. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of Adipur-Mundra rail line has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the present status of the project; and

(c) the time by which the project would be completed ?

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

work of Adipur-Mundra rail link is to be executed by Ms Gujarat Adani Port Ltd. However, Railway has approved the final location survey report submitted by the consultants of M/s Gujarat Adani Port Ltd.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Light Rail System for Mumbai

4193. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to invite private investment in multi-billion rupees light rail system for Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Railways.

[Translation]

Primary Health Centres at Railway Stations

4194. SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway stations where primary health centre is existed at present, zone-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up one primary health centre at each major railway station; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Zone wise Statement is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Primary Health Centres/Health Units at Railway Stations

Railway Zone	Number	
1	2	
Central Railway	-	1
Eastern Railway	-	1
Northern Railway	-	4
North Eastern Railway	-	Nil

1		2
North East Frontier	-	Nil
Southern Railway	-	1
South Central Railway	-	17
South Eastern Railway	-	1
Western Railway	-	3
Total	-	28

**Deployment of Guards at Airports
In Madhya Pradesh**

4195. SHRI KANTI LAL BHURTI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the guards are deployed at various airports of Madhya Pradesh by the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested the centre for the reimbursement of the expenditure incurred on the deployment of these guards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which this amount is likely to be reimbursed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) At all operational airports except Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, State Police personnel are deployed for security duties. At Bhopal airport, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has recently been deployed in place of State Police to perform security duties.

(b) to (d) The expenditure incurred by State Police on security functions at the airports, is reimbursed by Airports Authority of India (AAI). Bills amounting to Rs. 3.18 lacs, Rs. 88.53 lacs, Rs. 17.00 lacs (approx.), and Rs. 20.52 lacs in respect of Indore, Bhopal, Khajuraho and Raipur airports respectively received by AAI from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, are being processed and are likely to be settled by 31.5.2000.

[English]

National Monuments In Orissa

4196. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of the places in the list of National monuments in Orissa under the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) the amount provided during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the maintenance of these places;

(c) whether the Government propose to include some more sites in the list of national monuments particularly in Bhubaneswar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for their upkeep ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) A list is appended as Statement-I.

(b) Rs. 3,15,30,741/- was provided for the maintenance of Centrally protected monuments in Orissa during the Eight Five Year Plan Statement II is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Statement-I

*List of Centrally Protected Monuments, Sites
of Orissa under Bhubaneswar Circle*

Angul District

1. Rockcut Vishnu Temple Rasol

Balangir District

2. Chausathi Yogini Temple Ranipur-Jharial

Baudh District

3. Twin temples of Nilamadhav and Siddheswar Gandharadi

4. Paschima Somnath and Kapileswar group of temples Bondh

Cuttack District

5. Ruins of fortress Agarhat, Bandala, Chhatisa, Govindjew, Patna Chowdar

6. Remains of Buddhist temples at Hathikhal (near Lalitgiri) Bandareswar

7. Barabati Fort Cuttack City

8. Chaurangarh Fort Dadhapatna

9. Buddhist Site Lalitgiri

10. Durga temple Baideswar

11. Pancha Pandava temple Ganeswarpur

12. Mahimamani temple Ragidi (Banki)

13. Simhanath temple	Gopinathpur	Khuda District	
14. Ancient site at Banewarnasi	Padamal	37. Bhaskarashwar temple	Bhubaneswar
15. Ancient site at Chowdar	Chowdar	38. Brahmeswar temple	Bhubaneswar
Anugul District		39. Nabakishore temple	Bhubaneswar
16. Bhringeswar Mahadev temple	Bajrakote	40. Rameswar temple	Bhubaneswar
Gajapati District		41. Magheswar temple	Bhubaneswar
17. Bhima temple	Mahendragiri	42. Anantavasudev temple	Bhubaneswar
18. Kunti temple	Mahendragiri	43. Bakreswar temple	Bhubaneswar
19. Yudhishthira temple	Mahendragiri	44. Vaitel Deul	Bhubaneswar
Ganjam District		45. Chitrakarini temple	Bhubaneswar
20. Gangadhar Swami temple	Kottakola (Buddhakhol)	46. Yameswar temple	Bhubaneswar
21. Jagadiswaraswami temple	Kottakola (Buddhakhol)	47. Lingaraj temple with all minor temples in the compound	Bhubaneswar
22. Ashokan Rock-Edit	Jaugada	48. Matireswar temple	Bhubaneswar
Jagatsinghpur District		49. Makareswar temple	Bhubaneswar
23. Bhubneshwar Mahadev temple	Balla	50. Markandeswar temple	Bhubaneswar
Jajpur District		51. Mukteswar and other shrines in the compund	Bhubaneswar
24. 4 Colossal images in S.D.C. compound (Chamuda, Indrani, Bodhisattva, Varahi)	Jajpur Town	52. Parsurameswar temple	Bhubaneswar
25. 3 Buddhist images in S.D.C. compound	Jajpur Town	53. Paramguru temple	Bhubaneswar
26. Buddhist site (Excavated)	Ratnagiri	54. Siddheswar temple	Bhubaneswar
27. Buddhist site (Excavated)	Udaygiri	55. Papanasini tank	Bhubaneswar
28. Atharanala bridge	Jajpur Town (Siriapur)	56. Sahasra Linga tank	Bhubaneswar
29. Monolithic Pillar (Chandreshwar Pillar)	Jajpur Town (Siriapur)	57. Sari Deul	Bhubaneswar
30. Dharma Mahakal temple	Ratnagiri	58. Sisireswar temple	Bhubaneswar
31. Jagannath temple	Jajpur	59. Chaurangarh Fort (same as El. No. 8)	Bhaluka
32. Trilochaneshwar temple	Jajpur	60. Ashokan Rock-Edict and sculpture of elephant	Dhauri
33. Varahanath temple	Jajpur	61. Small rock-cut cell with niche and inscription of Santikara	Dhauri
Jharsuguda District		62. Chausathi Yogini temple	Hirapur
34. Rock-inscription	Vikramkhil	63. Jain caves of Khandagiri and Udalgiri	Jagamara (near Bhubaneswar)
Kalahandi District		64. Sisupalgarh	Bhubaneswar
35. Asurgarh Fort	Asurgarh	65. Daksha Prajapati temple	Banpur
Keonjhar District		66. Rajarani temple	Bhubaneswar
36. Rock-painting known as Ravana-Chhaya and other ancient remains	Sitabhanji	Mayurbhanj District	
		67. Neolithic Site	Baldyapur
		68. Neolithic Site	Kuchai

69. Palaeolithic Site	Kuliana
70. Ruins of ancient fort and brick temples	Haripurgarh
Puri District	
71. Lord Jagannath temple	Puri
72. Atharanala Bridge	Puri
73. Varahi temple	Chaurasi
74. Sun temple	Konark

Statement-II*The Eighth Five Year Plan for the Maintenance of Protected Monument under Orissa*

Year	Amount
1990-91	
SR (Plan)	12,88,266.00
SR (N/P)	2,66,701.00
AR (N/P)	6,78,645.00
1991-92	
SR (Plan)	9,43,465.00
SR (N/P)	5,37,557.00
AR (N/P)	7,71,927.00
1992-93	
SR (Plan)	72,81,819.00
SR (N/P)	2,07,097.00
AR (N/P)	7,31,028.00
1993-94	
SR (Plan)	1,25,55,233.00
SR (N/P)	1,87,874.00
AR (N/P)	9,05,902.00
1994-95	
SR (Plan)	37,79,176.00
SR (N/P)	14,822.00
AR (N/P)	13,81,211.00

Development of Badrinath-Kedarnath-Gangotri-Yamunotri Pilgrims Centres

4197. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 201 dated March 9, 2000 regarding Development of Temples as tourist spots and state :

(a) the exact plans and allocation of funds for each of the four pilgrim centres of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri;

(b) the present state of finalisation and implementation of these plans;

(c) the agency which is undertaking the implementation of the Planned Development Activities; and

(d) the time by which the development work of these centres is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The integrated development of tourism infrastructure facilities at any tourist places including the pilgrim centre is primarily the responsibility of State Government concerned. However, Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance for specific project proposals received from the State Government and the projects are executed by the State Government. The following projects have been sanctioned in Gangotri, Badrinath and Yamunotri :-

- (i) Construction of 20 bedded tourist lodge at Gangotri (Sanctioned Rs. 12.73 Lakhs during 1998-99).
- (ii) Setting up of modern Garbage disposal system at Badrinath (Sanctioned Rs. 5.00 Lakhs during 1998-99).
- (iii) Construction of 20 bedded FRP Huts at Yamunotri (Sanctioned Rs. 20.00 Lakhs during 1999-2000).

National Cultural Fund

4198. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any National Culture Fund has been created;

(b) if so, the purpose thereof; and

(c) the details of assistance so far given from the fund to writers, artists etc., category-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir, It was launched on 29.3.1997

(b) and (c) The fund is not intended to duplicate the schemes of the Department which include financial assistance to writers and artists. Instead it is intended to promote private-public partnership for mobilisation of extra budgetary resources, conceptualization and implementation of projects for conservation of the rich cultural heritage of the country. Among the projects undertaken are :

- (i) The upgradation of the environs of the Humayun's Tomb complex in collaboration with Agha Khan Trust for Culture.
- (ii) The restoration and enlivening of environs of Shaniwarwada, Pune in collaboration with Pune Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra State Tourism Development and Pune Industrialists.
- (iii) Child City, Durgapur in collaboration with Children's Academy, Durgapur.
- (iv) Preservation of oral heritage in partnership with Jnana Pravaha Turst, Varanasi; and
- (v) Preservation of Anegundi Village, Karnataka as a living heritage village in partnership with the Kishkinda Trust.

Further the Indian Oil Corporation is setting up a foundation, with a corpus of Rs. 25 Crores to collaborate with the National Culture Fund for conservation of monuments and development of Infrastructure. To begin with, eight monuments have been identified for conservation and development.

Defence Finance Policy

4199. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief of the Army Staff has urged the Government for radical changes in the Defence Finance Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Financial Management Strategy has been prepared by the Defence forces and sent to the Union Government for approval; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Improving the Defence Finance System is a continuous endeavour of Ministry of Defence and Service HQs.

As regards financing defence, Government have in the Ninth Plan period made substantial provisions for various categories of defence requirements. Defence Allocations have been further enhanced from Rs. 48504 crores in RE 1999-2000 to Rs. 58587 crores in BE 2000-2001 i.e. an increase of 21%.

(c) and (d) No Financial Management Strategy document prepared by the Defence Forces has been sent to the Union Government for approval.

[Translation]

FCI Godowns

4200. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :

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

(a) the number of Food Corporation of India's godowns in the country alongwith their capacity as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of godowns is sufficient as per the requirement of the States;

(c) if not, the number of godowns proposed to be constructed during the Ninth Plan, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether the decrepit state of such godowns in some States has rendered the storage of costly foodgrains very difficult;

(e) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the condition of such godowns ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) FCI has 1678 godowns (owned and hired/Covered and Covered area and plinth) with a total storage capacity of 25.11 million tonnes all over the country as on 1.3.2000. State-wise details are enclosed as Statement-I and II.

(b) Requirements of the States depends upon the trend of procurement and off-take/sale of foodgrains in the procuring/consuming states and therefore, subject to change. Depending upon this trend, the FCI creates additional storage capacity either by constructing its own godowns and/or by hiring additional storage capacity from various agencies like the Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporations, State Government and Private Parties.

(c) Construction of godowns is a continuous process governed by the forces of demand and supply. During the current Ninth Five Year Plan the FCI proposes to create storage capacity of about 7.25 lakh tonnes. Out of which 4.55 lakh tonnes is proposed to be constructed

by the FCI, subject to availability of funds, and 2.70 lakh tonnes to be created by the Central Warehousing Corporation. State-wise and Year-wise details are given as Statement-III and IV.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The general survey to ascertain the condition of owned godowns is conducted regularly.

(f) Budget permitting, wherever godowns are found requiring repairs, the same are taken up by the Corporation.

Statement-I

Statewise number of Godowns (Owned and Hired covered and CAP) available with the Food Corporation of India as on 1.3.2000

Sl. No.	Name of the State/U.T.	Covered			CAP			Grand Total
		FCI Owned	hired	Total	Owned	Hired	Total	
1.	Bihar	19	33	52	-	-	-	52
2.	Orissa	22	29	51	-	-	-	51
3.	West Bengal	26	24	50	-	-	-	50
4.	Sikkim	01	03	04	-	-	-	04
5.	Assam	18	23	41	-	-	-	41
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	04	-	04	-	-	-	04
7.	Meghalaya	02	03	05	-	-	-	05
8.	Manipur	02	01	03	-	-	-	03
9.	Mizoram	04	02	06	-	-	-	06
10.	Nagaland	04	02	06	-	-	-	06
11.	Tripura	02	05	07	-	-	-	07
12.	Delhi	07	01	08	03	-	03	11
13.	Haryana	37	45	82	23	02	25	107
14.	Himachal Pradesh	04	13	17	-	-	-	17
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	11	06	17	-	-	-	17
16.	Punjab	111	213	324	81	88	169	493
17.	Chandigarh	04	06	10	02	03	05	15
18.	Rajasthan	35	34	69	14	07	21	90
19.	Uttar Pradesh	54	87	141	28	12	40	181
20.	Andhra Pradesh	35	94	129	10	01	11	140
21.	Kerala	22	02	24	02	-	02	26
22.	Karnataka	15	44	59	12	01	13	72
23.	Tamil Nadu	18	19	35	07	-	07	42
24.	Pondicheery	03	-	03	-	01	01	04
25.	Gujarat	14	16	30	11	06	17	47
26.	Maharashtra and Goa	18	29	47	06	01	07	54
27.	Madhya Pradesh	41	76	117	14	02	16	133

Statement-II

Regionwise Storage Capacity (owned and Hired/Covered and CAP) and stocks held and its percentage of utilisation available with FCI as on 1.3.2000

(In Lakh MT)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/U.T.	Covered			CAP			Grand Total	Stocks	Utilsn. in %age
		FCI Owned	Hired	Total	Owned	Hired	Total			
1.	Bihar	4.33	1.31	5.64	0.40	0.00	0.40	6.04	2.18	46
2.	Orissa	2.68	2.05	4.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.73	4.15	88
3.	West Bengal	3.44	1.70	5.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.14	2.62	51
4.	JM (PO) Calcutta	5.18	1.07	6.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.25	2.44	39
5.	Sikkim	0.08	0.09	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.09	57
6.	Assam	1.99	1.02	3.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.01	2.07	69
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.08	44
8.	Meghalaya	0.10	0.07	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.07	37
9.	Manipur	0.18	0.01	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.10	55
10.	Mizoram	0.18	0.05	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.02	10
11.	Nagaland	0.08	0.13	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.10	46
12.	Tripura	0.17	0.17	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.17	50
13.	Delhi	3.36	0.05	3.41	0.21	0.00	0.21	3.62	2.36	65
14.	Haryana	7.64	3.70	11.34	2.69	0.19	2.88	14.22	8.67	61
15.	Himachal Pradesh	0.11	0.15	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.19	72
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.77	0.24	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.99	98
17.	Punjab	21.37	31.88	53.25	4.63	18.52	23.15	76.40	66.55	87
18.	Chandigarh	0.40	0.38	0.78	0.08	0.29	0.37	1.15	0.97	85
19.	Rajasthan	7.07	2.06	9.13	1.54	0.92	2.46	11.59	8.90	77
20.	Uttar Pradesh	15.26	5.79	21.05	3.30	0.55	3.85	24.90	17.86	72
21.	Andhra Pradesh	11.40	9.79	21.19	2.48	1.20	3.68	24.87	22.86	92
22.	JM (PO) Vizag.	0.42	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.32	78
23.	Kerala	5.35	0.12	5.47	0.13	0.00	0.13	5.60	5.52	98
24.	Karnataka	2.78	2.34	5.10	1.16	0.04	1.20	6.30	5.14	82
25.	Tamil Nadu	5.47	3.11	8.58	0.53	0.00	0.53	9.11	7.74	85
26.	JM (PO) Chennai	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.05	12
27.	Pondicheery	0.41	0.00	0.41	0.00	0.47	0.47	0.88	0.75	85
28.	Gujarat	3.36	2.82	6.18	1.27	1.61	2.88	9.06	7.60	84
29.	PO Kandla	1.44	0.00	1.44	0.57	0.00	0.57	2.01	1.97	98
30.	Maharashtra	11.77	3.17	14.94	1.02	0.58	1.60	16.54	12.30	74
31.	Goa	0.15	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.14	92
32.	Madhya Pradesh	8.31	5.26	13.57	0.95	1.47	2.42	15.99	12.43	78
Grand Total		125.81	78.53	204.34	20.96	25.84	46.80	251.14	198.02	79

Statement-III

Storage Capacity Proposed to be Constructed
by FCI during the IXth Five Year Plan
(1997-98 to 2001-02)

In Thousand MT		
Region	Name of Centre	Proposed capacity
1	2	3
J and K	Srinagar	3.33
	Baramullah	5.00
	Kuppwara	5.00
	Pulwama	2.50
	Badgam	2.50
	Kishtwar	2.50
	Kargil	5.00
Himachal Pradesh	Kullu	1.67
	Keylong	2.50
	Chamba	1.67
Uttar Pradesh	Dhamora	25.00
	Roza	10.00
	Pithoragarh	2.50
	Padrauna	2.50
	Simli	5.00
	Makupani	2.50
Delhi	Narela	50.00
Punjab	Rajpura	15.00
	Tanda Urmer	18.36
Haryana	Taraori	10.00
Karnataka	Udupi	10.00
	Kushalnagar	2.50
	Tumkar	20.00
	Bijapur	10.00
	Belgam	20.00
	Raichur	15.00
	Hassan	10.00
	Port Blair	2.50
Kerala	Ernakulam	5.00
	Payannur	30.00
	Meenangadi	5.00

1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	30.00
	Amalapuram	10.00
Tamil Nadu	Ramananthapuram	10.00
M.P.	Dhamdari	10.00
Maharashtra/Goa	Sholapur	10.00
Gujarat	Rajkot	20.00
Bihar	Gumla	3.34
Orissa	Jharsaguda	15.00
	Parlekemundi	10.00
Nagaland	Dhimapur	10.00
	Kphima	5.00
Maghalaya	Jowai	3.75
	Shillong	5.00
Mizoram	Lawangtalai	3.34
Manipur	Jiribam	2.50
Tripura	Agarthala	5.00
Total		455.46

Statement-IV

Storage capacity proposed to be constructed by
CWC or other Agencies for the use of FCI
during the remaining Period of 9th Plan
(1999-2000 to 2001-02)

State	Name of the Centre	Proposed Capacity in MT
1	2	3
Karnataka	Mysore	20000
	Thaverkapa (Shimoga)	10000
Kerala	Chingavanam (Kottayam)	10000
	Thirunavaya (Mallepuram)	25000
		(with siding)
Andhra	Dichapalli (Nizamabad)	10000
	Andaman and Nicobar (Outside Port Blair)	5000
Tamil Nadu	Dwarapudi (East Godawari)	20000
	Virudh Nagar	20000
Himachal P.	Thirunelveli	20000
	Shimla	5000

1	2	3
J and K	Srinagar	60000 (Complexes of 20000 MT and above)
Gujarat	Surat	30000
Goa	Verna	10000
Assam	Haibergaon	10000
Ferry Terminals		
	Karimganj	5000
	Badarpurghat	5000
	Pandu	5000
Total		270000

[English]

ECO Tourism

4201. SHRI RAJESH VERMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need of developing and encouraging Eco-tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the places identified for development of Eco-tourism, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Tourism has formulated the policy and guidelines for Eco-Tourism in India in the year 1998. The State/UTs. Governments have been requested to identify the places for Development of Eco-Tourism in their State.

Release of Foreign Vessel Seized by Navy

4202. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a press report appeared in 'Jansatta' dated February 29, 2000 indicating that a foreign vessel namely 'Alondra Rainbow' containing highly sensitive cargo seized by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard was released by the Government of Maharashtra on receipt of Rupees ten crores;

(b) whether the Union Government permitted the State Government to release the foreign vessel;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The pirated vessel "Alondra Rainbow" was apprehended on 16.11.1999 by the Coast Guard and the Navy and the vessel along with the crew was handed over to the Mumbai Police on 21.11.1999 for further investigations. The said vessel was released under the orders of Court dated 22.1.2000, after receipt of a safe deposit of Rs. 1 crore by the court. The apprehended crew continue to be in judicial custody.

Administrative control on Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi

4203. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to bring heavy vehicles factory, Avadi, Chennai under the direct control of Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Aggarwal Committee's report is proposed to be implemented in the Heavy Vehicles Factory, which was formed during 1972 labour unrest;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to re-instate the victims of 1972 strike;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether there is any proposal for setting the issue of pay scales to Mason Trade; and

(h) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The recommendations of Aggarwal Committee have already been implemented.

(d) In terms of the recommendations of Aggarwal Committee Report, the grades of Machinists were upgraded and reorganised as under w.e.f. 1.12.1974 :-

Machinist 'C' (Rs. 85-110)	Rs. 210-290
Machinist 'B' (Rs. 110-143)	Rs. 260-350
Machinist 'A' (Rs. 140-180)	Rs. 320-400

(e) and (f) Of the employees whose services were terminated in 1972 for their extreme misconduct and misbehaviour, only 7 employees were given fresh appointment after due consideration.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for upgradation of the pay scale of Mason-'C' from Semi skilled to Skilled.

[Translation]

Doubling of Delhi-Dehradun Rail Line

4204. SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI :
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of doubling of Delhi-Meerut-Muzaffarnagar-Saharanpur-Dehradun rail line;

(b) the estimated cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) (i) Doubling from Ghaziabad to Muradnagar has already been completed and doubling from Muradnagar to Meerut City is in progress.

(ii) Survey work for doubling from Meerut to Saharanpur is in progress.

(iii) At present there is no proposal for doubling between Saharanpur-Dehradun.

(b) The estimated cost and expenditure of Murad Nagar-Meerut City doubling project is as under :-

Estimated cost - Rs. 61.37 crores.

Expenditure incurred upto date - Rs. 29.00 crores

(c) The doubling project from Murad Nagar to Meerut City is likely to be completed by December, 2000.

Allotment Under IAY

4205. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed under the Indira Awas Yojana as per article 13 of the constitution, Panchayat-wise;

(b) whether no house under the Indira Awaas Yojana has been constructed in Gram Panchayat, Nounmay, Bamahal Development Block, District Mainpuri, U.P. since 1995; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) :

(a) Under Indira Awaas Yojana targets are fixed at State and district level by the Ministry of Rural Development.

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

Direct Train between Rewa-Delhi

4206. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether her Ministry has received any memorandum from the Members of Parliament regarding absence of any direct train service from Rewa, Madhya Pradesh to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Some representations including from Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari, MP have been received for introduction of a direct train between Rewa and Delhi. The issue has been examined but running of a direct train between Rewa and Delhi has not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

Retension of Employees of Indian Airlines

4207. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has retired over 800 employees on a single day (February 29, 2000) without giving mandatory notice period of three months;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines is considering to re-employ some trained pilots, flight engineers and technical personnel on contract basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 823 employees of Indian Airlines have been retired on 29th February, 2000 due to the retirement age being rolled back to 58 years. These employees were given ex-gratia payment equivalent to 3 months salary.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has engaged six retired engineers on contract basis for a period of approximately two and half months. One Master Technician is being offered appointment on contract basis. Two Pilots continue to be engaged on contract basis. No Flight Engineer has been employed on contract basis.

Gauge Conversion

4208. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :
SHRI MANOJ SINHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of NG/MG rail lines in the country before the commencement of Ninth Five Year Plan, zone-wise;

(b) the details of narrow/metre gauge railway lines converted into broad gauge during the last three years, till date, zone-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon, project-wise;

(d) whether the progress of these projects is going on as per schedule; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The total length of NG/MG lines (route kms.) in the country before the commencement of Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. on 31st March, 1997 zone-wise is given below :

Railway Zone	Route Kilometres as on 31.3.1997	
	Metre Gauge	Narrow Gauge
1	2	3
Central	—	996
Eastern	—	133

1	2	3
Northern	1,772	261
North Eastern	3,153	—
Northeast Frontier	2,685	88
Southern	3,030	102
South Central	1,919	—
South Eastern	—	1,254
Western	4,485	876
Total	17,044	3,710

(b) and (c) The details are as under :-

Railway/Zone	Name of the converted section	Expenditure (in crore of Rupees)
1	2	3
Northern	Jodhpur-Marwar	110
North Eastern	(i) Hajipur-Bachwara	69.46
	(ii) Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur	136
	(iii) Indara-Phephana	33.36
	(iv) Kashipur-Lalkuan	41.90
Northeast Frontier	Jorhat-Furkating, Simalguri-Shivsagar, Jorhat-Mariani, Shivsagar-Moranhat (part of Lauding-Difrugarth)	660.60
Southern	(i) Kolar-Bangarpet	58.66
	(ii) Hassan-Sakleshpur (part of Arasikere-Hasan-Mangalore)	129.7
	(iii) Yeshwantpur-Salem	175.7
	(iv) Trichy-Thanjavur (part of Trichy-Nagore-Karaikal)	81.15
	(v) Tambaram-Trichy and Arakkonam-Chengalpettu (part of Chennai Beach-Trichy)	807.1
	(vi) Dindigul-Trichy	110
South Central	(i) Sholapur-Hotgi and Hotgi-Bijapur (part of Sholapur-Gadag)	120

1	2	3
	(ii) Dronachalam-Mehaboobnagar (part of Secundrabad-Dronachalam)	332.5
South Eastern	Babupeth-Ballarshah and Nagbir-Chandafort (part of Gondia-Chandafort)	232.9
Western	Morbi-Maliya Miyana and Dahinsara to Navlakhi (part of Wankaner-Maliya Miyana)	19.42

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana

4209. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched any new "Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana";

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the areas which are proposed to be covered under the Scheme;

(d) whether the Scheme envisages time bound development programmes in rural areas of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) The Government have decided to introduce a new initiative in the form of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) in order to achieve the objective of sustainable human development at the village level. PMGY envisages allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the tune of Rs. 5000 crore to the States and UTs during 2000-2001. PMGY would have two components, namely, rural roads with an allocation of Rs. 2500 crore of ACA and other programmes of PMGY, namely, Primary health, Primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and nutrition with an allocation of another Rs. 2500 crores.

(d) and (e) No specific time frame has been laid down for PMGY.

[Translation]

Income Earned by Railways

4210. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the income earned by each railway zone and division under various heads during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount spent out of income earned on developmental works in each division particularly in Dhanbad, Mughalsarai and Adra during the above period; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for the development of big and small stations and the priority fixed by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A statement showing Railway-wise apportioned earnings under various heads, for the last 3 years is attached. However, earnings of a Zonal Railway are not apportioned division-wise.

(b) Developmental works in a division, are taken up on the needs of the division and are not directly linked with the income earned by a division. The amount spent on development works, in Dhanbad, Mughalsarai and Adra divisions in the last 3 years is as under :

(Rs. in crore)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (upto Feb. 2000)
Dhanbad	51.13	25.63	34.71
Mughalsarai	29.15	50.86	36.10
Adra	33.55	31.52	50.68

(c) With a view to provide upgraded passenger amenities at stations, 122 stations have so far been selected as model stations. It is also proposed to include all the "A" class stations within the ambit of model-station concept, for provision of upgraded passenger amenities during the next year. The areas requiring focussed attention are provision of signages, National Train Enquiry System, modular stalls and Automatic Vending Machine, improvement in waiting rooms, booking offices and circulating area, extension of foot-over bridge to circulating area and renovation of toilets.

Statement

The details of the Income earned by each zonal Railway under various heads during 1997-98

(Rs. in crore)

Railway	Passenger	Other Coaching	Goods	Sundry	Total
Central	1547.10	100.98	2820.59	70.91	4539.58
Eastern	752.45	57.90	2406.41	65.20	3281.96
Northern	1444.81	128.26	3062.98	155.02	4791.07
North Eastern	429.18	22.84	289.44	16.47	757.93
North-east Frontier	142.25	21.01	299.49	20.43	483.18
Southern	765.76	94.10	1091.70	70.17	2021.73
South Central	668.45	43.32	2097.47	46.64	2855.88
South Eastern	503.92	57.43	4944.23	39.14	5544.72
Western	1300.12	60.27	2854.07	56.02	4270.48

The details of the Income earned by each zonal Railway under various heads during 1998-99

(Rs. in crore)

Railway	Passenger	Other Coaching	Goods	Sundry	Total
Central	1733.77	115.94	2939.10	74.30	4863.11
Eastern	843.00	62.75	2336.69	72.80	3315.24
Northern	1653.94	133.48	3304.76	225.62	5317.80
North Eastern	511.97	33.75	390.99	34.11	970.82
North-east Frontier	167.55	24.11	375.93	23.28	590.87
Southern	843.20	102.19	1092.58	76.24	2114.21
South Central	760.42	46.31	2066.42	55.64	2928.79
South Eastern	557.72	67.02	4698.79	46.20	5369.73
Western	1455.17	63.42	2755.13	56.41	4330.13

The details of the Income earned by each zonal Railway under various heads during 1999-2000 (Upto February 2000)

(Rs. in crore)

Railway	Passenger	Other Coaching	Goods	Sundry	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central	1743.85	136.25	2926.10	72.13	4878.33
Eastern	834.85	58.70	2334.08	56.07	3283.70
Northern	1715.72	174.62	3607.94	99.48	5597.76
North Eastern	490.27	33.55	379.00	29.54	932.36
North-east Frontier	168.48	37.51	375.65	20.23	601.87

1	2	3	4	5	6
Southern	844.81	120.47	1065.05	63.39	2093.72
South Central	784.61	55.94	2013.26	43.15	2896.96
South Eastern	554.54	51.52	4717.84	36.98	5360.88
Western	1453.83	65.34	2518.77	58.86	4096.80

Note : Figures for March 2000 yet to be finalised.

[English]

National Library at Kanyakumari

4211. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to set up a National Library at Kanyakumari in view of its tourist importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Library, namely, National Library has already been set up by the Government of India in Calcutta as a subordinate office of the Department of Culture.

Monuments to Private Parties

4212. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of monuments maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is not possible for ASI to maintain these monuments properly due to financial crunch;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to handover select monuments to private parties for their maintenance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Archaeological Survey of India maintain 3602 monuments and Forts. The State-wise list is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Maintenance of the Centrally protected monuments are carried out as per their actual need from the resources made available to the Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Statement

List of Centrally protected monuments under ASI State-wise

State/Union Territories	Nos. of Monument protected
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	138
Assam	49
Arunachal Pradesh	5
Bihar	76
Delhi	165
Daman and Diu (U.T.)	12
Goa	21
Gujarat	201
Haryana	87
Himachal Pradesh	39
Jammu and Kashmir	69
Karnataka	503
Kerala	26
Madhya Pradesh	330
Maharashtra	288
Manipur	1
Meghalaya	8
Nagaland	4
Orissa	72

1	2
Pondicherry (U.T.)	7
Punjab	30
Rajasthan	153
Sikkim	3
Tamil Nadu	413
Tripura	5
Uttar Pradesh	785
West Bengal	114
Total	3602

**Late Running of Nizamuddin-
Visakhapatnam Express**

4213. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Andhra Pradesh bound trains have been found to be generally running late, particularly Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam Express;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the punctuality of these trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the punctuality of Andhra Pradesh bound trains including Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam Express have been affected on certain days due to various reasons like accidents, agitations/bandhs, bad weather, alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities, law and order problems, equipment failures, grid failures, human failures etc.

(c) Railways make all possible efforts to run trains punctually. Intensive chasing and round the clock monitoring at different level i.e. Division, Zonal Head Quarters and Railway Board are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers level are also launched.

**Paryatan Bhawan and Tourism
House In Goa**

4214. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct Paryatan Bhawan and Tourism House in Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Development of tourist infrastructural facilities is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with State Govts. concerned every year. No proposal for construction of Paryatan Bhawan and Tourism House in Goa was sanctioned during 1999-2000 under Central financial assistance scheme of Ministry of Tourism.

**Construction of Khedbrahma-Ambaji-
Abu Road Rail Line**

4215. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay a railway line from Khedbrahma-Ambaji-Abu Road for the convenience of the people of this area; and

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to start ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Red Fort in Delhi

4216. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the plan drawn up recently for renovation of the Red Fort in Delhi;

(b) whether entry fee to the Fort is also proposed to be increased; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Archaeological Survey of India maintains, conserves and preserves the centrally protected monuments in the Red Fort, Delhi on a continuous basis. The Archeological Survey of India has also drawn up a long term conceptual plan for the structural conservation of some specific monuments within the Red Fort Complex.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Concentration of Pak Army
along L.O.C.**

4217. DR. SANJAY PASWAN :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of deployment of nuclear arms, sophisticated weapons and mercenaries by Pakistan along the Line of Control near Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether large scale purchasing of socks for winter, snow boots and ski, mountaineering equipments from European countries is being made by Pakistan Army;

(c) whether hardliner Afghan terrorists have been found strolling in civil dresses by Indian soldiers in these areas; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to prevent any untoward situation in future and to counter the war like threat of Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Although reports indicate that Pakistan is in possession of nuclear weapons, there are no reports to suggest that these have been deployed along the Line of Control. Available reports reveal the concentration of trained militants in certain pockets close to the LOC.

Reports also indicate that Pakistan has been in the process of procuring special clothing/equipments over and above normal requirements.

All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and all necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness.

[English]

Report on Army's Debacle in NEFA

4218. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for withholding publication of the report of enquiry by General Henderson into the Indian Army's debacle in NEFA in 1962;

(b) whether these reasons are still valid after four decades;

(c) whether the Government propose to publish this report now in larger public interest; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The document contains certain operational details and other sensitive material, the disclosure of which would be prejudicial to the national security interests.

[Translation]

**Procurement of Sub-Standard
Foodgrains**

4219. SHRI KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the Food Corporation of India Headquarter order No. 2c-5 (22) Procedure quality complaint/83 Vol. II dated October 1, 1991, the Senior Regional Manager. Officer incharge of each area of the corporation will also be held responsible for procurement of sub-standard foodgrains than the prescribed one and supplying sub-standard foodgrains to other States for consumption in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount of loss marked due to procurement of sub-standard foodgrains in the Punjab region of the F.C.I. in 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1997-98 and the amount of loss reported by other States due to sub-standard foodgrains supplied to them; and

(c) whether the Senior Regional Manager (Incharge) Punjab region was penalised for the said loss; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by when the action will be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) The matter is still under examination and if any thing is required to be done it will certainly be done.

[English]

Anti-climbing Features in Coaches

4220. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railway passenger coaches do not have "anti-climbing" features to reduce impact during collisions;

(b) if so, the reasons for not including such "anti-climbing" features in passenger coaches;

- (c) whether it is possible to introduce such safety features in those coaches which have already in use; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) The existing ICF type coaches have anti-telescopic construction which minimises damage to the passenger areas in case of collisions. However, this technology uses screw couplings and available knowledge indicates that anti-climbing features cannot be provided on such coaches. Indian Railways are inducting new generation coaches under transfer of technology contract with M/s ALSTOM LHB of Germany. These coaches are fitted with CBC type couplers which provide anti-climbing features. Possibility of modifying the existing design of coaches to adopt CBC couplers with anti-climbing feature is being kept in view by the research organisation of Railways.

Recruitment of L.D.Cs/Peons in C.V.D.

4221. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some posts of L.D.Cs/Peons were recently advertised by Central Vehicles Depot (C.V.D.) Delhi Cantt.;

(b) whether the selection and appointment of the candidates has since been made;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the eligibility criteria followed in the process of sending call letters/interviews, appointments, indicating the number of SCs/STs/OBCs selected;

(d) whether some complaints have been received against the methods of selection; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to bring transparency in the whole system of recruitment in C.V.D. ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Posts of only LDCs and messengers were advertised on 17.12.1999.

(b) No selection of LDC has been made since the Peace Establishment of the depot was revised and reduced. As per revised authorisation now, no vacancy of LDC exists in CVD. Selection of messenger is under process.

(c) In view of 'b' above question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Selection to any recruitment in CVD is done in stages by separate Board of officers, who are guided by well laid out Standard Operating Procedures.

Reduction in Strength of Armed Forces

4222. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to impose a cut in recruitment in defence forces;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have examined adverse effects of cut in strength of armed forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Projects Cleared by CAPART

4223. SHRI RAMAKANT ANGLE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects cleared by "CAPART" in Goa during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the details of the voluntary organisations provided assistance through "CAPART" during the above period and the details of voluntary organisations which are proposed to be provided assistance during 2000-2001; and

(c) the amount allocated and released to each of these organisations during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) During the last three years, CAPART has sanctioned only one project to the Goa Watershed Development Society, Panaji, Goa, for organising a workshop of Voluntary Organisations (VOs) on watershed management and project formulation, for which an amount of Rs. 55,000/- was released.

One proposal has been received from AGNEL CHARITIES, Agnelganb Verna, Salcete, Panaji, Goa in the month of March, 2000, for providing assistance.

[Translation]

Purchase of Israeli Planes

4224. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to purchase planes, particularly Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV), from Israel to keep vigil on the Pakistani Army and foreign mercenaries on Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the main specifications of these planes ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government propose to procure UAVs from Israel.

(b) For reasons of national security it would not be desirable to disclose details about the specifications of the UAVs.

Late Running of Trains

4225. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GAHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of days when Faizabad-Ahmedabad-Sabarmati Express, Muzaffarpur-Ahmedabad-Sabarmati Express and Varanasi-Ahmedabad-Sabarmati Express arrived late by more than eight hours at Ujjain-Nagda-Ratlam and Vadodara Railway Stations during the last two years;

(b) the reasons of their late arrivals; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to run the said trains in time ?

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

Houses Constructed under IAY

4226. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of houses constructed in Maharashtra under the Indira Awaas Yojana during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether a review is being carried out in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government are satisfied with the pace of construction of these houses; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) A statement showing the number of houses constructed

district-wise in Maharashtra under Indira Awaas Yojana during the last three years is Annexed.

(b) The Indira Awaas Yojana is continuously reviewed on the basis of the monthly progress reports received from the States. Area Officers from the Ministry also visit States/UTs and inspect the actual implementation of the programme in the field. Further, the implementation of the Scheme is reviewed by both the Ministry and the DRDAs in their meeting from time to time.

(c) and (d) While the progress has, generally, been satisfactory, timely action is initiated, as required, to accelerate the same and improve the implementation of the programme.

Statement

Number of Houses constructed during last three years i.e. from 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

Sl. No.	Name of District	Houses constructed		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmednagar	3657	2167	1907
2.	Akola	1751	2030	599
3.	Amaravati	1867	2094	1963
4.	Aurangabad	1305	421	830
5.	Bhandra	2844	2890	3632
6.	Beed	1131	1172	740
7.	Buldana	2014	1692	586
8.	Chandrapur	2556	1342	1717
9.	Dhule	4307	6065	2519
10.	Gadchiroli	3265	1922	881
11.	Jalgaon	2562	3601	1491
12.	Jalna	974	1241	570
13.	Kolhapur	948	1995	1440
14.	Latur	1461	1919	1502
15.	Nagpur	2334	42	1491
16.	Nanded	3523	1323	2201
17.	Nasik	4836	4215	4469
18.	Osmanabad	932	1233	577
19.	Parbhani	1806	1586	948
20.	Pune	2074	1149	1383
21.	Raigarh	1348	1392	1004
22.	Ratnagiri	208	240	116

1	2	3	4	5
23	Sangli	729	1583	366
24	Satara	1100	1393	0
25	Sindhudurg	265	284	169
26	Solapur	2027	2595	1758
27	Thane	4066	4915	4401
28	Wardha	2137	1144	800
29	Yavatmal	2682	887	2897
Total		60709	54532	42957

*Provisional

[English]

Construction of Road over Bridge at Mohitnagar Level Crossing

4227. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal/request from the Member of Parliament for construction of road over bridge at Mohitnagar level crossing on State Highway between Jalpaiguri Railway Station in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

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

(b) The existing level crossing in lieu of which road over bridge has been demanded is having meagre traffic density due to which it does not qualify for replacement on cost sharing basis. State Govt/Local Administration have not sponsored any proposal for construction of Road Over bridge on deposit terms.

Selling Right Clause in Book Stall Agreements

4228. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sole selling right clause has been provided in all the bookstall agreements as per the letters No. 461-TG.III/58/9 dated August 18, 1960 and November 1, 1960;

(b) whether the said sole selling right clause has been withdrawn from all the current bookstall agreements as per letter No. 75/TG.III/461/19 dated January 2, 1976 to avoid building of monopoly;

(c) whether the said sole selling right clause has also been withdrawn all together from the agreement of M/s A.H. Wheeler and Co; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore ?

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Previously, M/s. A.H. Wheeler and Co. had exclusive right for running bookstalls over entire railway or over large portions of railway. From 1.9.1960 these exclusive rights were reduced to only sole rights at stations, where they were already holding bookstalls. This clause was further modified in 1975 and 1976 under which railway can allot bookstalls to any other eligible categories at platforms constructed after 1.1.1976 at stations where M/s. Wheelers have sole selling rights.

Animal Energy Centres

4229. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE :

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

(a) whether during the Seventh Plan there was a proposal for having Animal Energy Centre vide paras 6.200 and 6.223;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal for an Animal Energy Centre did not get cleared during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and was not included in the subsequent Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans. Therefore, the question of its implementation does not arise.

Production of Sugar

4230. SHRI MANOJ SINHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sugar production has fallen during 1999-2000 in comparison to 1998-99;

(b) if so, how much and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the plan chalked out to increase the production of sugar in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) No Sir. During the current season, as on 15.03.2000, the production was 127.75 lakh tonnes (provisional) while on the corresponding date last season it was 110.09 lakh tonnes (provisional) thus, showing an increasing of 16.04%.

(c) Various steps like early and late crushing incentives, providing low interest, short and long term loans from Sugar Development Fund for modernisation/expansion, for cane development and for purchase of inputs for improved cultivation of sugarcane to the sugar mills etc. are taken from time to time to boost sugar production in the country.

Running of New Trains

4231. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the trains approved in the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for different parts of the country have started plying;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) All the trains announced in the Railway Budget 1998-99 have been introduced. All trains announced in the Railway Budget 1999-2000 except 3 trains viz. Chennai-Tirupati Shatabdi Express, Kamakhya-New Bongaigaon Passenger and Pune-Ernakulam weekly Express have been introduced.

(c) These services could not be introduced due to non-availability of coaching stock, non-completion of gauge conversion work and agitation in Bangalore area for construction of a Road over-bridge.

Water Shed Scheme

4232. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the status of water shed scheme in Mohanlal Ganj and Kheri Lakhimpur districts of U.P.;

(b) the number of reservoirs and stop dams built in the districts under this scheme and the land brought under plantation;

(c) the number of villages where water level has been reinforced through this water shed scheme; and

(d) the details of the progress made also in the field of fodder production in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no scheme titled as "Watershed Scheme". However, the Department of Land Resources is implementing the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme for the development of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed basis. Under the Programme, two projects have been sanctioned in the district of Kheri Lakhimpur of Uttar Pradesh. The first project was sanctioned for development of an area of 12240 ha. at a total cost of Rs. 489.80 lakhs from 1998-99 to 2001-2002. An amount of Rs. 122.40 lakhs has been released till date for this project. The second project was sanctioned for development of an area of 12104 ha. at a total cost of Rs. 484.10 lakhs from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004. An amount of Rs. 72.62 lakhs has been released till date for this project. No project has been sanctioned in Mohanlal Ganj under this programme.

(b) to (d) Under the Guidelines for Watershed Development, the major interventions among others are :-

- (i) In situ soil and moisture conservation through low cost, locally available technology.
- (ii) Drainage line treatment;
- (iii) Small water harvesting structures;
- (iv) Afforestation, Agro-forestry, horticultural development and Pasture development, etc.

The effect and impact of these interventions are general and gradual in nature and can be felt only after the projects are completed and interventions are in position for some time thereafter. The structures are decided in the course of project implementation by the Watershed Committees in close interaction with Watershed Development Team, etc.

Award of Contract by Super Bazar

4233. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the inquiry conducted by the Board of Directors of Super Bazar in awarding a contract for its multi-storeyed complex in the city; and

(b) the time by which a decision will be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No inquiry has been conducted by Board of Directors of Super Bazar in awarding a contract for multi-storeyed complex in the city.

Restoration of Railway Line

4234. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rail line between Googamukh and Dhernaji stations was breached and washed away by floods; and

(b) If so, the steps being taken to restore the above railway line ?

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

(b) The track breached on 19.7.1999 has been fully restored on 8.3.2000 whereas portions of track which got damaged by flood on 21.6.1999 and 23.06.1999 was restored temporarily on 22.06.1999 and 24.06.1999 respectively.

Funds Released under Tenth Finance Commission

4235. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government under the Tenth Finance Commission have so far released Rs. 100.88 crores being the instalment for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 for Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has urged the Government to release of further instalment of Rs. 55.44 crores for the year 1998-99 and Rs. 55.45 crore for the year 1999-2000.

(c) if so, inspite of several reminders the Union Government have not so far released the amount;

(d) whether Chief Minister vide D.O. No.CM.313/GOI/99 dated November 8,1999 reminded the Union Government for release the amount; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (e) The Tenth Finance Commission grants amounting to Rs. 55.44 crores for 1996-97 and Rs. 55.45 crores for 1997-98 were released to Karnataka. The State Chief Minister had approached the Government of India in this behalf and grants were also released in March, 2000 after the state Government fulfilled the requirements for

release and sent information in respect of the conduct of Gram Panchayat elections in Karnataka.

Rural Sanitation Programme

4236. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals in regard to rural model villages under the centrally sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the number out of them still pending with the Government;

(c) the total amount sanctioned by the Union Government for model villages so far; and

(d) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-Placing of Supply Order

4237. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of non-placing of supply orders on the suppliers registered by the Super Bazar and NCCF; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same and action taken by the government to set the things right ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The NCCF and the Super Bazar have informed that the orders are placed with most of the suppliers registered with them as per the requirement of the Government Departments.

Fracture in Rail Tracks in North East

4238. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the trains in the North-East only snail along and hardly run, mainly because of high level of fractured rail tracks;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to detect fractures;

(c) if so, the outcome of such survey, indicating the extent of fractures therein; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to repair the faulty tracks ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The rails which crack or develop defects while in service, are identified by Ultrasonic Flaw Detection testers and visual examination. Defective rails are kept under watch and also replaced, if necessary.

Development of Rural Areas

4239. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the development of rural areas in India is "Totally Neglected" as appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' on February 16, 2000;

(b) If so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the progress made in terms of physical development during each of the last three years till date on the Rural Development schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) The Press Report in question seeks to reflect, *inter alia*, the status of development of the rural areas in the country over the last several decades. Concerted steps have now been taken to accelerate the implementation of various schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development, which efforts are continuing in the current financial year.

A Statement showing the reported achievements, in physical terms, from 1997-98 onwards, is enclosed herewith.

Statement

Programme wise Physical Achievements During Last Three Years

S.No.	Programme	Units	Achievements			
			1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 ^a	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	Lakh mandays of employment	3958	3766	*	7724
2.	Indira Awas Yojana	No. of Houses constructed	770936	835764	600454	2207154
3.	Million Wells Scheme	Wells constructed (in lakhs)	1.03	0.95	*	1.98
4.	Employment Assurance Scheme	Lakh mandays of employment generated	4718	4165	1889	10772
5.	Integrated Rural Development Programme	Beneficiaries assisted (in lakhs)	17.07	16.57	*	33.64
6.	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	Groups formed (in lakhs)	0.36	0.47	*	0.83
7.	Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment	Youths trained (in lakhs)	2.51	2.24	*	4.75
8.	Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans	Kits supplied (in lakhs)	1.62	2.47	*	4.09
9.	Drought Prone Areas Programme	No. of Watersheds	4362	5956	Not received	# Value!
10.	Desert Development Programme	No. of Watersheds	1747	2202	Not received	# Value!
11.	Rural Water Supply Programme	No. of Habitations covered	10026	112933	44968	267927
12.	Rural Sanitation Programme	No. of Latrines constructed	1027802	1630922	804396	3463120

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana	Lakh mandays of employment generated	\$	\$	1711	1711
14.	Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana	Swarozgaris assisted (in lakhs)	\$	\$	6.32	6.32

⊙ Reported upto February, 2000

* These schemes were discontinued from 1.4.1999

\$ Schemes launched from 1.4.1999

Upgradation of Jammu Airport

4240. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the Jammu Airport to the level of International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which facilities to cater the needs of international flights are likely to be available at Jammu Airport ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Improvement of New Delhi Railway Station

4241. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a decongestion plan to bring about an overall improvement in the environment of the New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be executed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. It is proposed to develop New Delhi Railway Station as a modern Railway Terminus. The conceptual plans in this connection envisage an overall development of the station and the adjoining Railway area including streamlining of vehicular traffic movement and the reduction in congestion.

M/s. RITES have been appointed to carry out a detailed Study before the actual implementation of the Scheme is taken in hand.

Sanctioned Posts of Group 'B' Officers

4242. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sanctioned posts in Junior Scale Group B (Assistant Officer's Cadre) as on January 1, 2000 (permanent, temp, workcharge and others) separately department-wise;

(b) the number of officers working against these posts, as on January 1, 2000 (direct and promotee), department-wise;

(c) the number of vacancies existing as on January 1, 2000, department-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to fill up these vacancies and the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up ?

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

Schemes of Rural Development

4243. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu have submitted a number of Rural Development Schemes for approval of the Union Government during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number out of them sanctioned, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) The details of Rural Development schemes submitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the schemes approved by the Union Government, out of the proposals received, during the last three years are indicated below :

	Number of proposals					
	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Received	Sanctioned	Received	Sanctioned	Received	Sanctioned
Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme	-	-	-	-	4	4
Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)	2	1	6	1	15	8
Total Sanitation Campaign	-	-	-	-	5	4
Swarnjayanti Gram	-	-	-	-	1	1
Swarozgar Yojana Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and habitat Development	-	-	-	-	8	8
Rural Building Centre	-	-	-	-	3	0
Samagra Awaas Yojana	-	-	-	-	3	2

Complementary Tickets by Air India and Indian Airlines

4244. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Complementary Tickets have been given by Indian Airlines and Air India each of the last three years; and

(b) the value of these tickets in the Indian currency ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Details are as under :-

Indian Airlines	
Year	No. of Complimentary Tickets
1997	1129
1998	1369
1999	1248
Air India	
1997-98	726
1998-99	1164
1999-00	983

(b) Such passages do not have any revenue implication since they are generally released on seat availability basis.

Facilities to Senior Citizens

4245. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities are being provided to the Senior Citizens by the Railways;

(b) whether the Government propose to give some more facilities during 2000-2001; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a)

(i) Railways grant 30% concession in Mail/Express fares of all classes and fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains to senior citizens of minimum 60 years in case of women and 65 years in the case of men.

(ii) Allotment of lower berths automatically to senior citizens even if they do not give their choice at the time of booking provided lower berths are available at the time of booking.

(iii) On Mumbai Suburban Railway System, 7 seats for Senior Citizens each at Kalyan and Mumbai end of each suburban trains on Central Railway and from Churchgate end and Virar end of each suburban train on Western Railway have been earmarked in Second Class.

- (b) There is no such proposal at present.
 (c) Does not arise.

Visit of Naval Chief to Russia

4246. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Naval Chief with a high level delegation visited Russia recently to discuss upgradation of sub-marines, aircraft carrier and helicopters;

(b) if so, the extent to which Russia is willing to extend help in this regard; and

(c) the expected cost involved in modernising and updating our Naval strike power ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Chief of the Staff visited Russia in September 1999 at the invitation of the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy for discussions on naval matters of mutual interest.

Further details cannot be disclosed in the interest of national security.

[Translation]

NOAP, NFBS and NMBS in Bihar

4247. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted by the Operation Black Board in Bihar to assess the actual achievements made under National Old Age Pension Scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme and National Maternity Benefit Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the level of actual achievements made in respect of those schemes was lower in comparison to other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the low level of achievements under these schemes in Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir. As far as this Ministry is aware, no study on National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) has ever been conducted in Bihar by 'Operation Black Board'. An Evaluation Study on NSAP was, however, conducted in 8 States including Bihar in 1998 by a New Delhi based research organisation, namely, M/s Operation Research Group (ORG).

(b) and (c) The ORG Report shows that out of the 8 States covered, the performance of Bihar under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) was comparatively much better than Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra and West Bengal. Similarly, the performance of Bihar in the case of National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) was much better than that of some other States like Kerala and Maharashtra etc. The statement on physical achievement (State-wise) for 1997-98 indicated in the ORG Report is as the following :-

Statement on physical achievement (State-wise) for 1997-98 indicated in the Report of the Operation Research Group on Evaluation of NSAP in selected States

State	Percentage achievement (physical)-1997-98		
	NOAPS	NFBS	NMBS
Andhra Pradesh	100.00	120.10	120.00
Bihar	90.44	36.17	36.42
Gujarat	65.01	4.51	9.84
Kerala	42.92	69.77	14.19
Madhya Pradesh	130.00	79.00	55.00
Maharashtra	20.40	20.10	11.20
Orissa	98.80	108.00	10.70
West Bengal	87.00	38.00	46.00

The lagging performance of Bihar in the earlier years may be ascribed to teething problems and the need to orient State Government officials and ensure inter-departmental coordination etc. for grounding the scheme.

(d) Steps taken for further improvement in performance include constant liaison with the State Nodal Secretary on NSAP who in turn ensures appropriate implementation of the Schemes in Bihar. Appropriate steps have also been taken to create awareness among all concerned about the NSAP Schemes and the procedures involved in obtaining benefits under each of the three Schemes. To ensure efficient implementation, the Government have also taken steps for simplification of procedure in releasing Central funds and disbursement of assistance to the beneficiaries. Subsequent to the adoption of these steps, the performance of Bihar has further improved particularly so in respect of NFBS and NMBS during the financial year ending 31st March, 2000 in regard to which the State was lagging behind earlier. The percentage achievement in terms of releases under NOAPS, NFBS and NMBS is as 83.77, 96.01 and 84.33 respectively.

**Qualifications for Chulman, AAI
and DG, Civil Aviation**

4248. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the qualifications required for selection of the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India and Director General, Civil Aviation; and

(b) the dates from which the present incumbents are in office ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The qualification for the post of Chairman, Airports Authority of India is a graduate degree from a recognised university with good academic record and adequate experience at a senior level management in an organisation of good repute. Preference is given to persons with technical or MBA qualifications with knowledge of aviation Management and air transport.

The post of Director General of Civil Aviation is filled up by promotion from the officers holding the posts of Joint Director General (JDG)/Deputy Director General/Director with prescribed years of service. The post can also be filled up by transfer on deputation from the officers of All India Services or Central Services Group "A" eligible for appointment to the post of Additional Secretary in the Government of India and from the officers of Indian Airforce holding the rank of Air Marshal.

(b) Shri D.V. Gupta is holding the post of Chairman, Airports Authority of India with effect from 6.7.1998 and Shri H.S. Khola is holding the post of Director General of Civil Aviation with effect from 24.2.1998.

Historical Monuments in Rajasthan

4249. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Historical Monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Rajasthan Government has requested the Union Government for financial assistance to protect these monuments and promote tourism there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) 153 Monuments and sites declared to be of national importance are under the Archaeological Survey of Indian in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per information received from the Government of Rajasthan, financial assistance has been sought by them from the Ministry of Tourism in this

regard. This includes funds for conservation works in Jaisalmer Fort and on Akbar's Kos Minars in Ajmer District, and for tourist amenities at Ranthambore Fort.

**Accidents on Level Crossing under
Bikaner Division**

4250. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of accidents have taken place owing to absence of gates on the railway crossings in the Churu district under Bikaner division of Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to put gates on all the railway crossings coming under Churu district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No such train accidents has taken place in the Churu District of Bikaner Division.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Flights on Delhi-Moscow-Delhi Sector

4251. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Air India flights that are in operation on New Delhi-Moscow sector in a week;

(b) whether Air India hires aircraft from AEROFLOT for operation on Delhi-Moscow-Delhi Sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on maintenance of each aircraft by the Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Air India presently operates once a week flight on the Delhi/Moscow/Delhi sector with the IL-62M aircraft wetleased from AEROFLOT. The lease rate is USD 5000 per flying hour and these charges are payable in Indian Rupees at the IATA's 5 days mean exchange rate. This wetlease rate includes nearly all cost items like fuel, handling, landing, navigation and aircraft maintenance. The only items excluded are aircraft insurance, passenger and baggage legal liability, booking agency commission, food and passenger amenities and ground

transportation in India for Aeroflot personnel. The maintenance of aircraft is on account of Aeroflot. Air India pays leased rate to Aeroflot which includes expenditure on aircraft maintenance.

[Translation]

**Funds allotted under Tenth
Finance Commission**

4252. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tenth Finance Commission had allocated plan outlay for Rajasthan for 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) if so, whether the Rajasthan Government has spent the plan outlay as per the heads A,B,C,D,E;

(c) whether the Rajasthan Government has not spent the amount on the above heads as per the instructions of the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (d) The Tenth Finance Commission had recommended grant to Rajasthan for Panchayati Raj Institutions for the period, 1996-2000. As stipulated in the guidelines of the Union Government, the Government of Rajasthan have released the grants (received from the Government of India upto 1998-99) to the elected Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State to incur expenditure on development activities.

Tapping of Energy Potential

4253. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to tap the potential available in the industries like sugar, fertilizers and textiles etc. for co-generation of power as is being done in U.S.A.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a National Programme for promotion of optimum surplus power generation through Bagasse Co-generation in sugar mills.

A potential of 3500 MW of surplus power generation from Bagasse based Co-generation has been estimated. A total surplus power capacity of 184 MW has already been installed.

The Ministry of Power have also brought out detailed guidelines for promotion of Co-generation in Industry with the objective of promoting better utilisation of precious energy resources in the industrial activities and creation of additional power generation capacity in the system.

(c) The National Programme on Bagasse Co-generation provides for financial assistance by way of capital subsidy for a limited number of demonstration projects and interests subsidy for commercial projects. The Central and State Governments also provide fiscal and financial incentives, including relief from taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation, etc. 14 States have so far announced promotional policies for wheeling, banking and buy-back of electricity generated from commercial projects on power from renewables. Soft loans are provided by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for commercial projects. Financial assistance is also provided for preparation of detailed project reports, business/interaction meets and training programmes.

The Guidelines of the Ministry of Power on Promotion of Co-generation in Industry provide for notification of an acceptable tariff by the State Electricity Boards which reflects the marginal cost of generation and pay at that rate for the life of the Plant, barring major fuel price escalations.

Renovation of Ellora Caves

4254. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the repair and renovation work of the 'Ellora Caves' located in Maharashtra is not being taken properly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to maintain the Ellora Caves to their original shape; and

(d) the details of total amount incurred thereon during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No Sir, the Ellora Caves are in a good state of preservation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ellora Caves are being maintained and conservation as per archaeological norms.

(d) The expenditure incurred on the maintenance and conservation of Ellora Caves during the last three years is :-

1997-98	-	Rs. 9,49,425/-
1998-99	-	Rs. 65,97,373/-
1999-2000	-	Rs. 9,98,863/-

Indira Awaas Yojana

4255. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Indira Awaas Yojana' was introduced mainly for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, whether housing problems of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have remained unsolved on account of inclusion of all the communities in the said scheme;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to ensure accommodation for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the said scheme during the current five year plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) to (c) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was launched during 1985-86 with the primary objective to provide houses to members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labourers. From the year 1993-94, the scope of the Scheme was extended for non-Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes belonging to below the poverty line. Under the existing guidelines, it is mandated that not less than 60% of the total funds under Indira Awaas Yojana shall be utilised for construction of houses for Below Poverty Line Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. Thus, there is generally a substantial allocation available for construction of houses for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(d) and (e) Government has set a goal to end the shelterlessness by the end of the IXth Plan period and conversion of all unserviceable kutcha houses to semi pucca/pucca houses by the end of the Xth Plan period. A substantial benefits will accrue to the families belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

Hijacking Warning

4256. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Did Mumbai cops neglect Indian Airlines hijack warning" as appearing in 'Free Press Journal' dated January 13, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Facts in this regard are being ascertained.

Patrolling on LoC

4257. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Army resents take-it-easy order of MEA" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated March 20, 2000.

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

(c) the steps being taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, However, the said report is baseless.

(c) The situation on the LoC and within J and K continues to be under constant watch. All appropriate steps to deal with any situation continue to be taken.

Sanctioned Posts of Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineers

4258. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sanctioned posts of Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineers under Northern Railway in Delhi area and the number out of them are vacant at present; and

(b) the number of officers posted against the above posts at present and since when they have been in Delhi area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There are three

sanctioned posts of Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineers (DSTEs) in Delhi Area under Northern Railway and no post is lying vacant at present.

(b) Three officers are posted against these three posts of Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineers (DSTEs) in Delhi area since 5.7.96, 26.4.99 and 14.5.99.

**Cancellation of Flights due to
Alleged Sickness**

4259. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL :
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI STAYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item appearing in the "Indian Express dated March 10, 2000 wherein it has been reported that Air India pilots were alleged to have become sick on February 17 forcing the cancellation of the Mumbai-London-Chicago flight and causing inconvenience to over 400 passengers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the number of such instances came to the notice of the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Fire in Chanda Ordnance Factory

4260. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge fire broke out at Chanda Ordnance Factory in Bhadravati (Maharashtra) on March 22, 2000;

(b) if so, loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered to go into the causes of fire; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A fire in one of the buildings of Ordnance Factory Chanda broke out on March 22, 2000 at 1535 hours and was brought under control within an hour.

(b) There has been no loss of life or injury to any individual. There was some damage to the building and materials lying therein. As per preliminary assessment, the loss of property is estimated at Rs. 4.39 lakh.

(c) Yes Sir, a Board of Enquiry has been ordered to investigate the circumstances and cause of fire.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Direct Recruitment and Promotion
Quota in Assistant Grade of
Defence Ministry**

4261. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Defence Ministry had sent the proposal to the Department of Personnel and Training for direct recruitment and promotion out of the quota on the basis of 12-12 vacancies respectively in the Assistant Grade for the selection list of the year 1993;

(b) if so, whether any nomination list was received from the Department of Personnel and Training for direct recruitment against the said vacancies along with the number of candidates appointed against them;

(c) if so, whether the remaining vacancies have been filled up out of the promotion quota as per the Central Secretariat Rule, 1962;

(d) whether the vacancies for the said selection year were raised to 114 with a view to provide advantage to certain employees;

(e) if so, the latest position of the ongoing departmental inquiry in this regard; and

(f) the number of vacancies reported in Assistant Grade in direct recruitment and promotion quota in the years 1994, 1995 and 1996?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 12 nominations were received and 6 persons actually Joined.

(c) All vacancies pertaining to the year 1993 have been filled up.

(d) and (e) The vacancies for the year 1993 were subsequently revised to 114 (57 Direct Recruitment and 57 Promotion Quota) in April 1995. An enquiry has been ordered to look into the reasons for such upward revision of vacancies. The enquiry is in progress.

(f) Year	Promotion Quota	Direct Recruitment Quota	Total
1994	10	10	20*
1995	Nil	Nil	Nil
1996	23	23	46

* The vacancy position for the Select List Year 1994 was revised to Nil in November 1995.

[English]

Implementation of Rural Development Schemes with World Bank Assistance

4262. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) The details of ongoing Rural Development Schemes in Daman and Diu with World Bank assistance; and

(b) the amount allocated and released in respect of each scheme during each of the last three years and the present status of each scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) No World Bank assisted scheme is being implemented in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu.

(b) Question does not arise.

Enquiry Report on Escalator Incident at IGIA

4263. DR. C. KRISHNAN :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI AKHILESH YADAV :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Committee inquiring the escalator incident at Indira Gandhi International Airport has submitted its final report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard on the basis of interim and final report of the Inquiry Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : No, Sir. The time for submission of final report has been extended to June 30, 2000 in view of enhanced scope of work which includes looking into security aspect also.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Interim report of the Committee submitted on 7.2.2000 has been accepted by the Government. A group under the Chairmanship of Member (Planning), Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been constituted to implement the recommendations of the Committee in a time bound manner. AAI have already taken following steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future :-

(i) the escalators and other such equipments are being upgraded.

(ii) instructions for use of these equipments have been displayed prominently for benefit of users; and

(iii) the staff of all the agencies at the airport have been imparted familiarisation training for use of the equipments and for dealing with any unforeseen situation.

High Profits Charged by Super Bazar

4264. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Super Bazar is charging 30 per cent margin of profits on the sale of electrical items such as tube lights, bulbs, etc. thereby inflating its issue price to the Government departments in comparison of NCCF;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take to ensure that the Super Bazar does not charge high margin of profit in comparison to NCCF ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Super Bazar has informed that their margin of profit on electrical items vary from 2.87 to 30% and its price range is up to Maximum Retail Price (MRP).

(c) The Government of India normally do not interfere in the business affairs of NCCF and Super Bazar.

The profit margin of institutions depends upon the market practices, business factors, overhead costs etc.

**Space Management Programme
of Air India**

4265. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to impart great efficiency, Air India is initiating steps to place a new space management programme to minimise the recurring problem of off loading the over booked passengers; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Air India plans to introduce an automated Space/Revenue Management System shortly. The new system forecasts demand based on historical data and is expected to enhance revenues by minimising the risk of empty seats as well as offloaded passengers. Currently, flights are manually monitored and fine tuned on a daily basis to minimise the risk of offloading and to ensure they operate to optimum capacity.

Development of Religious Places

4266. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of religious places of tourist interest are in bad shape in terms of required facilities for promotion of domestic tourism;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to identify such places to attract tourists by creating and strengthening supporting infrastructure facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of places in Maharashtra identified for promotion of domestic religious tourism, and financial assistance given for department of tourist infrastructure during the current year, project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Development of Tourism infrastructure including the religious places is primarily the responsibility of the State/UTs. Govt. concerned. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for specific projects prioritised in consultation with them every year.

(d) The Committee on Pilgrim Tourism has identified three religious places namely Shirdi, Nanded, Jyotiba in Maharashtra for the development of pilgrim tourism. No

proposal has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra seeking Central Financial Assistance during the current financial year 2000-2001. However, the following projects have been sanctioned during 1999-2000.

(1) Construction of Yatri Niwas at Jyotiba (Amount Sanctioned Rs. 48.39 Lakhs).

(2) Construction of Yatri Niwas at Nanded (Amount Sanctioned Rs. 48.77 Lakhs).

(3) Upgradation of rooms at Shirdi (Amount Sanctioned Rs. 21.50 Lakhs).

[Translation]

Development Works at Patna Airport

4267. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India obtained the approval in regard to fortification of the air strip, construction of new apron and linking taxi route at Patna Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present position of the said works; and

(c) the time by which these works are likely to be completed ?

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

(b) and (c) Boundary wall around the airport has already been constructed. Height of the wall is being raised to meet the security requirements. Works pertaining to expansion of apron and link taxiway were completed in July, 1997.

[English]

Water Shed Programme

4268. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted to know the utility of water shed management programme; and

(b) if so, the areas and the extent of coverage of this programme in Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No such specific study has been conducted to know the

utility of watershed management programme. However, the programme is quite useful. The Department of Land Resources is implementing an Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on the Guidelines for Watershed Development w.e.f. 1.4.95. Under this scheme, 17 projects at a total cost of Rs. 4250.89 lakhs for treatment of 88,573 ha. of wastelands have been sanctioned since 1993-94 to 1999-2000. Out of these, six projects at a total cost of Rs. 1556.89 lakhs covering an area of 21,138 hectares were sanctioned under old guidelines in 1993-94 and 1994-95 and the remaining projects have been sanctioned after 1.4.95.

Import of Edible Oil

4269. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
 SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :
 SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
 SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
 SHRI R.S. PATIL :
 SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :
 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mustard growers concerned over import of edible oil" appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated March 26, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government on the suggestions made in convention; and

(d) the further steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

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

(b) There continues to be shortfall between demand and net availability of edible oils in the country. On the basis of the Agriculture Ministry's advance estimates of the oilseed production of 216.2 lakh tonnes for the year 1999-2000, the shortfall of oilseeds is likely to be more than 3 million tonnes. In order to ensure availability of edible oils at reasonable prices to the consumers. Government has had to allow import of edible oils on OGL. As per trade and industry, import of edible oils in the year 1998-99 was 43.9 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) Some of the important steps taken by the Government to restrain import of edible oils are :-

- (i) hike in the import duty on refined edible oils from 16.5% to 27.5%.
- (ii) stipulation of "actual user" condition for import of crude oils.
- (iii) Higher custom duty at 38.5% for crude oils as also other refined oils imported by other than actual users.
- (iv) imposition of SAD @ 4% for import of edible oils not fulfilling the requirement of actual user condition.

Defective MIGs Imported During 1986-1990

4270. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether MIG-29 shipped to India between 1986 and 1990, failed to match the operational requirements of IAF and most of them remained grounded, mostly due to premature failure of engines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the audit reports in respect of these fighter aircraft; and

(c) the number of MIG-29 that have crashed so far ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The aircraft has met the operational requirements of IAF. During the period 1987 to 1990 a number of engines were prematurely withdrawn and sent for repairs to the manufacturer. These withdrawals were mainly due to a minor technical defect, and damage due to foreign objects. These problems have since been overcome by instituting remedial measures and modifications. Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of 10th Lok Sabha examined all aspects of problems related to induction of MiG-29 and related to its utilisation/maintenance in the initial period of usage of aircraft.

(c) A total of five (four fighters and one trainer) aircraft have crashed till date.

[Translation]

Losses to ITDC Hotels

4271. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
 SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :
 SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the hotels of ITDC in the country, location-wise;

(b) the date on which these hotels were set up and the total capital invested therein from various sources; Hotel-wise;

(c) whether these hotels are suffering any financial losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which it is being met ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the attached statement.

(c) to (e) Overall, the activity of hotel operation has been profit making. However, ITDC hotels have

suffered losses during the last two years as per details given below :

Year	Loss Incurred (Rs. in crore)
1998-99	13.70
1999-2000 (Provisional)	39.61 (including provision for wage revision)

The losses are mainly because of a decline in business travellers, currency crises in South-East Asian countries making them cheaper destinations, higher wage Bill etc. This loss is being borne by ITDC itself without seeking any budgetary support from the Government.

Statement

Location-wise details of ITDC (Ashok Group) Hotels

Sr. No.	Name of the Hotel	Location	Date of Establishment/ Commissioning	Capital Employed as on 31.3.99 (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4	5
01	Ashok Hotel	New Delhi	01.10.56	25.45
02.	Hotel Janpath	New Delhi	01.04.64	2.58
03.	Lodhi Hotel	New Delhi	15.09.65	(-) 0.60
04	Hotel Ranjit	New Delhi	07.11.65	0.09
05	Hotel Ashok	Bangalore	01.05.71	4.95
06	Hotel Hassan	Hassan	27.07.72	0.89
07	Hotel Jammu	Jammu	09.09.72	0.71
08	Hotel Aurangabad	Aurangabad	01.10.72	0.95
09	Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort	Kovalam	17.12.72	10.26
10	Hotel Khajuraho	Khajuraho	19.11.72	0.45
11	Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel	Udaipur	26.01.73	1.92
12	Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort	Mamallapuram	19.03.73	3.42
13	Hotel Varanasi	Varanasi	14.09.73	1.67
14	Qutab Hotel	New Delhi	04.11.73	3.14
15	Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel	Mysore	13.09.74	2.77
16	Hotel Airport	Calcutta	12.06.75	5.24
17	Hotel Pataliputra	Patna	07.04.76	2.04
18	Hotel Jaipur	Jaipur	14.12.78	2.49

1	2	3	4	5
19	Hotel Kalinga	Bhubaneswar	17.12.79	1.57
20	Hotel Madurai	Madurai	01.12.80	0.99
21	Hotel Kanishka	New Delhi	03.08.82	8.66
22	Hotel Indraprastha	New Delhi	18.10.82	2.65
23	Hotel Samrat	New Delhi	14.11.82	12.84
24	Hotel Agra	Agra	17.09.86	2.82
25	Hotel Bodhgaya	Bodhgaya	11.07.88	1.70
26	Hotel Manali	Manali	20.05.92	1.47
Total				101.12

[English]

Railway Projects

4272. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Railway project whose foundation stones had been laid but the work not started, Zone/State-wise;

(b) since when these projects are pending and amount spent on laying of their foundation stones;

(c) the reasons for not taking up these projects even after incurring some amount on them;

(d) whether the Government would frame any time limit for the completion of these projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Railway Projects In Punjab

4273. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has submitted any proposal of Rail Projects during the last three years;

(b) if so, details thereof and the names of projects approved and survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) the details of on-going railway projects in Punjab alongwith the estimated cost and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) While formulating proposals for Railway projects, an integrated view of the system requirements is taken with a national perspective. Geographical boundaries of states, per se, do not form a criterion for taking investment decisions, especially when a number of railway projects span across more than one state. However, some of the proposals received from Government of Punjab in the last 3 years and their present status are as follows :

(i) Rail Line between Fazilka and Abohar. The work is already included in the Budget. Clearance are being processed. The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(ii) New line from Chandigarh to Ludhiana. The work is included in the Budget. Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final Location Survey has been completed for the first phase between Chandigarh to Morinda. Land acquisition has been taken up. Work will be taken up once land becomes available.

(iii) Electrification of Ludhiana-Amritsar. The work is included in the Budget. Target for completion is December, 2002.

(c) and (d) Details of ongoing railway projects in Punjab are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Ongoing Railway Projects in Punjab

Plan-Head	Name of Project	State	Cost	Expenditure upto 31.3.2000	Budget Outlay for 2000-01	Throw-forward as on 1.4.2001	Status
(Amount in Crores of Rupees)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Doubling	Jallandhar-Pathankot-Jammu-Tawi	Punjab, J and K, H.P.	486.00	5.00	5.10	475.90	The work would be taken up after requisite clearances have been obtained.
New Line	Chandigarh-Ludhiana	Punjab	248.40	10.17	30.00	208.23	Necessary clearances have been obtained from CCEA on 9.9.98. Final Location Survey has been completed for the first phase between Chandigarh to Morinda. Land acquisition has been taken up. Work will be taken up once land becomes available.
New Line	Kalka-Parvanoo	Punjab, H.P., Haryana	23.00	2.00	4.00	17.00	The requisite clearances have been obtained. FLS and preparation of plans and papers for land acquisition has been taken up.
New Line	Nangal Dam-Talwara and Taking over siding of Mukerian Talwara	Punjab H.P.	210.00	39.39	8.00	162.61	The first phase from Nangal Dam to Una has been commissioned. Work on the remaining portion is planned in phases and Una-Churaru Takrala (26 km) has now been taken up on the Govt. land (26 hectares) made available. Balance 300 hectares of project land is likely to become available in 6 months time. The work is at present in progress on 2 major bridges.
New Line	Beas to Dera Baba Jaimal Singh	Punjab	4.78	1.57	0.10	3.11	The work would be taken up after the agreement is signed and land is made available by the Dera authorities.
New Line	Taran Taran-Goindwal	Punjab	37.15	4.75	1.30	31.10	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey and other preliminary works have been completed. Land plans are under submission to State Govt.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
New Line	Abohar-Fazilka	Punjab	72.00	0.00	0.10	71.90	Clearances are being processed. The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
Railway Electrification:	Delhi-Ambala Cantt-Ludhiana	Punjab, Haryana, Delhi	291.47	239.08	20.20	32.19	Main line work from Delhi to Ludhiana has been completed. Branch lines Ambala-Kalka and Sirhind-Nagaldam work in hand targeted for March '2001.
Railway Electrification	Ludhiana-Amritsar	Punjab	93.06	1.80	10.25	81.01	Target for completion is Dec., 2002.

Hotel Restaurant Associations of India

4274. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Annual Convention of Hotel Restaurant Associations of India was held at Kathmandu in 1999;

(b) if so, the suggestions put forth by them; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, The suggestions put forth by them include adoption of Open Sky Policy for liberalization of International flights to India and for rationalization/reduction of tax structure in the hotels and restaurants.

The recommendations have been brought to the notice of the concerned departments of the Centre/State Governments/U.T's.

Demolition of Slums

4275. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Railway slum demolition drive in Mumbai has come to an abrupt end;

(b) if so, whether the railway tracks have become free from encroachments;

(c) if not, the reasons for stopping the demolition drive by the Central Railway;

(d) whether the Government have prepared any time bound programme to get free the tracks from encroachments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (f) As certain encroachments on Mankurd-Kurla-Vadala section had come very close to the railway lines threatening the safety of train operations, the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Mumbai had taken up the matter with Railways for removal of these encroachments. The matter was discussed at length with the concerned officers of Government of Maharashtra. A drive was accordingly started on 28.2.2000 for eviction of post 1.1.95 encroachers and the tracks in the area have become partly free from the encroachments. After complaints that some pre 1.1.95 encroachers had also been removed, the drive was temporarily stopped by the Government of Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra have now decided to associate a Non Conventional Organisation in identification of the pre 1.1.95 encroachers to rehabilitate them in the tenements constructed by the Mumbai Housing and Development Authority as per their policy and simultaneously remove post 1.1.95 encroachers.

Removal of post 1.1.95 encroachments is, however, being carried out in other sections of Central Railway in Mumbai.

Construction of Ernakulam-Trichur-Malappuram Rail Line

4276. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Kerala for construction of coastal railway line connecting Ernakulam-Trichur-Malappuram districts of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Request has been received for construction of a new Coastal line from Tirur to Edapali via Guruvayur.

(b) Two survey reports for construction of new line from Tanur to Guruvayur and Guruvayur to Idapalli are under examination in consultation with concerned Zonal Railway. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the results of the surveys are finalised.

Supply of Levy Sugar to States

4277. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajasthan is getting supply of levy sugar on the basis of population as per the census of 1991 and consequently the quantity of sugar comes to 425 gm. Per unit per month;

(b) if so, whether in some of the States like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, the quantity of levy sugar being provided to the families is 1 Kg. per unit per month;

(c) if so, the reasons for the discrepancy in allotment of sugar to different States;

(d) whether Government have increased the quantity of levy sugar per unit in certain eco-fragile States like Himachal Pradesh to 1 Kg. per unit per month;

(e) if so, whether the Government intend to consider Rajasthan in similar category of eco-fragile State because of predominantly being a desert State and increase the allocation of sugar from 425 gm. to 1 Kg. per unit per month; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Rajasthan was getting supply of Levy Sugar on the basis of population as per the census of 1991 till 29th February, 2000 but w.e.f. 1-3-2000, their levy quota alongwith all other States/UTs has been enhanced on the basis of projected population as on 1-3-1999, the per unit availability of sugar remaining the same.

(b) to (e) The norm for distribution of sugar in Public Distribution System (PDS) for most of the States/UTs is 425 gms. per unit/per month except in case of the following

States/UTs which are allocated levy sugar at a norm higher than 425 gms due to special circumstances prevailing there :

Name of the States/UTs	Norms (gms.)
Andaman and Nicobar	1008
Chandigarh	611
Delhi	1271
Goa, Daman and Diu	434
Lakshdweep	1625
Jammu and Kashmir	700
Pondicherry	583
Nagaland	700
Arunachal Pradesh	700
Assam	700
Tripura	700
Meghalaya	700
Mizoram	700
Manipur	700
Himachal Pradesh	700

The distribution of quantity allocated by the Central Government based on the above norms within the State/UT is the sole responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration. In view of the present accrual of levy based on the existing formula, there is no proposal for further revising the per capita norm or the quota upward of any State/UT.

National Wasteland Development Board

4278. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Wasteland Development Board is functioning with its full strength;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the members of the present Board; and

(d) the details of projects which are undertaken under the Wasteland Development Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The composition of the National Wasteland Development Board (reconstituted as on 31.12.1998) is given at the enclosed

statement. Since the term of the nominated members of the board has expired, it cannot be said to be functioning with its full strength.

(d) 73 projects covering an area of 7.01 lakh hectares involving a total cost of Rs. 280.40 crore have been sanctioned under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), during the year 1999-2000.

Statement

Composition of Reconstituted National Wastelands Development Board (as on 31.12.1998)

Ex-officio Members :

1. Minister for Rural Areas and Employment	Chairman
2. Member, Planning Commission	Member
3. Secretary, D/o. Agriculture and Cooperation Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.	Member
4. Secretary, D/o. Rural Development Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.	Member
5. Secretary, D/o. Agricultural Research and Education Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.	Member
6. Secretary, D/o. Expenditure North Block, New Delhi.	Member
7. Secretary, M/o. Environment and Forests	Member
8. Secretary, M/o. Science and Technology	Member
9. Secretary, D/o. Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Member
10. Chairman (NABARD)	Member

Nominated Members :

(i) Members of Parliament

11. Shri Gordhanbhai Javia Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) C/o. Lok Sabha Secretariat Parliament House, New Delhi.	Member
12. Shri Bhagaban Majhi Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) C/o Rajya Sabha Secretariat Parliament House, New Delhi.	Member

(ii) Non-official NGOs, Cooperative Institutions

13. Mrs. Nirmala Buch E-4/17, Girish Kunj Arera Colony, Bhopal.	Member
14. Dr. G. Hedge President Bhartiya Agro Industries Ltd. Dr. Mani Bhai Desai Nagar National Highway No. 4 Warje, Pune-411029.	Member
15. Shri Anil Aggarwal Director, Centre for Science and Environment, 41-Tughlakabad Industrial Area Near Batra Hospital New Delhi-110062.	Member
16. Shri Arunkumar C. Patil "Arunodaya" Chandrashekar Patil Nagar Gulbarga-585102	Member
17. Shri S. Parameshwarappa 189, 12th Cross 3rd main RMV-II Stage Bangalore-560094.	Member

(iii) Three Development Commissioners from three different States

18. Development Commissioner Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad	Member
19. Development Commissioner Govt. of Bihar, Patna	Member
20. Development Commissioner Govt. of Assam, Guwahati	Member

Member Secretary :

21. Secretary D/o Wastelands Development M/o Rural Areas and Employment Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.	Member Secretary
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[Translation]

Disposal of Ageing Aircraft

4279. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of aircraft not in operation at present in the Indian Airfleet, Company-wise;

(b) the expenditure being incurred annually on the maintenance of the grounded aircraft; and

(c) the stage at which the proposal to dispose of these grounded aircraft and purchase of new ones to replace them stands?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) In Air India, 3 B747-200 aircraft are not in operation since mid-February 2000. These aircraft are offered for sale. As regards Indian Airlines, 32 aircraft are not in operation at present.

(b) Air India has incurred an expenditure of F.s. 90 lacs has so far maintenance of these grounded aircraft. As regards Indian Airlines, no expenditure is being incurred on the maintenance of these aircraft.

(c) Air India had signed an agreement with M/s. Carry Air Leasing Aviation Limited for sale of two aircraft. For third aircraft, Air India had floated an advertisement.

The matter concerning disposal of Indian Airlines' aircraft is under consideration.

As these aircraft are presently surplus to Air India and Indian Airlines requirements, the question of purchasing new ones to replace these aircraft does not arise.

[English]

Contribution of Draught Animal Power

4280. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of KPA Menon to advise on better utilization of DAP has suggested that Draught Animal Power (DAP) saves nearly 24 million tonnes of Diesel;

(b) if so, whether the recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted;

(c) whether it has included all animals like Elephants, Camels, Horses, Mules, Donkeys, Cattle, Goats, Yaks and Dogs for snow bound area; and

(d) the financial allocation made for the programme during the 9th plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee estimated the magnitude of draught animal power in terms of 30,000 MW equivalent.

(b) Some of the recommendations made by the Committee were accepted and implemented in the years 1994-95 and 1995-96.

(c) No, Sir. The Committee estimated the magnitude of draught animal power based on the population of bullocks, buffaloes, cows at work, horses and camels only.

(d) An outlay of Rs. 2.14 crore has been provided for Animal Energy Programme for the Ninth Plan period.

[Translation]

Setting up of National Sugar and Sugarcane Technology Institute

4281. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up National Sugar and Sugarcane Technology Institute in Mau;

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

(c) the details of the amount made available to it since its inception and as on date, year-wise;

(d) whether the institute is working in the direction of achieving its proposed objectives;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project to establish the National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology (NISST) at Mau (UP) is currently under implementation. The Government of India decided in 1993 to set up NISST at Mau with the objective of providing extension services to sugarcane farmers and sugar industry personnel, particularly in the backward regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, as these are lagging behind in comparison to other states of the country in the field of sugarcane and sugar technology, due to non-availability and non-transfer of advance technology in these fields.

(c) Year-wise Budget provisions for this Institute are as given below :-

1993-94	Rs. 305.00 Lakhs
1994-95	Rs. 525.00 Lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 753.90 Lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 862.00 Lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 773.00 Lakhs
1998-99	Rs. 873.00 Lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 775.00 Lakhs

In the current financial year the Budget provision has been kept at Rs. 665 lakhs.

(d) to (f) The construction of building and other facilities of the Institute is in progress and is nearing completion. Some of the staff required have been recruited and in respect of others the recruitment process have been initiated. Academic sessions at the Institute have not yet commenced.

[English]

Linking of Border District of Rajasthan with Rail Network

4282. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation for linking border districts of Rajasthan with main railway junctions;

(b) if so, whether Bikaner-Kolayat-Pokran-Barmer and Jaisalmer-Barmer-Kandla were approved for survey;

(c) if so, the time by which the survey report for above line is likely to be submitted; and

(d) the time by which work on these rail lines is expected to commence ?

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

(b) and (c) Surveys for all links between Bikaner-Kolayat-Barmer and Jaisalmer-Kandla have been taken up. The target dates for their completion have not yet been fixed.

(d) Further consideration of the projects will be possible once the survey reports become available.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Khandwa-Ajmer Rail Line

4283. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of gauge conversion of Khandwa-Ajmer rail line, sector-wise; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be converted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The sector wise status is as under :-

(i) Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Work is sanctioned as part of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur Gauge Conversion project. Work has been taken up in 1st phase for Chittaurgarh-Udaipur while in 2nd phase, it will be taken up in the coming years.

(ii) Chittaurgarh-Neemuch-BG line already exists.

(iii) Neemuch-Ratlam-Work is in progress.

(iv) Ratlam-Khandwa-Survey has been taken up. Further consideration would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(b) No target date has yet been fixed.

[English]

Konark Temple

4284. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a long term conservation and sustainable development strategy for the Konark Temple has been drawn up by experts to protect it from depletion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the out come there of ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strategy includes studies to assess the structural stability of the Sun Temple and measures for its maintenance, structural conservation, chemical preservation and environmental development.

(c) and (d) The Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee has conducted a study of the stone, soil and structural stability of the monument. The studies will be placed before a Task Force Committee to decide upon the strategy to be adopted for the conservation measures of the Konark Temple. It will not be possible to indicate a time-frame in this regard.

[Translation]

Touts at Airports

4285. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to lack of basic amenities and increasing problem of touts at most of the airports in the country have affected the tourism industry badly;

(b) if so, whether any effective steps have been taken by the Government to prevent the touts from harassing foreign tourists and to provide basic amenities to foreign tourists at airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Touting is a law and order problem which comes within the jurisdiction of the local police. Officials of Airports Authority of India (AAI) continuously liaise with the officials of airport security and the local police to curb this menace. Local police have also apprehended touts on their own. Special drives to check the tout menace have also been undertaken by the police. The matter is reviewed on a monthly basis in the Airport Facilitation Committee Meetings which is attended by all concerned authorities, working at the airport. Various basic amenities like "May I help you" counters, pre-paid taxi services, rent a car, tourist information counters have also been provided in the airport terminal itself to assist the tourists.

[English]

Possession of Extra Optic Fibre Cable

4286. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have possessed extra unutilised optic fibre cable lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to release these cable lines to private parties to provide voice and data communication;

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

(e) the revenue expected to be generated by leasing these lines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Railways possess spare Fibres in some sections where Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid for meeting

Railways' communication requirements. Starting from 1989, Railways have laid 8, 10, 18 and 24 fibre OFC in different sections. Presently, as a matter of policy, Railways are laying only 24 Fibre OFC. Of the fibres available, Railways are utilising 4 fibres to meet their present requirement.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Zonal Railways have been advised to lease/rent the Railways' excess/spare communication capacity for data communication. Leasing of voice channels will start after issue of Notification regarding National Long Distance Communication Policy.

(e) Railways have recently started leasing spare telecom capacity. So far telecom channels on Mumbai-Andheri, Mumbai-Ahmedabad and Bhusawal-Nandgaon sections have been leased out giving an annual revenue of Rs. 84 lakhs to Railways. This will increase as and when further spare capacity gets leased out.

[Translation]

Setting up of Consumer Courts

4287. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of consumer Courts set up in the country under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 during the last three years, State-wise, district-wise and years-wise;

(b) whether the existing number of Consumer Courts are sufficient for the disposal of pending cases;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of Consumer Courts in the country in the next three years;

(d) whether such courts are proposed to be set up in every Tehsil; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) One National Commission, 32 State Commissions and 545 District Forums have been set up in the country under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The State-wise position of State Commissions and District Forums is given in the Annexure. Year-wise details are not maintained.

(b) and (c) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 State/U.T. Governments are responsible for setting up of District Forum in each District and a State Commission at the State capital.

Depending on the volume of cases, the State Governments can set up additional District Forum in the concerned District.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides that a District Forum shall be established by the State Government in each district of the State.

Statement

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) of the USQ No. 4287 for 20.4.2000

State/UT	No. of State Commission	No. of District Forums
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1	25
Arunachal Pradesh	1	13
Assam	1	23
Bihar	1	55
Goa	1	2
Gujrat	1	20
Haryana	1	17
Himachal Pradesh	1	12
Jammu and Kashmir	1	2
Karnataka	1	21
Kerala	1	14
Madhya Pradesh	1	45
Maharashtra	1	34
Manipur	1	8
Meghalaya	1	7
Mizoram	1	3
Nagaland	1	8
Orissa	1	31
Punjab	1	17
Rajasthan	1	33
Sikkim	1	4
Tamil Nadu	1	24
Tripura	1	3
Uttar Pradesh	1	87
West Bengal	1	19
A and N Island	1	2
Chandigarh Adm.	1	2
D and N Haveli	1	1

1	2	3
Daman and Diu	1	2
Delhi	1	9
Lakshadweep	1	1
Pondicherry	1	1
Total	32	545

[English]

Duty Free Shops

4288. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India has set up a Committee of foreign experts to advise on duty-free shops at airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance provided through CAPART

4289. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects sanctioned by Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology for the tribal and rural areas in Jammu and Kashmir during each of the rest three years, district-wise;

(b) the names of agencies to which assistance has been provided through CAPART and the location thereof;

(c) the funds sanctioned and released to each of these agencies till date;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the irregularities committed by these agencies during the last two years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of these agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) A statement showing the district-wise number

of projects sanctioned by CAPART during the last three years for tribal and rural areas in Jammu and Kashmir State is in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the names and locations of Voluntary Organisations (VOs), amount sanctioned and released to each of these VOs by CAPART during the last three years, is in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) and (e) None of these Voluntary Organisations was found defaulter during the last two years.

Statement-I

The Statement referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4289 due for reply on 20.4.2000

S.No.	Name of District	No. of project sanctioned
1	2	3
1997-98		
1.	Anantnag	1

1	2	3
2.	Jammu	1
3.	Leh and Ladakh	2
Total		4

1998-99

1.	Jammu	7
2.	Leh-Ladakh	1
3.	Srinagar	2
Total		10

1999-2000

1.	Jammu	4
2.	Kupwara	1
3.	Leh Ladakh	1
4.	Srinagar	1
Total		7

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of VOs and location	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1997-98			
1.	Hilal Institute, Distt. Anantnag	1,97,300	
2.	Ladakh Development Organisation P.B. 129, Zangtsi, Distt. Leh, Ladakh	7,56,900	3,00,000
3.	Leh Nutrition Project Housing Colony, Distt. Leh Ladakh	1,26,400	63,200
4.	J and K Paryawaran Sanstha Mubarak Mandi, Jam	50,000	50,000
Total		11,30,600	6,10,550
1998-99			
1.	J and K Jaffran Women's Welfare and Child Development Society Distt. Srinagar	3,15,900	2,15,900
2.	J and K Zari Art Society, Distt. Jam	1,85,200	1,06,100
3.	-do-	55,000	55,000
4.	Social Work and Rural Development Society, Distt. Jam	2,61,400	1,45,200
5.	Society Sanitation Development Economics, Distt. Jam	4,26,282	1,15,000
6.	-do-	55,000	10,000
7.	Valley Women Welfare Society, Srinagar	3,44,900	2,53,200
8.	J and K Almi Khudai Khidmatgar Association, Jammu Tawai	50,000	50,000

1	2	3	4
9. Leh Mahila Mandali, Leh Ladakh		2,00,000	1,00,000
10. J and K Paryawaran Sansthan, Mubarak Mandi, Jam		79,07,200	35,58,240
Total		98,00,882	46,08,640

1999-2000

1. Khakani Ladies Vocational Centres, Distt. Jam		6,30,550	4,25,300
2. Shivam Women and Children Welfare Society, Jam		4,14,400	4,14,400
3. Dr. Ambedkar Welfare Trust, Jammu		2,61,520	1,45,520
4. Social Work and Rural Development Society, Jam		55,000	27,500
5. Women Welfare and Upliftment Society, Distt. Kupwara		3,32,720	2,20,760
6. Zubada National Institution Srinagar		2,64,000	1,67,000
7. Ladakh Ecological Development Group Leh Ladakh		4,75,000	Not yet released
Total		24,33,190	14,00,480

*[English]***Financial Progress under JRY**

4290. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the financial progress of Assam with reference to assets created under JRY during each of the last three years;

(b) whether financial progress under JRY was far below satisfactory level during the above period in the districts of Nalbari, Barpeta and Bongaigaon in Assam;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to make physical verification of JRY schemes in the above three districts to examine whether the objective have been achieved as per guidelines and norms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), which was the single largest wage employment programme, has been restructured, streamlined and renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with effect from 1.4.1999. The primary objective of JGSY is creation of need-based rural infrastructure as against creation of wage employment under erstwhile JRY. The financial achievement under JRY/JGSY in Assam during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 with reference to assets created is as per statement-I and II.

(b) and (c) Financial progress under JRY/JGSY in the districts of Nalbari, Barpeta and Bongaigaon during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as per statement-III. Guidelines of JRY/JGSY do not envisage 100% utilisation of funds in a year. Under JRY carry over of upto 25% of funds was permissible till 1997-98 and 20% during 1998-99 whereas under JGSY, 15% of funds is allowed to be carried forward as unspent balances during 1999-2000 onwards. The performance under the programme in these districts, viewed in this context is, on the whole, satisfactory.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal at this stage. However, as per the guidelines of the Programme an in-built Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism has been made in the scheme, itself. The Guidelines provides for Physical verification of works through field inspections by Officers dealing with JGSY at the State/district/sub-division/block levels regularly. At the Central level Senior Officers have been designated as Area Officers for each State including Assam. They are required to visit the State (s) assigned to them every quarter and physically verify the status of the works under the Scheme and also see whether funds have been fully utilised for the purpose for which it was earmarked. Further, at the time of release of second installment of Central assistance, audit reports and the Utilization Certificates in respect of grants released during the previous year are obtained and scrutinised. Instructions have also been issued to all the State/UTs including Assam to set up the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/District and Block levels for overseeing the implementation of various programmes of the Ministry including JGSY. The provision of Social Audit also exists under the scheme.

Statement-
Financial Progress during

Year	Minor Irrigation				Others	Rural Roads	Drinking Water and Other Sources	Sanitary Latrines
	Village Tank Ponds/Wells	Fields Channels	Watershed Projects	Water Harvesting Structures				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1997-98	151.57	162.42	8.36	21.86	245.14	2181.71	155.76	18.09
1998-99	476.18	222.87	42.58	35.39	310.24	4778.24	337.14	35.07
1999-2000								

*Funds utilised till Jan. 2000. No work-wise break-up reported so far.

Statement-
Assets created during 1997-98,

Year	Minor Irrigation										Rural Roads (Km's)
	Village tanks/ ponds/wells		Field channels		Watershed Projects		Water harvesting structures		Others		
	Nos	Hect	Nos	Hect	Nos	Hect	Nos	Hect	Nos	Hect	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1997-98	691	99.52	332	111.42	25	27.94	28	24.20	402	53.10	1422.90
1998-99	937	387.62	723	719.61	70	166.00	57	33.50	633	1181.43	3337.78
1999-2000											

*Works Completed/In Progress till Jan. 2000. No work-wise break-up reported so far.

Statement-

District	1997-98						Opening balance	Allocation (C+S)
	Opening balance	Allocation (C+S)	Release (C+S)	Total availability	Funds utilised	% utilisation		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nalbari	37.47	340.36	424.10	461.57	299.48	64.88	11.67	445.24
Barpeta	136.11	280.81	276.50	412.61	315.61	76.49	42.70	367.34
Bongaigaon	170.91	408.18	415.23	586.14	475.30	81.09	69.47	533.95

*Release/utilisation up to Jan., 2000

I

1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Land Development				Buildings				Social Forestry	Other works
Soil Cons.	Land Dev.	Flood Protection	Anti Water Logging	School Bldg.	Mahila Mandals	Panch. Ghars	Houses Cons.		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
60.89	174.57	155.74	56.76	685.51	170.80	76.75	168.13	235	787.27
173.40	294.25	229.93	97.18	1024.71	140.09	80.01	736.36	39.04	822.92
									5392.09*

II

1998-99 and 1999-2000

Drinking Water & Other Sources	Land Development					Buildings				Social Forestry		
	Sanitary laterines	Soil cons.	Land Dev.	Flood prot.	Anti Water Log.	School	Mahila Mandals	Panchayat Ghars	Houses cons.	Area covered	Trees Planted	Other works
	Nos	Nos	(Hect)	(Hect)	(Hect)	Nos	Nos	Nos	Nos	(Hect)	(Lakh Nos)	Nos
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
629	42	18.92	88.70	91.40	33.00	749	130	147	747	5.50	00.00	2888.00
2770	170	16.66	55.45	289.30	166.50	998	221	129	1472	8.58	76.00	649.00
												11535*

III

(Rs. in lakhs)

1998-99				1999-2000*					
Release (C+S)	Total availability	Funds utilised	% utilisation	Opening balance	Allocation (C+S)	Release (C+S)	Total availability	Funds utilised	% utilisation
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
996.30	1007.97	372.31	36.94	382.01	378.17	189.09	571.10	550.02	96.31
714.09	756.79	248.99	32.90	490.81	312.00	156.00	646.81	505.75	78.19
1770.38	1839.85	889.88	48.37	347.00	453.52	228.75	573.75	434.31	75.70

**Constitution of Indian Railways
Users Consultative Council**

4291. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the constitution of Indian Railways Users Consultative Council has since been finalised;

(b) if so, names of Chairman and Members alongwith, criteria fixed, separately, for Chairman and Members nominated/selected on the panel; and

(c) if not, the present status of this panel alongwith time limit prescribed for finalisation of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) National Railway Users' Consultative Council has been reconstituted with effect from 1.4.2000 for a two year term. Various interests which are given representation on National Railway Users' Consultative Council are as under :

1. Secretaries of the Ministries of Government of India	3
2. Chairman and Members of Railway Board	7
3. Members of Parliament (10 from Lok Sabha and 5 from Rajya Sabha)	15
4. A representative of each of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee.	9
5. One Member each from certain chambers of Commerce and All India Associations.	7
6. Agricultural Interest	1
7. Representative from Konkan Railway Users' Consultative Committee	1
8. Retired Officers of the Railway (Members of the Board/General Managers)	2
9. Members representing special interests	As considered necessary and nominated by Minister for Railways.

Except for 9 representatives from the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees, one representative of one Chamber of Commerce and one representative of Agriculture interests, all other nominations have since been received and formal communication will be sent in due course.

In the meeting of National Rail Users' Consultative Council, the Minister for Railways presides over the meeting and in his/her absence the Minister of State for Railways acts as Chairperson.

[Translation]

Haj Pilgrims

4292. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the contract for the ferrying of Haj pilgrims this year has also been awarded to the same private airlines which were engaged during the last 2-3 years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the aircraft of this airlines collided with each other twice at New Delhi and Jeddah;

(d) if so, whether any investigation has been made in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether it delayed the flights for two days and led to hardships to the thousand of Haj pilgrims; and

(g) if so, the steps suggested to be taken to avoid such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Through a global tender evaluated by the Haj Charter Committee, the Contract for ferrying the Haj Pilgrims for Haj-2000 was awarded to M/s. Mido Aviation Group. Haj-1999 contract was also awarded to the same party. However, for Haj-1998 the contract was given to M/s. Air Charter World.

(c) There was only one incident at Jeddah on 25.2.2000 when the wing tips of two B747 aircraft of Tower Air contacted each other when one of the aircraft was being moved by the airport handling staff.

There was another incident at Palam airport Delhi on 9.2.2000 where B747 aircraft N818FF of Tower Air hit the aerobridge.

(d) and (e) The investigation carried out by DGCA revealed that in the first incident :-

(i) there was no marking on the ramp for parking the aircraft at ramp area number 11, (ii) illumination of the ramp was not satisfactory, (iii) no one was present for marshalling the aircraft. The engineer who was taxiing the aircraft followed the yellow line of the taxi way, and (iv) no one was present to ensure wing tip clearance.

The second incident occurred due to the ignorance of the pilot on the PAPA AGNIS system (automarshalling system) provided on the aerobridge at palam airport.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The following steps have been taken to avoid such incident :-

- (i) All aircraft positioned at the ramp areas 11, shall be towed in from taxiway to the parking spot alongwith persons walking along the wing tips to ensure appropriate clearance; (ii) The engineer involved in the taxiing incident would not be allowed to perform taxi duties untill further investigations; (iii) The airlines have been advised not to roster the involved pilot for haj 2000 operations; and (iv) the operator was also advised to adequately brief all the pilots operating Haj 2000 flights on the availability of airport ground and facilities at various Indian airports.

[English]

Cultural Centre in Buldhana District

4293. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a cultural centre in Buldhana district of Maharashtra State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said centre is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Increase in Economic Cost of Food Corporation of India

4294. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

- (a) whether the economic cost of wheat and rice of Food Corporation of India is constantly increasing;
- (b) if so, the estimated economic cost of wheat and rice during the year 1999-2000;
- (c) the extent to which the said cost is higher than that of the last year in terms of percentage; and

(d) the reasons for this increase ?

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

(b) The estimated economic cost of wheat and rice of FCI during the year 1999-2000 was Rs. 820/- per qtl. And Rs. 1078/- per qtl. (approximately) respectively.

(c) Percentage-wise, the estimated economic cost of wheat and rice during 1999-2000 has gone up by 2.87% and 4.80% (approximately) respectively over the estimated economic cost of 1998-99.

(d) The rise in economic cost is mainly attributable to the increase in the MSP of wheat and rice which triggers an increase in the statutory charges levied by the States on advalorem basis.

[English]

Setting up of Independent Railway Regulatory Authority

4295. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested for setting up of an independent Railway Regulatory Authority to facilitate corporatisation of the Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The following suggestion was contained in the background paper circulated by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) during a National Conference on "Railway Budget 2000-01 pre-budget proposals" on 14.1.2000.

"An independent regulatory authority separate from the operators and financially independent should be set up for Indian Railways. The regulatory authority would help in creating conditions in which competition can be maximised. This would help in resolving conflicts, protect general public interest, improve accountability, provide level playing field to private participants and ensure transparency, competitive environment and reasonableness of tariff. The regulatory authority should be in place at the earliest".

(c) Review of the overall functioning of the Railway system is a continuous process and all such recommendations received from various quarters are considered and necessary changes/improvements are made as and when

required. At present, a Railway Expert Group has been set up to study the Railway Sector under the chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research. One of the Terms of Reference for the Expert Group is to recommend on suitable regulatory arrangements that would facilitate orderly expansion of the system, promote the desired degree of competition and protect the users' right to quality service.

[Translation]

Transportation of Goods

4296. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the positive steps taken by the Government to achieve the prescribed target of transportation of the goods; and

(b) the value of claims paid by the Railways for not sending parcel goods on time, sending the goods ahead of the destinations by mail express, passenger trains and goods trains during the last three years and the number of claims cases pending in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The target of 475 million tonnes for the year 2000-2001 projects a growth of 25 million tonnes over the target of 450 million tonnes set for 1999-2000 (RE). This incremental freight loading is expected to materialise mainly from movement of coal, cement, material to steel plants, finished steel and POL products. In order to create transport capacity for lifting this incremental traffic, adequate number of open, covered and flat wagons and locomotives have been planned. To tackle the problem of near saturation of the main-freight corridors, induction of high-horsepower diesel and electric locomotives has been provided for in the procurement plan. A special thrust is being given to augment capacities of terminals, which has posed constraints in meeting the demands of customers adequately.

In order to retain its competitiveness vis-a-vis other modes, Railways refrained from any price hike despite hike in diesel prices in November '99. Further, although in the Budget proposals a general 5 per cent hike has been proposed, the major revenue-earners, namely, coal, steel, petroleum and cement have been given major relief inasmuch as freight of these commodities would increase only to extent of about 2 per cent. Moreover, the concessions given earlier to imported coal has been withdrawn with effect from 1.4.2000. Simultaneously, the surcharge on washed coal, which was putting domestic washed coal at a disadvantage vis-a-vis the imported variety has also been withdrawn. Both these actions are expected to increase long haul movement of domestic coal.

(b) Transit delay or over-carriage per se do not attract payment of compensation claim unless the same results in loss, damage or deterioration of goods for which railways are liable under Section 93 of the Railways Act. Therefore, the question of pending claims on this account does not arise.

[English]

Expansion of Fleet of Air India

4297. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has finalised a proposal to expand its fleet by obtaining four A310 aircraft on dry lease;

(b) if so, the time by which these aircrafts are to be acquired;

(c) whether Air India also proposed to acquire six SCCR aeroplanes simultaneously;

(d) if so, whether the old aircraft are proposed to be removed from the fleet of Air India;

(e) if not, whether sufficient traffic is available for the new aircraft proposed to be inducted;

(f) if so, whether it is commercially viable to acquire new aircraft for Air India; and

(g) if so, the details of the study, if any, undertaken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (g) Air India is exploring the possibility of rationalising its fleet by selling some aircraft types and replacing such capacity through dry lease of remaining aircraft types consistent with commercial viability. There is no proposal to purchase new aircraft at present.

Military Ties with Australia

4298. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Australia has indicated to resume military ties with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stand of India in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help improving bilateral relations between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) During his visit to India in March 2000, the Australian Foreign Minister had discussions with our External Affairs Minister. During the discussions, both the countries felt that their bilateral relations should not be held hostage by the single issue of non-proliferation and agreed 'in principal' to resume their defence relations. The modalities of the resumption of defence ties would be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Resumption of defence relations would include restoration of Defence Attaches, exchange of visits between the defence establishments of both the countries, military training programmes, joint naval exercises and other forms of defence cooperation.

Introduction of Helicopter Service

4299. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce helicopter service to Shimla in view of its tourist importance;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has no plans to undertake helicopter service to Shimla due to capacity constraints and long-term commitments to State Governments/O.N.G.C. etc.

Basic Facilities at Ahmedabad Airport

4300. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the monthly income from Ahmedabad airport in Gujarat;

(b) the amount spent by the Union Government for the development of Ahmedabad airport;

(c) whether basic facilities are lacking at the said airport in view of the heavy rush of passengers;

(d) if so, whether the Government have any plan regarding the lodging and cloakroom facilities for the passengers at Ahmedabad airport; and

(e) if so, the time by which the same are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The monthly income from Ahmedabad airport for the year 1999-2000 was Rs. 118.92 lakhs.

(b) The amount spent on the development of Ahmedabad Airport during the year 1999-2000 was Rs. 20.05 crores.

(c) All basic facilities for passengers are available at this airport. However, to cater for increase in passenger traffic, a new domestic departure terminal has been planned to serve 600 passengers at a time at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crores.

(d) and (e) Cloak Room and lodging facilities in the form of rest room will be provided in the proposed new domestic departure building. The project is likely to be completed within 30 months from the date of award of the work.

Privatisation of Airports

4301. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRIMATI SHAYAMA SINGH :
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have a fresh review of its decision to privatise some of the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bangalore and Hyderabad airports are likely to be constructed as per international status in joint venture;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have been consulted for the projects; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The proposals for construction of new airport of international standards at Bangalore and Hyderabad were initiated by the State Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, respectively. Union Government have approved the proposals.

Own Your Wagon Scheme

4302. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have decided to link "Own Your Wagon Scheme" (OYWS) lease charges to the prime lending rate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Wagons, those have been leased under the OYWS;

(d) whether this scheme has not come upto expectations; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to modify the scheme ?

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

(b) Payment of lease charges has been linked to Medium Term Prime Landing Rate, Corporate Tax and depreciation benefit in order to bring it in tune with actual money market conditions.

(c) 16470 wagons (in terms of four wheeler) have been leased to Indian Railways upto February, 2000.

(d) and (e) The response to the scheme has been moderate. However, based on customer feedback, the scheme is fine-tuned from time to time in order to make it more attractive. This is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Construction of Rail-Cum-Road Bridge over River Ganga in Bihar

4303. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether clearance has been given for the construction of rail-cum-road bridge over river Ganga between Mungher and Khagaria districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, the amount released to complete this project and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The final location survey including model studies have been taken up to determine the technical parameters and the firm cost and Rate of return. Once this becomes available, the project would be processed for clearances from Planning Commission, Expanded Board and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

(b) and (c) An expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs has been incurred upto 31-3-2000 on this survey. A provision of Rs. 2 crores has been made in Budget 2000-2001.

[English]

Air Fare Concessions by Indian Airlines

4304. SHRI RAMAKANT ANGLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of fare concessions admissible to senior citizens, sportsmen, handicapped and school/college students while travelling by Indian Airlines flights as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Indian Airlines is presently offering 50% discount on the economy class Indian National Rupee (INR) fare component for travel on Domestic Sectors to senior citizens, students, blind persons and persons suffering from 80% and above loco-motor disability. To the sportsmen hailing from North East, a discount of 25% on the normal economy class fare component is given. The discount is offered for travel between Calcutta and Guwahati on one hand and a station within the North Eastern Region on the other hand.

Information about Security Threats to Trains in J and K

4305. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Director General of J and K police had informed the Railway Board in the recent past about security threats to trains leaving Jammu Tawi Railway Station;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the other proposals sent by the J and K police for railway security; and

(d) the reaction of her Ministry thereon ?

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

(b) A work for Provision of CCTVs at Jammu Tawi and Attari Railway Stations costing Rs. 37.36 lacs and another for Construction of barracks for GRP at Jammu and Ghagwal costing Rs. 41.54 lacs each have been sanctioned.

(c) The J and K police had asked Railway to provide (i) illumination for railway tracks from Jammu Tawi to Ghagwal (ii) pathway for security patrolling of railway tracks, and (iii) barbed wire fencing from Jammu Tawi to Ghagwal.

(d) The J and K police has been advised to get these works sanctioned by the J and K Government and arrange for necessary funds before any work is undertaken by the railway.

[Translation]

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas

4306. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Ministers of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts included under D.W.C.R.A. so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of districts likely to be included under the said scheme during 1999-2000; and

(c) the achievements made under the said scheme during each of the last three years. State-wise ?

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

(b) DWCRA has ceased to exist with effect from 1.04.1999. A new comprehensive Self Employment Programme-Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)-has been launched with effect from 1.04.1999.

(c) A statement showing the number of persons benefited under DWCRA, State-wise, during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is enclosed at Annexure.

Statement

State-wise progress of DWCRA during 1998-99.

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	Central Releases (Rs. Lakhs)	State Releases (Rs. Lakhs)	No. of Groups Formed	Central Releases (Rs. Lakhs)	State Releases (Rs. Lakhs)	No. of Groups Formed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2914.29	217.54	2557	362.25	362.25	7178
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.21	0.38	20	12.48	14.74	154
3.	Assam	554.78	62.51	369	136.16	74.75	1256
4.	Bihar	620.08	786.87	4834	226.78	236.10	2354
5.	Goa	1.51	1.51	12	3.15	4.04	36
6.	Gujarat	705.11	697.50	1365	127.64	193.16	1375
7.	Haryana	58.73	21.17	366	63.38	63.38	553
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28.36	17.83	295	30.87	30.24	348
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	30.01	27.27	659	59.97	60.00	695
10.	Karnataka	635.28	164.24	1364	169.33	169.34	2243
11.	Kerala	131.66	136.49	1397	88.83	88.83	1355
12.	Madhya Pradesh	358.22	206.51	3290	332.89	268.38	2717
13.	Maharashtra	453.33	300.00	2763	239.15	239.15	2324
14.	Manipur	4.10	NR	0	12.22	15.00	247
15.	Meghalaya	21.92	12.42	33	16.13	26.43	261
16.	Mizoram	7.71	3.78	25	8.56	8.57	136
17.	Nagaland	12.00	0.00	25	8.19	0.00	104
18.	Orissa	603.80	142.08	2379	179.13	178.66	1730
19.	Punjab	28.74	44.30	338	60.61	62.29	529
20.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	90	7.56	75.00	360
21.	Sikkim	5.42	10.50	138	10.96	10.50	126
22.	Tamil Nadu	543.41	245.83	2292	245.79	245.83	2041
23.	Tripura	68.04	67.91	220	11.34	10.32	182

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24. Uttar Pradesh		1504.57	559.98	9205	491.27	472.50	6098
25. West Bengal		114.28	45.23	1440	82.03	140.74	1986
Union Territories							
1. A and N Islands		1.26	-	14	5.29	-	28
2. D and N Haveli		0.00	-	0	0.00	-	0
3. Daman and Diu		0.00	-	0	0.00	-	0
4. Lakshadweep		0.00	-	6	0.00	-	6
5. Pondicherry		0.00	-	7	0.00	-	14
Total		9416.79	3771.84	35503	2991.96	3050.20	36436

[English]

Insertion of Automatic Renewal Clause in Bookstall Agreements

4307. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the automatic renewal clause was inserted in all the bookstall agreements as per letter No. 61/TG.III/461 dated December 7, 1961;

(b) whether the said automatic renewal clause was withdrawn from all the bookstall agreements in consultations with the Ministry of Law as per the Letter No. 66/TG.II/461 dated February 4, 1967; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not renewing all the bookstall agreements for period of 9 years as in case of M/s A.H. Wheeler and Co. ?

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

(c) The renewal of bookstall agreement for a period of 9 years w.e.f. 1.1.1967 was granted to M/s A.H. Wheeler and Co. and M/s Higginbothams Ltd. in view of their past background. In case of other bookstalls, licence is renewed after every five years, which is in tune with other catering/vending licences on Indian Railways.

Vacant Posts of Group 'D' Reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs

4308. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Group 'D' posts reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward

Classes lying vacant in Northern Railway in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) since when these posts are lying vacant;

(c) whether the candidates sponsored by the Employment Exchanges have been waiting for long for their interviews; and

(d) if so, the time by which all formalities regarding selection of candidates are likely to be completed ?

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

Watershed Development Schemes

4309. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for financial year 1999-2000 for watershed Development Scheme in Jammu and Poonch area and the amount sanctioned under the scheme;

(b) whether the scheme achieved the target;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no scheme titled as "Watershed Scheme". However, the Department of Land Resources is implementing an Integrated Wastelands Development Programme for the development of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed basis. Under this programme, state-wise allocation of funds are not made but individual projects submitted by State Governments are processed for sanction. No project was

sanctioned under this programme in Jammu and Poonch districts during the financial year 1999-2000.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Inferior Quality Steel Used in Bullet Proof Vehicles

4310. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bullet proof steel fabricated by SAIL in collaboration with DRDO and extensively used for bullet proof vehicles has proved a failure;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The bullet proof (BP) steel from SAIL, extensively used in fabrication of bullet proof vehicles, has not proved a failure. However, certain samples of BP steel had failed in ballistic test firing. Material from such batches, where failures took place, was not released for fabrication.

(c) SAIL has taken appropriate measures to resolve the quality control problems arising out in the production.

Railway Projects in Gujarat

4311. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various railway projects in Gujarat that were included in the railway budget but could not be taken up either due to non-availability of resources or diversion of funds during the last five years;

(b) the reasons for diversion of funds; and

(c) the extent of loss suffered by the Government as a result of escalation cost in each project separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No such project in Gujarat is pending at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Flights on Guwahati-Dimapur- Tezpur Sector

4312. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for increasing the frequency of flights between

Guwahati-Dimapur-Tezpur sector from twice to four days in a week; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) At present, no airline is operating on Guwahati-Dimapur-Tezpur route. Alliance Air operates a twice weekly flight on Calcutta-Tezpur-Dimapur-Calcutta and twice weekly flight on Jorhat-Dimapur-Calcutta routes. Requests have been received for increasing the frequency of flights from Tezpur, connecting Guwahati-Calcutta-Delhi.

(b) Airlines are free to connect to any place/operate on any route in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations on specified category of routes.

Training of Railway Employees Abroad

4313. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Railway employees are sent for short duration training courses/learning trips etc. every year to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the number of such employees sent every year since 1990 cadre-wise viz. Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'; and

(c) the number of officers who have been sent for foreign training/assignment trips for more than once ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Railway employees are sent abroad for training/short duration courses/learning trips;

(b) The number of employees sent abroad during 1990-1999 is as under :-

Year	Group			
	'A'	'B'	'C'	'D'
1	2	3	4	5
1990	155	6	52	Nil
1991	139	12	35	Nil
1992	149	25	49	Nil
1993	99	5	6	Nil
1994	101	1	2	Nil
1995	225	10	61	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
1996	139	3	21	Nil
1997	142	7	43	Nil
1998	86	19	124	Nil
1999	147	9	33	Nil

(c) during 1990-99, 127 officers have been sent for foreign training more than once and 6 officers went on assignment trips abroad more than once.

**Funds for Extension of Raniganj
Rail Line upto Bankura**

4314. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allocate funds for extension of railway line from Raniganj to Bankura which has already been completed upto Mejia M.T.P.S. in the district of Bankura, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Acute constraint of resources.

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs

4315. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of SCs/STs and OBCs provided with jobs in his Ministry/Departments/autonomous bodies and subordinate offices under his Ministry during each of the last three years, year-wise/category-wise;

(b) the number of SCs/STs and OBCs posts lying vacant in each of the above offices as on March 31, 2000; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken for filling up these vacant posts ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Withdrawal of Sugar Import
from O.G.L.**

4316. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to withdraw sugar import from O.G.L.;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal before the Government to withdraw imports of sugar from O.G.L.

[Translation]

**Achievements made under National
Wasteland Development Board**

4317. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements made by the National Wasteland Development Board during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the projects in Bihar assisted/ approved by the Board during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the present activities being performed by the National Wasteland Development Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The mandate of the National Wastelands Development Board in the Department of Land Resources is to develop non-forest wastelands on sustainable basis for increasing bio-mass availability, especially fuel wood and fodder. For this purpose, financial assistance is released under the following schemes for development of wastelands :-

- i. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)
- ii. Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies.
- iii. Technology Development, Extension and Training (TDET).
- iv. Investment Promotional Scheme (IPS)
- v. Wastelands Development Task Force (WDTF)

The assistance provided for the projects under the above schemes during the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details of financial assistance provided for sanctioned projects in Bihar during the last three years are given Scheme-wise in the enclosed Statement-II

(c) While the Scheme of Wastelands Development Task Force has been wound up and the Scheme of Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies has been transferred to CAPART, the other three Schemes are continuing.

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of the State	Amount released (Rs. in crore) 1997-98 to 1999-2000			
		IWDP	TDET	Support to NGOs/ Voluntary Agencies	IPS
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.06	5.54	0.06	0.07
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.09			
3.	Assam	2.59	0.04		
4.	Bihar	0.38	0.33	0.12	
5.	Delhi		0.20		
6.	Gujarat	13.45	0.50	0.01	0.02
7.	Haryana	2.46	4.59	0.01	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11.84	1.55		
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.36		1.58	
10.	Karnataka	16.55	0.19	0.05	
11.	Kerala	1.19	0.26	0.20	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14.84	0.29	0.10	
13.	Maharashtra	6.60	0.26	0.05	0.02
14.	Meghalaya	0.65	0.01		
15.	Manipur	5.88			
16.	Nagaland	8.50	0.02		
17.	Orissa	11.53	0.31	0.04	
18.	Punjab	0.14	5.53		
19.	Rajasthan	11.96	1.90	0.03	0.02
20.	Sikkim	6.32			
21.	Tamil Nadu	9.43	0.40	0.22	0.15
22.	Tripura	0.70			
23.	Uttar Pradesh	37.90	0.25	0.20	

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	West Bengal		0.05	0.06	
Total		196.42	22.22	2.73	0.28
25.	CAPART	2.50	NIL	3.90	NIL
GRAND TOTAL		198.92	22.22	6.63	0.28

As regards the Scheme of WDTF, it was set up with the objective of providing disciplined force for regeneration of wastelands through afforestation including in situ soil and moisture conservation etc. in the ravines of Chambal in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh. During the last three years, funds to the tune of Rs. 2.98 crores were released for this purpose. The Task Force has been wound up on 31.12.1999.

Statement-II

Annexure-II referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4317 due for reply on 20.4.2000

Name of the Scheme	Funds released (Rs. in crore) (1997-98 to 1999-2000)
i. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme	0.38
ii. Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies.	0.12
iii. Technology Development, Extension and Training.	0.33
iv. Investment Promotional Scheme	Nil
v. Wastelands Development Task Force	Nil

Employees in Air India

4318. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 700 employees per aircraft are working in Air India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees working with other International Airlines like British Airways, Air France, Emirates etc.; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce the number of employees in Air India and make it viable ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Based on the fleet strength of 26 aircraft of Air India, the number of employees per aircraft is 686. The number of employees vis-a-vis the number of aircraft in Air is high because this is hardly any outsourcing or service subsidiaries and fleet augmentation has not taken place.

(c) The details are as under :

Name of Airlines	Number of employees
British Airlines	64051
Air France	55747
Emirates	5662

(d) Air India has taken following steps for rationalising man power in order to reduce staff cost and make it viable :-

(i) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished; (ii) Two voluntary schemes have been notified viz. shorter working week scheme and leave without pay/allowances scheme for a period of two years extendable upto five years; (iii) Rolling back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years; (iv) Redeployment of employees

from non-operation to operation areas. (v) freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories.

[English]

Implementation of Projects under NCES

4319.SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any projects of NCES in Andhra Pradesh are under implementation;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and results achieved by it;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start new projects in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (d) The details of various non-conventional energy projects under implementation and new projects likely to be taken up in the State of Andhra Pradesh are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of major non-conventional energy projects under implementation and new projects likely to be taken up in the State of Andhra Pradesh

S.No.	Sources/Systems/Projects	Projects under implementation	Projects likely to be taken up
1.	Small Hydro Power	22 projects of 11.15 MW	14 projects of 34.20 MW
2.	SPV Power Plants	1 project of 100 kWp	Nil
3.	Biomass Power/Co-generation	19 projects of 118.91 MW	Nil
4.	Wind Power	Nil	13 projects of 44 MW
5.	Energy Parks	1 project	Nil
6.	Biomass Gasifier	14 projects of 1200 kWe	Nil
7.	Waste to Energy Programmes	1 projects (phase-II) of 105 tons fuel pellets per day capacity and 1 biomethanation plant of 3000 cubic meter biogas per day from solid waste.	

kW = Kilowatt

kWp = Kilowatt peak

kWe = Kilowatt electrical

SPV = Solar Photovoltaic

Procurement of T-90 Tanks

4320. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the matter of procuring T-90 Tanks from Russia stands at present;

(b) whether persistent and recurring technical problems arise in the engine of Arjun Tanks;

(c) if so, whether the purchase of T-90 tanks is the replacement for Arjun tanks; and

(d) if so, the extent to which T-90 tanks are comparable with Arjun tanks ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Price negotiations are in progress.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

Pending Railway Projects

4321. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have submitted the action taken notes on the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in their third report (1998-99) on Union Government appropriation accounts (Railways) 1996-97 regarding faulty budgeting and financial management leading to multiple cases of excess expenditure, failure to execute projects and attain targets, surrender of unutilized funds etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Action Taken Notes have been submitted to PAC Branch, Lok Sabha Secretariat on 14.01.2000 on recommendation nos. 43 to 52 pertaining to the Ministry of Railways made by the Public Accounts Committee in their third report (1998-99) on Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Railways) 1996-97.

(c) Does not arise.

Communication Traffic at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus at Mumbai

4322. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that railway's telephone exchange at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai under Central Railway carries heavy communication traffic as all the 7 satellite exchanges are routed through it and at peak hours, the connection are not easily available;

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

(c) the immediate steps taken by the Government to augment the exchange and provide adequate funds for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is true that Railway Telephone exchange at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai under Central Railway handles heavy telecommunication traffic. Adequate number of junction lines were earlier provided between Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus telephone exchange and other 7 satellite exchanges in Mumbai area to handle peak hour traffic. However, with continuously growing demand of Telephone traffic and additional telephone lines, a work for augmentation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai telephone exchange including provision of additional junction lines costing Rs. 1.0 crore has been included in Works Programme 2000-2001. Adequate funds would be allotted for early execution of the work.

[Translation]

Constitution of Hindi Advisory Committee

4323. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Hindi Advisory Committee has been constituted in her Ministry;

(b) if so, whether meetings are being convened;

(c) if not, the time by which it would be constituted;

(d) Whether a high-level committee has been constituted to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Year of the Official Language Hindi;

(e) if so, the names of the Hindi supporters appointed thereon and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) Whether the Ministry of Railways has been considered as the sole model for propagating progressive use of Hindi;

(g) if so, whether it has conducted celebration of Golden Jubilee Year accordingly, and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Member Staff, Railway Board and Ex-officio Secretary Government of India has been constituted for this purpose.

(e) Since the programme of the Golden Jubilee Year was based on the suggestions given by the non-official members of the Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti in its meeting held under the chairmanship of the Minister for Railways, it was not found necessary to co-opt any outside member in the above committee.

(f) Although the Ministry of Railways has been doing its best to promote the use of Hindi in the Railway offices, it does not consider itself the sole model for propagating progressive use of Hindi.

(g) However, Ministry of Railways is observing the Golden Jubilee Year in a fitting manner.

(h) A statement is attached indicating the outline of important activities in the Golden Jubilee Year of Rajbhasha.

Statement

1. Production of TV Serial on "Rail and Hindi".
2. Running RAJBHASHA COACH all over India to convey the message of composite culture of India through Hindi as link language.
3. Publication of a special Rajbhasha Calendar/sticker/Letter heads etc.
4. Organisation of Railway Official Language Exhibition on the occasion of India International Trade Fair.
5. To arrange writing of books in Hindi on the following topics :
 - 5.1 "Bhartiya Rail Ke Itihas Ke Sunahare Panne".
 - 5.2 "Rail aur Hindi Sahitya".
 - 5.3 "Rail aur Puratatva"
 - 5.4 "Rail aur Vigyan".
6. Efforts to make bilingual Railway Website.
7. Efforts to make bilingual Railnet.

8. Efforts to make available technical glossary in respect of Indian Railways to the internet.

9. Organisation of national level seminars on Technical Subjects in Hindi.

10. Special Action Plan to promote the progressive use of Hindi in Railway Offices.

Rural Sanitation Programmes

4324. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
DR. GIRIJA VYAS :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in different parts of the country developed as a model village under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme during the last two years and proposed to be developed during 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) the fund allotted for the purpose during the above period, State-wise;

(c) the number of such villages proposed to be developed specially in Aurangabad (Maharashtra); and

(d) the time by which these villages are likely to be developed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Nine villages of Kerala were approved as model villages under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Programme (CRSP) during the last two years. The CRSP has been restructured w.e.f. 1-4-99. The allocation-based programme is being phased out gradually by 2002. Hence, it will not be possible to consider any new model village proposals during 2000-2001.

(b) No separate allocation for model village is done State-wise. However, an amount of about Rs. 2.13 crore was released to Government of Kerala as Central share for the nine proposals.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the Government of Maharashtra, there is no proposal to develop a Model Sanitation Village in the district of Aurangabad.

[English]

Rural Development Schemes

4325. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Rural Development Schemes sent by the U.T. Administration of Daman and Diu during the last three years;

(b) the details of the financial and administrative approval granted to the schemes; and

(c) the present status of the each scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) Union Territory Administration of Daman and Diu has not sent any Rural Development scheme during the last three years for approval of the Union Government.

Joint Venture for Laying Optic Fibres

4326.DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

a) the number of Memoranda of Understanding for telecom joint venture were signed between RITES and private companies for laying optic fibres between Chennai and Delhi, Delhi and Mumbai in the past;

b) the details thereof including the terms or salient features of the MoUs;

c) whether it was approved by Railway Board before signing the Memorandum of Understanding;

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

e) whether any review of memorandum of Understanding was ordered;

f) if so, details thereof; and

g) the steps are being taken by the concerned to speed up the laying the optical fibres and the time by which the whole Project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (g) RITES had signed a general Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with M/s. Global Tele Systems, USA on 3.10.97 for exploring the possibility of doing telecom business jointly by utilising Railways' right of way. This MOU was of a general nature and no specific provision was made in it for laying optical fibre cable between Chennai and Delhi or Delhi and Mumbai. The MOU lapsed on 1.5.98 because M/s. Global Tele Systems did not show any further interest in the matter.

RITES signed another MOU with M/s. BPL on 31.3.99 for laying optical fibre cables between Mumbai-Chennai with connecting links to Bangalore and Hyderabad. Salient points of this MOU were :-

(i) RITES and M/s BPL were to jointly execute the above work.

(ii) Spare telecom capacity created by OFC network, after fully meeting Railway's requirements, was to be commercially exploited.

(iii) RITES and M/s BPL were to hold equity in the joint venture in the ratio of 51:49, with RITES having higher (51) equity share. The equity ratio was later to be changed to 50:50 with a condition that control of management of jointing venture would be with Ministry of Railways.

(iv) 20% of net profit to be generated was to be given to Ministry of Railways.

(v) Final joint venture agreement was to be cleared by the Board of Directors of RITES and M/s. BPL.

(vi) Preparatory work was to start after signing of MOU, and

(vii) Unresolved disputes, if any, were to be settled as per Arbitration Act.

RITES signed the MOU with M/s. BPL after taking approval of its Board of Directors. As the MOU was only an understanding between RITES and M/s. BPL in connection with laying of optical fibre cable on Mumbai-Chennai route after forming a joint venture, no approval for signing the MOU was taken from Railway Board. Formation of joint venture, however, needs approval of Ministry of Railways and the same was not given because Ministry of Railways, in the meantime, took a policy decision to build a nation-wide broadband telecom and multi-media network by utilising Railway's right of way' by laying optical fibre cable along 62,800 route kms. of Railway track to facilitate- (a) modernisation of Railway's operational, safety and signalling systems; (b) supplement national telecom infrastructure thereby spurring growth of telecom, internet and IT-enabled services in all parts of country, especially rural and backward areas located in vicinity of Railway track; and (c) generate badly needed revenue for implementation of Railways development and safety enhancement schemes. Since these objectives were not being achieved through piecemeal and fragmented approach of allowing RITES and other Railway PSUs to lay optical fibre cable on smaller routes like Chennai-Mumbai, Ministry of Railways did not approve RITES' proposal for formation of a joint venture with BPL. To implement the broadband telecom and multi-media network expeditiously, Railways have taken steps to setup a professionally managed venture exclusively for building

the network and marketing the telecom. capacity and value-added IT services.

Pak Activities in Border Areas

4327. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :
SHRI ABDUL HAMID :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan's military activities along the Punjab-Rajasthan-Kutch border have increased in recent days following the Indian Army and Air Force's combined 'war exercise' in the desert sector in February; and

(b) if so, the preventive measures being taken by the Government to tackle the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Certain military activities and troop movements, readjustments and reinforcements on the Pakistani side opposite Punjab, Rajasthan and Kutch/ creek in Gujarat have been reported.

All appropriate measures continue to be taken to deal with any situation.

[Translation]

Adoption of Historical Monuments

4328. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Public Sector Undertaking has shown interest in adopting a historical monument from each State and the Union Territory with a view to participating in conservation and upkeep of the historical monuments of India and has also allocated any grants for this purpose;

(b) if so, the names of the historical monuments which have been sought to be adopted alongwith the names of the Public Sector Undertaking which has made proposal in this regard and the grant allocated so far for this purpose;

(c) whether any other Public Sector Undertaking has shown any interests or has made any proposals in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has shown interest towards funding the maintenance/development of some centrally protected monuments through the National Culture Fund. No funds have been allotted so far.

The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has identified the following centrally protected monuments for the purpose :-

1. Qutab Minar, New Delhi
 2. Khajuraho, Chattarpur, Madhya Pradesh
 3. Hampi, Bellary, Karnataka
 4. Nalanda, Bihar
 5. Rani-Ki-Vav, Patan, Gujarat
 6. Elephanta Caves, Raigad, Maharashtra
 7. Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
 8. Vattakottai Fort, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.
- (c) No, Sir.
(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Packages for Domestic Tourists

4329. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had prepared a special package for the domestic tourists in consultation with the State Governments and ITDC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ITDC has also promoted a number of packages for domestic tourists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which these packages by both States as well as ITDC has helped the development in increasing the domestic tourists ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism provides promotional support to tour packages prepared by State Governments and ITDC.

ITDC tour packages include Family Holiday Package, Students Package, Senior Citizen Package, Grand Heritage Tour, the Baudha Homage Tour and Special Rail Packages etc. State/U.T. Govts. of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Goa, Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands etc. are also having their own package tours within their States.

(c) to (e) ITDC has also promoted a number of packages in the "Holiday Bonanza for Domestic Tourists" which include Coach Tours, Discovery of India-Students Package, Gateway of India, Jai Jawan Package and For The Young At Heart Package. Tour packages prepared by

both the State tourism departments and ITDC has helped in the development and increase and domestic tourism. Estimated domestic visits to various States and Union Territories during the last three years is given below :-

Year	Domestic Tourists
1997	15,98,77,008
1998	16,69,27,910
1999	17,55,54,561

[Translation]

Hotel Industry in the Field of Information Technology

4330. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hotel industry of the country is planning to enter into the information technology and Media entertainment-sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement have been signed with any foreign company in this regard;

(d) if so; the details thereof; and

(e) the quantum and type of advantage is likely to be accrued to hotel industry after entering into this field ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The hotel industry is mostly a private sector activity and as such the individual hotels are constantly making efforts to upgrade their facilities by entering into agreements with major global players for using Information Technology. However, hotels are generally not involved in Media entertainment sector.

The activities include, providing hotel information on the Internet, Online Reservations through Internet, development and creation of Web Sites and computerised Central Reservation Systems etc. which would result in increasing the efficiency in marketing the hotels and thus increase the occupancy of the hotels.

[English]

Passes to VVIPs for Entry to Airport

4331. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of passes at present issued to VVIPs or VIPs to enter into the International airports;

(b) whether after the hijacking of IC-814, Government proposed to withdraw these passes;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefore and the category from whom these passes are likely to be withdrawn;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enhance the security at airports instead of withdrawing passes from VIPs and VVIPs; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Total number of passes issued to the staff of VVIPs/VIP is 413 for facilitation of VVIPs/VIPs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Government has taken the following measures to enhance security at the airports.

(i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in place of State Police for security duties at the operational airports in a phased manner.

(ii) Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry into sterile area has been tightened. Ladder point secondary frisking has been introduced.

(iii) Strict control on access to the airports.

(iv) Deployment of Sky Marshals on flights at random basis as an added safety precaution.

(v) Raising of the perimeter wall to the prescribed height at all the operational airports.

(vi) Replacement of old X-Ray machines and installation of new colour X-Ray machines wherever necessary so as to ensure that atleast two X-Ray machines are available at every point.

(vii) Modernisation and upgradation of security related technological set up at the airports is being done in a phased manner.

Construction of Godowns at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai

4332. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of Central Warehousing Corporation, Mumbai had conducted a visit at Jawahar Lal Nehru Port, New Mumbai on July 28, 1999 to assess the progress of construction of godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the team has submitted its report to the Chairman, Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi;

(d) if so, the deficiencies pointed out by the team in its report in regard to completion of godowns at Dronagiri Node and misappropriation of Government funds provided for the scheme; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in the matter on the basis of said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (e) No team of CWC officials had conducted a visit at JN Port on 28.7.1999 to assess the progress of construction of godowns. However, one non-official Director had visited the site on 28.7.1999 and had written a letter to the Chairman, CWC. The observations made by him were examined in detail and no action was considered necessary.

Closing of Wagon India Limited

4333.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the Wagon India Limited; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Wagon India Limited is a Joint Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Industry. The issue of continuance or otherwise of Wagon India Limited is still under consideration.

Calcutta-Silchar Flights

4334.SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether flights from Calcutta to Silchar are most irregular;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) whether there is a demand to introduce more flights on Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati sector; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Requests have been received for augmenting air services in the North Eastern region. However, airlines are free to operate on any route in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route dispersal Guidelines which stipulate certain minimum operation on specific category of routes.

Second Airport at Mumbai

4335.SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken by the Review Committee regarding setting up of second airport near Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Committee is likely to submit its report to Ministry of Civil Aviation by end of April, 2000.

Review of Working of Consumer Courts

4336.SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting was recently conveyed by the President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) with the Presidents of the State Commissions and Secretaries of the Government in charge of Consumer Affairs to review the working of the Consumer Courts in the country;

(b) if so, the points discussed and decisions taken thereon; and

(c) the progress made in the implementation of the decision taken?

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

(b) Various issues were discussed in detail and the recommendations made include :-

(i) The National Commission will exercise its administrative control over the State Commissions. The State Commissions will furnish data regarding disposal of cases by themselves and the District Forums to the National Commission and State/Central Governments.

- (ii) The State Commissions will make all efforts to ensure that District Forums function more effectively to deliver quick justice to the consumer grievances.
- (iii) Vacancies in the consumer courts be filled up on time and adequate infrastructural facilities be provided by the States and U.T.s.,
- (iv) Unnecessary adjournments be avoided, clubbing of cases be adopted for quick disposal and consumers courts to function on all working days.
- (v) Members of the consumer courts may be appointed on whole-time basis;
- (vi) National Commission/State Commissions will draw up uniform procedure for processing of complaints,
- (c) The recommendations of the meeting have been forwarded to the State Governments, etc. for consideration and implementation.

Purchasing by NCCF

4337. SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the purchase amounting to Rs. 343 lakhs made by NCCF during 1994-95 to 1998-99 was allowed in terms of Department of Personnel and A.R.'s O.M. No. 14/4/80-welfare dated July 14, 1981 without undergoing the codal formalities of inviting tenders;
- (b) if so, the details of such authorization; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the erring officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The NCCF has denied that they have made purchase amounting to Rs. 343 lakhs during 1994-95 to 1998-99 with regard to supplies made to Government Departments. However, the Department of Personnel and Training had approved the NCCF as an authorised agency for supply to the various Government Departments vide their O.M. No. 14/1/88-Welfare Vol. II dated 11.4.94. The NCCF has further clarified that purchase of various goods are made by them in accordance with the purchase procedure laid in the organization.

- (b) The authorization from the Government is not required for purchase of goods by the NCCF.
- (c) Does not arise.

Attachment of more Coaches with Kannur-Thiruvananthapuram Express

4338. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase the coaches of Kannur-Thiruvananthapuram Express
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether recently the railway has replaced 1st Class coaches by AC 2 tier and 3 tier coaches in Kannur Express; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to augment the load of 6347/6348 Cannanore-Trivandrum Express as the train is running with maximum permissible load.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The first class coach of 6347/6348 Cannanore-Trivandrum Express has been replaced by an AC-3 tier coach with effect from 07.02.2000. This has been done to create an additional accommodation for 41 upper class passengers.

[Translation]

Rotting of Foodgrains

4339. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

- (a) whether the foodgrains in FCI godowns has got perished and its quantity has decreased due to various reasons during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the quantum of foodgrains got perished or decreased;
- (c) whether the Government have pondered over reasons for sub-standard quality of foodgrains and its decreasing quantity;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) the arrangements made by the Government for the utilization of foodgrains of sub-standard quality;

(f) whether adequate arrangements have been made in the godowns of FCI and Central Warehousing Corporation to store the forthcoming (wheat) crop; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Regular inspections at the time of procurement of foodgrains are carried out to check the quality of foodgrains. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been asked not to issue inferior quality of foodgrains for distribution under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Such stocks are disposed off through other channels such as tender sale, auction etc. with the approval High Level Committee and the Ministry. 'D' category Rice and Wheat stocks are also issued through normal channel after necessary upgradation through cleaning etc.

(f) and (g) FCI has adequate storage capacity (covered, hired and CAP) to accommodate the forthcoming wheat stock. Further, the field officers of FCI have been delegated full powers to hire additional storage capacity as and when required.

Construction of Warehouses

4340. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) the number of warehouses approved to be constructed in Bihar by the Central Warehousing Corporation;

(b) the names of the places in Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Katihar and Begusarai districts of Central Bihar where approved warehouses are to be constructed; and

(c) the time by which these warehouses are likely to be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) CWC has no plan to construct warehouses in State of Bihar in the year 2000-2001.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Pilferage and Theft of Foodgrains

4341. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI RASHID ALVI :

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

(a) whether there is heavy pilferage and theft of foodgrains in FCI godowns in collusion with staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Inquires have been conducted in this regard;

(d) If so, the details thereof and the time by which the inquires are likely to be completed;

(e) Whether the Investigation Agency has submitted any Interim Report in the past;

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(g) if not, the time by which the Interim Report is likely to be received;

(h) whether the Government have evolved any viable and sustainable strategy to reduce the pilferage and theft of foodgrains;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. In some of the cases, the security staff and the FCI officials were found to be negligent. However, no case of FCI staff being in collusion has come to notice.

(b) Year-wise details of theft during the last three years, are as under :

Amount (Rs.)			
Year	No. of cases	Involved	Recorded
1997-98	10	14,14,044	11,92,154
1998-99	18	7,02,924	4,76,075
1999-2000	22	8,15,558	87,848
Total	50	29,32,526	17,56,077

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) FIRs have been lodged with the police in these cases for investigation. Besides, FCI conducted departmental inquiries to ascertain the factual position. The disciplinary action has been taken against the negligent staff. In most cases, the departmental inquiries have already been completed while in some, they are still in progress.

(e) In certain cases, the police has submitted untraced/closed reports while in others, the police has submitted the charge-sheets in the Court and cases are pending trial.

(f) Where police could find the proof and culprits were caught, such cases are pending trial. For negligency, departmental action has been taken against the FCI staff.

(g) Police investigation and Court trials are in progress and their progress is monitored.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) For the security of the foodgrains, the FCI's watch-and-ward staff has been deployed. Besides the help of local police, home guards, state armed police, Central Industrial Security Force are being deployed.

(j) Not applicable.

Implementation of Weights and Measures Act, 1975

4342. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to strictly implement the Weights and Measures Act, 1975 in the Packed Milk Industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 made under the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 have provisions to regulate commodities in packaged form including "packed milk". The rules require the manufacture/packers to make some mandatory declarations on the package which are of importance to the consumers like : (i) name and address of the manufacturer/packer (ii) name of the commodity (iii) net quantity (iv) month and year of packing (v) retail sale price in the form MRP. . . . (Inclusive of all taxes). However any bottle containing liquid milk/liquid milk in pouch is exempted from the declaration of 'month and year of packing'. Declaration of 'retail sale price' is also exempted on bottle containing liquid milk. The Rules also prescribe certain tolerance with respect to quantity. The enforcement

of the provisions of the said Rules rests with the State enforcement machinery. Whenever any violation is detected, the State authority takes action in accordance with the provisions of the Rules.

[Translation]

Rotting of Rice

4343. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

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

(a) whether about 30 lakh tons of rice of "relaxed specification" is lying unclaimed as none of the consumers states accepted the inferior quality rice;

(b) if so, whether another 3 lakhs tons of Category 'd' rice being not fit for human consumption could not be released;

(c) if so, the manner in which Government propose to utilize these rice;

(d) whether the Government agrees that something is terribly wrong in food procurement, storage and distribution system; and

(e) if so, the steps taken against the official who are responsible for colossal losses to the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No Sir. Only 18.31 lakh tons of rice, out of 143.39 lakh tonnes procured under relaxed specification, was lying with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 1.3.2000. This rice is near to the Fair Average Quality (FAQ), well within PFA Standard and is being supplied to various States for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). However, some of the States have shown reluctance in accepting such rice particularly that procured in Punjab.

(b) and (c) As on 1.3.2000, 1.96 lakh tons of 'D' category rice was available with FCI which is fit for human consumption and issue under normal channel after necessary upgradation by cleaning. The 'D' category rice is disposed off through tender sale.

(d) No Sir. Foodgrains are procured in conformity with Uniform/Relaxed Specifications laid down by the Government, and are stored in a scientific manner in the godowns/CAP complexes. Foodgrains stocks conforming to PFA standards had free from insect infestation are issued to various State Governments for distribution under TPDS.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Open Court at New Delhi Railway Station

4344. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the holding of an Open Court at New Delhi Railway Station recently by a sitting Judge of Allahabad High Court and taking the Dy. Superintendent of the Station into the Court's custody;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry leading to such a situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) On 8.3.2000, 2802 Down Purushottam Express was detained at Platform No. 7 of New Delhi Railway Station, after start, due to Alarm Chain Pulling by personal Staff of Hon'ble Judge of Allahabad High Court due to non-allotment of berths to him. The investigation made has revealed the following :-

- (i) On 02-03-2000 Hon'ble Judge got his ticket booked at Passenger Reservation System (PRS) of Allahabad, from New Delhi to Allahabad for journey dated 8.03.2000 by 2802 Purushottam Express.
- (ii) The reservation of Hon'ble Judges are generally confirmed on requests sent by Railway Magistrate, Ghaziabad and Potocol Officer at Delhi. In the instant case, there was no intimation from either of these officers about the Hon'ble Judge's return journey from New Delhi to Allahabad.
- (iii) The Railway staff at Allahabad and New Delhi also failed to inform the concerned authorities regarding the journey of the VIP from New Delhi to Allahabad by 2802 Purushottam Express on 8.3.2000.
- (iv) The staff of Hon'ble Judge pulled the alarm chain and demanded that the train should not be started unless Hon'ble Judge is provided with reserved berth.
- (v) Hon'ble Judge was offered a berth in AC 3-tier with the promise to try to adjust him in AC 2-tier later on.
- (vi) Deputy Station Superintendent/New Delhi who reached the platform directed the Guard to move the train as it was jamming all movements for more than half an hour.

(vii) Hon'ble Judge advised Deputy Station Superintendent/New Delhi that he had committed contempt of Court and his charge was being served upon him right away. The learned Judge sat on the platform bench and started reading out his Judgement about the alleged Contempt of Court committed by Deputy Station Superintendent.

(viii) Deputy Station Superintendent touched the feet of the Judge and requested for forgiveness.

(ix) Deputy Station Superintendent was made to sign on a piece of paper, the contents of which he could not read.

(x) Thereafter, the learned Judge with his personal staff left the station.

(xi) The Guard of 2802 Purushottam Express, on arrival at Kanpur, lodged First Information Report (FIR) regarding alarm chain pulling at New Delhi.

Replacement of Escalator at Airports

4345. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANGA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to replace outdated escalators at the Airports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time schedule fixed for it ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The escalators which have completed their stipulated life span are proposed to be replaced by the Airports Authority of India within two years.

Selling of Inferior Quality Medicines by Super Bazar

4346. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Super Bazar has been selling inferior medicines and not those of multinationals;

(b) if so, the steps taken to sell medicines only from MNCs as has been done by the Kendriya Bhandar;

(c) whether any investigation in connection with procurement of medicines on inflated prices was conducted by the Vigilance Department of Super Bazar;

(d) if so, whether the proceedings have been concluded;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officials; and

(f) if not, the reasons for delay in concluding the proceedings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Super Bazar has informed that the medicines in retail are sold by the outlets of the Super Bazar on prescription demand and therefore it is not for the Super Bazar to decide whether to sell medicines of national/multinational brands. The Super Bazar has further informed that each of the firm from which the Super Bazar is buying medicines is duly licensed under Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

(c) to (f) The Super Bazar has informed that the matter was investigated by the Vigilance Department of the Super Bazar and on the basis of the report of Vigilance Department, Departmental action has been initiated against two officials of the Super Bazar.

**Audit of NCCF and Super Bazar
by C.A.G.**

4347. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

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

(a) whether C.A.G. is not auditing NCCF and Super Bazar as is done in respect of other autonomous bodies; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The NCCF and the Super Bazar, Delhi are both cooperative societies registered under MSCS Act '84. In terms of Section 67 of the MSCS Act, '84, the Central Registrar of Coop. Societies is responsible to get the statutory audit of all the Multi State Coop. Societies done in each year. This Department has, however, suggested/agreed for CAG audit for a period of 5 years from 1995-96 in respect of NCCF and for 5 years from 1994-95 in respect of Super Bazar, Delhi under Section 20 (ii) of the CAGs (Duties, Powers and Conditions of service) Act 1971.

Reorganisation of Security System

4348. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the views expressed by the former Chiefs of Defence services on reorganisation of the security system in view of Kargil intrusions have been examined; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Government has in view of the importance and sensitivity of the subject and after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and other relevant aspects decided that the national security system in its entirety be thoroughly reviewed by a Group of Ministers headed by the Home Minister with Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister as its members.

[English]

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1645/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Administration Report of the Cantonment Boards for the year 1998-99 (Hindi and English versions).
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1646/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Sunder Lal Patwa, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 204 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayats) Regulation, 1994 :-

- (i) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayats Accounts and Finance) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. 92/97 F.No. 3-16/96-PR in Andaman and Nicobar Gazette dated the 17th July, 1997.

[Shri A. Raja]

- (ii) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Grant-in-aid to Panchayati Raj Institutions) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. 25/97 F.No. 6-6 (1)/96-PR in Andaman and Nicobar Gazette dated the 19th February, 1997.
- (iii) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayat Administration) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. 131/97 F.No. 3-21/96-PR in Andaman and Nicobar Gazette dated the 19th September, 1997.
- (iv) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayats) (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Elections) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. F.No. 4-118/94-(Panch) in Andaman and Nicobar Gazette dated the 23rd March, 1995.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1647/2000]

(2) A copy each of the following Modifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 83 of the Lakshadweep Panchayats Regulations, 1994 :-

- (i) The Lakshadweep (Election to Panchayats) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. 5/15/94-PCS in Lakshadweep Gazette dated the 23rd January, 1995.
- (ii) The Lakshadweep Panchayats Business Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. 5/7/95-DOP in Lakshadweep Gazette dated the 19th February, 1997.
- (iii) The Lakshadweep Panchayat (Service) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. F.No. 7/3/97-DOP in Lakshadweep Gazette dated the 24th April, 1997.
- (iv) The Lakshadweep Panchayats (Grant-in-aid) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. F. No. 4/4/95-DOP in Lakshadweep Gazette dated the 24th April, 1997.
- (v) The Lakshadweep Panchayat Servants (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. 7/5/97-DOP in Lakshadweep Gazette dated the 24th April, 1997.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1648/2000]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 65 of the Goa, Daman and Diu Village Panchayats Regulation, 1962 :-

- (i) The Daman and Diu District Panchayat (Motion of No-Confidence against President-cum-Chief Counsellor and Vice-President-cum-Counsellor) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. DP/13/1996-97/20 in UT Administration of the Daman and Diu Gazette dated the 2nd May, 1997.
- (ii) The Daman and Diu District Panchayat Vice President-cum-Counsellor (Restriction on Powers and Functions) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. DP/99/1996-97/23 in UT Administration of Daman and Diu Gazette dated the 2nd May, 1997.
- (iii) The Daman and Diu District Panchayat Leave Travel Concession Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. DP/101/1996-97/24 in UT Administration of the Daman and Diu Gazette dated the 2nd May, 1997.
- (iv) The Daman and Diu District Panchayat (Leave of Absence in the Office of Members of District Panchayat) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. DP/106/1996-97/25 in UT Administration of Daman and Diu Gazette dated the 2nd May, 1997.
- (v) The Daman and Diu District Panchayat (Meetings) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. DP/52/1996-97/282 in UT Administration of the Daman and Diu Gazette dated the 29th October, 1996.
- (vi) The Daman and Diu District Panchayat (Accounts and Audit and Custody of Funds) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. DP/65/1996-97/291 in UT Administration of the Daman and Diu Gazette dated the 22nd November, 1996.
- (vii) The District Panchayat Daman and Diu Committee Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. DP/66/1996-97/403 in UT Administration of the Daman and Diu Gazette dated the 6th December, 1996.
- (viii) The Daman and Diu (Panchayats) (Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, President-cum-Chief Counsellor and Vice-President-cum-Counsellor) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. Law/DMN/88/95/78 in UT Administration of the Daman and Diu Gazette dated the 12th September, 1995.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1649/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Sharad Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1650/2000]

[English]

12.02 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

First Report

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of Estimates Committee (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Textiles-Sickness/Closure of Textile Industry.

[English]

12.02½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Action Taken Reports

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital) : Sir, I beg to present a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports :

- (1) Action Taken on 95th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha) relating to 'Integrated Rural Development Programme'.
- (2) Action Taken on 15th Report of PAC (11th Lok Sabha) relating to 'Irregular expenditure on local insulation of GI wire'

[Translation]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Third, Fourth and Fifth Reports

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khunti) : I beg to present a copy of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto :-

- (1) Third Report on Ministry of Urban Development-Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Delhi Development Authority and Housing facilities provided to them.
- (2) Fourth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development-Employment and financial assistance provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana.
- (3) Fifth Report on Ministry of Finance (Banking Division)-Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in State Bank of Patiala and credit facilities provided to them.

[Translation]

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Reports and Minutes

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : I beg to present the following Reports and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution :-

- (1) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.
- (2) Fifth Report on Demand for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

- (3) Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Sugar and Edible Oils, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

[English]

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Match Fixing in Cricket

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government is seriously alarmed by the recent revelations regarding match fixing in cricket specially in the context of the recently concluded series between India and South Africa. The Delhi Police, on the basis of information in its possession, has lodged FIR No. 111/2000 in this connection against Mr. Hansie Cronje and others. Keeping in view these developments, the Department of Sports summoned all the concerned agencies and officials to get an insight into the various facts of this particular case. The case is under investigation and the full dimension of this problem will only be apparent once the detailed investigation gets completed. However, the Department is keeping a watch on developments in this case on a regular basis. This investigation will require full support of the persons and agencies concerned. The Board of Control for Cricket in India has assured that it will extend its complete co-operation in this regard so that the culprits could be discovered. They are also agreeable to making the Chandrachud Report public.

Other than the specific FIR registered by the Delhi Police, the Government does not, at this stage, have any specific complaint against particular Indian cricketers or office-bearers of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. Allegations of a general nature are, however, being reported in the media. Nevertheless, the Government will, in all seriousness, initiate necessary legal measures against practices of match fixing on the basis of specific complaints that may be received, after appropriate inquiry and necessary investigation. The Government will take recourse to all legal measures to ensure that this menace is not only curbed but eliminated. It will not hesitate to order detailed investigation by any agency of the Government depending upon the gravity of the charges and allegations. Persons having specific information regarding malpractices should come forward with such information and they shall be provided adequate protection as required.

Sir, I also wish to inform the House that I have called a meeting with the office-bearers of the BCCI and other distinguished cricketers and sports administrators on 27th April, 2000. The meeting will discuss the current state of affairs in cricket and measures that need to be adopted to achieve higher standards in the game. In this regard, the cricketing fraternity also has a critical role to play which it must discharge.

I also place a copy of the Report submitted by Mr. Justice Y.V. Chandrachud to the BCCI, on the Table of the House. Thank you.

Also [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1651/2000]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, Sarvashri Kamal Nath, Kirit Sommaiya, Vilas Muttamwar, Shrimati Shyama Singh, Sarvashri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Ajoy Chakraborty and Vijay Goel Members of this House have given notices of their intention to call the attention of the Minister to the situation arising out of the alleged reports of match fixing racket involving South African players and Indian businessmen.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga) : Sir, I have also given a notice on the same subject. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Since, the Minister of Sports gave notice of making *suo motu* statement on the subject under Rule 372, the notices of Members for Calling Attention have not been allowed.

Normally, it is not our practice to permit clarifications on the statement of the Minister. However, as a special case, the Members who have given notices of Calling Attention on the subject will be allowed to seek one clarification each from the Minister after he has made his statement.

Now, Shri Kamal Nath.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Sir, I had also given a notice to speak on the same subject but my name has not been mentioned by you. I gave it, in fact, on the first day itself.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have mentioned the names only about the Calling Attention notices.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri E. Ahamed, please do not deviate now from the rule.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : If the hon. Minister is agreeable to a Calling Attention Motion. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri E. Ahamed, please sit down. Let me conduct the House.

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara) : Sir, I am surprised at the Minister's statement. He is saying that no complaint has been lodged. Was the racket unearthed by the Delhi Police on the basis of a complaint? You cannot expect result if your intention is to get to the bottom of this that you are going to wait for somebody to come and make a complaint. We have been asking that there should be an investigation. What has come out in the last couple of days? Charges are being made. Yesterday there was a press conference and a high official of the Cricket Control Board has made some serious charges on the ICC. This is not merely a matter which is confined to a match between India and South Africa. It has ramifications across our borders. The names of Sharjah and other countries are being mentioned. The names of players from Pakistan are also being mentioned. All kinds of investigating agencies have been involved. We are being told that the DRI, the Bombay Police and the Delhi Police are looking into this matter. The hon. Minister has said that South African Cricket Control Board and the South Africa Police are also looking into this matter. So, this is not a matter which is confined to Delhi Police alone. This is the first point that I want to make.

The second point is, it is not like saying "Please give me a specific complaint. Please show me evidence on the video. Please sign on affidavit or please lodge a FIR." It is a question of investigation and it is because of an investigation that the Delhi Police were able to unearth this racket. That itself constitutes a necessity for a ruthless investigation. Big and prominent names are being mentioned. Some very eminent cricketers' names are being mentioned. We do not want eminent cricketers to have a slur against them. They must either be made to come out clean or we must get to the bottom of this investigation. Similarly, other names are being mentioned as bookies. Their names are being mentioned as underworld dons. This is not a matter confined to a match between India and South Africa. The point I want to make is that it crosses various borders.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now you can come to your point.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Let me say all this. Otherwise, he will not understand.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please seek your clarification now.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : I have heard the hon. Minister and now let me say what I want to say. Yesterday when you were in the Chair, I said that this warrants a CBI inquiry. The hon. Minister says that he has called various

agencies. Is he the co-ordinating agency? Has he become the co-ordinating nodal point to deal with the Bombay Police, the CBI and the DRI? This is a matter of a specialised agency and Members on the other side and Members from here should ask for a CBI inquiry. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he agrees with the sense of this House if so does it not appear that the Government in a way is either trying not to give importance or the Government is trying to cover up this matter? You yourself are saying that there are many agencies involved. And when you yourself are calling meetings, why does not the hon. Minister simply request the appropriate Ministry that this investigation should be taken over by the CBI? Especially when internationally, everybody believes that India is doing all it can to unearth this racket.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister can take note of all the clarifications sought in the matter by all the hon. Members and give his reply to all those clarification at the end.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : The hon. Minister can even consult the Home Minister who is sitting here and it may assist him.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Shri Kamal Nathji has expressed his views that a thorough and complete inquiry must be conducted of each aspect of this episode by a specialised agency like C.B.I. or some other agency because the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Sports are involved in it. Alongwith it I would also like to state that in the month of March Additional Commissioner of Income Tax has disclosed that a former cricketer had disclosed Rs. 16 crore under voluntary Disclosure Income Scheme. Hence all these things should also be covered under the inquiry besides the role of mafias, dons and other Dubai based agencies which are involved in this betting business.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, I agree with the submission made by our hon. Colleague Shri Kamal Nath. There is a racket throughout the country. It involves the prestige of the country. . . .*(Interruptions)* The luxurious life style of the cricketers appear in the Press. . . .*(Interruptions)*

The other day the hon. Minister of Home Affairs had said-and it came in the Press earlier-that the Chandrachud Committee Report will not be made public. It is our view that that Report should be made public. . . .*(Interruptions)* The House has every right to know the contents of that Report. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is now a game of the industrial houses. The big businessmen are also coming into it and

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

the players are also connected with the conspiracy.
 . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, you have only to seek a clarification and not to give a speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : He has made an allegation against Shri Dalmiya, which is the President of the International Cricket Council. . . . (Interruptions)

The game is now controlled by the racketeers. It is now controlled by the bookies and the undesirable elements. . . . (Interruptions) I demand that the Minister should disclose who are the racketeers. It involves the prestige of the country. This should be disclosed elaborately. Everything should be found out and a proper inquiry should be made into it. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I have one humble request to make. Shri Kirti Azad is a cricketer. I am the best wicket keeper of Parliament. I must also be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I know that. I will give some more hon. Members an opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhol) : Until the investigations are complete, there should be a ban on playing cricket.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : A lot of people are involved in this. It should be banned. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want some more people to be involved? Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, there is a racket.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jos, let me hear him.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that it is not a small issue. Crores of people of the country especially the youth and children are also involved in it. As regard to the C.B.I., I do not understand as to what for it is wasting to start investigations? Hasn't it taken suo-moto cognizance of

any issue before it? The C.B.I. Investigation should take place on the basis of the facts which have emerged and it can also initiate a probe on its own.

Some of the players have declared huge amount under the VDIS of income tax department and there is a clause in it which states that the money so deposited relates to any criminal offence, then any proceedings can be initiated against a person. I do not understand as to why the revenue department of the Ministry of Finance is keeping quite on this issue? It also can take a suo-moto action on this matter. It is not a question of betting. The betting can even take place as to who would occupy the chair in the House at 12 O'clock. A person spent a lot of money in the elections of Rajya Sabha. When someone asked him as to how will you manage this big amount, then he replied that if I win then I will make up all the money through betting. Issue is not of cricket alone. If the some match is played between Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh or Delhi and Haryana then the country would not worry much. But the cause of concern for the entire country is that when two countries are pitted against each other where the prestige is at stake and if someone betray the country at such time then it tantamounts to an act of treason. A player representing his country is no less than a soldier, hence a case for an act of treason should be initiated against him. If a soldier commits a minor offence then he is court marshaled and if the national team is found involved in betting then it is not a fraud against the country alone but also against those who are involved in betting. It is a bungling against common people and not rich persons. Many a times a common man is involved. The maximum amount of money was involved in the betting in every elections in Chandni Chowk. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You ask your clarification.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : All right, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to ask pointed question. In such a matter, not only the Government but C.B.I. also should take a suo-moto cognizance and department of revenue should also initiated an inquiry in this matter and the case of treason should be initiated against those who are involved in match fixing while plying for their national team.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are two or three very well known cricketers in our country. I will also give them a chance to speak on this issue. One of them is a cricketer with whom I had also played.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Sir, the hon. Minister of Sports came out with a statement and I was a little

surprised because in the statement it was stated that there was no allegation of a specific nature. There have been statements coming out from a lot of international cricketers and those who have been the ex-Presidents of the Board. One was Shri Manoj Prabhakar. I have read his statement today where he said that if he was given protection, he was ready to name those Indian players who have been involved. What more do you need to really specifically know, when he is ready to name those people? I think, the Government should give him protection and they should have CBI investigating the entire House.

The other thing is one former President of the Board came out and said –

[Translation]

Betting takes place here. Every match is fixed. Earlier it was said that politicians are corrupt but now it is being said that the cricketers are corrupt. I have the experience of living in both the communities of cricketers as well as politicians.

[English]

I am very happy that I was a member of the World Cup Team in 1983. It happened in 1983.

[Translation]

Had it taken a few years back, I also would have been caught.

[English]

Where do I go? I am happy. I am still having to that Gold Cup which I earned properly. This is a criminal act. They said that they have links with the underworld too. If they have underworld links then, I see a long and a big tail into.

[Translation]

If you pay attention, there are many underworld gauge are based in Dubai. There are many people who are involved in such thing as provoking riots in Mumbai and spreading terrorist activities in Kashmir. This job is lucrative as well as easy for them. It will yield double benefit. You fix four persons and bet 4 Rs. crores over them and make Rs. 400 crores in turn and to whatever you like. There are many people about whom it is said that

[English]

They keep on funding the acts like train blasts. So, I feel that this is another very important matter. It has to be taken up. It is not only a matter of sports. Now, cricket is a religion. It is a passion for everybody.

[Translation]

I am also sitting in Parliament. The people ask even from me as to what is the score?

[English]

So, it is very specific. People talk about Chandrachud Committee. I do not understand what it means. In an inquiry, I may or may not agree or answer to the questions that I have been asked. But if there is a proper investigation and if investigation takes place, I am sure one can go ahead and see how much property one has. One can just see if the asset is proportionate to his income. So, they might as well go ahead with it.

[Translation]

You should conduct an investigation against one who has disproportionate property. The people say that all cricketers are thieves, they label everyone as thief it is not right.

[English]

If they say that every match is being fixed, I do not agree with it. Every Tom, Dick and Harry can come out with a statement and that is not right. I would like to be with the players because I do not think that matches are fixed by them. But if it is, then, I agree with Shri Vijay Goel, that they should be hanged. It is treason and there is no better thing to do.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : I would like to fully associate myself with the views expressed by my colleagues, Shri Kamal Nath and various other Members, especially a former cricketer of the eminence of Shri Kirti Azad.

I think that as lovers of sports, all of us are extremely appalled by the scandal that has hit it. Let me say in cricketering terms, that the credibility of the game has been hit for a six. This credibility has to be restored and the Government must take steps to restore the confidence, not only in the sports, but also in the rule of law. The Government must understand that to get to the bottom of this, whatever agency they use—the CBI or the Delhi Police—it must have the ability to probe this matter in the greatest of depth.

As Shri Kamal Nath said, this has ramifications which cross our borders. So, they must have the ability and the structure to be able to coordinate this probe with other agencies outside this country. So, this is what the Government has to keep in mind, since they have to get to the bottom of this so that they try and restore confidence in the sports as soon as possible. It is one of the most popular sports of India.

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

Sir, in the past few years, there has been a great commercialisation in sports, particularly in cricket. Crores of rupees are going into the coffers of the BCCI. I have been saying over and over again that officials in the BCCI should understand that there has to be a greater transparency, greater accountability and greater professionalism in their organisation. It is not good enough if some honorary members go there and look after the affairs in their spare time. The Doordarshan paid Rs. 300 crores or Rs. 400 crores for a television contract which it sub-contracted for about Rs. 600 crore. This is the volume of amount that we are talking about.

Though BCCI is an autonomous body, the Government must lay the law down to ensure that steps are taken to make their working transparent, to make their working accountable, and to infuse professionalism into the handling of the administration of the BCCI.

At the same time, I would like to say, that in the heat of the moment, let us not forget that there are a lot of players who are extremely honest and honourable. Therefore, every cricketer should not be treated with suspicion.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Every Tom, Dick and Harry makes an allegation.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Yes, that is why I associated myself with your remarks. Every cricketer cannot be treated with suspicion.

Let the principle be understood that the innocent has nothing to fear, but the guilty will surely be brought to book. That is the principle that has to be established.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, the Delhi Police's tape disclosures have provoked the entire world to find out what is happening now and what has happened in the past. With all responsibility at my command, I would like to submit that there are two aspects to it. One is gambling and fixing matches outside the law of the game and the other is functioning of the body itself. In India, fan-following for cricket is too much and a lot of money is involved in this sport. The cricketing profession has reached a level beyond anybody's imagination.

Similar things have happened in football in Europe and in some parts of Asia. These things did occur in the Olympic games also. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that I have negotiated a lot of international competitions as technical advisor for FIFA, including the last World Cup which was held in France. What I gathered is that if the organisation is strong,

through its own in-built mechanism, it can punish the culprits. That comes under the jurisdiction of the disciplinary committee of the respective organisations. The second aspect is that when the law of the land is violated, whether it is related to financial matters or crime, Government agencies come into operation. In that event the organisations do not interfere. These two aspects are getting mixed up.

Therefore, I would like to submit that no Government shall have any access to any kind of interference in the day-to-day functioning of the internal functioning of the organisations who are only answerable to their international bodies. In India they are answerable to societies with whom they are registered under the Registration of Societies Act.

Where there is a violation of law, like sending money or getting money or violation of FERA, the agencies of the Government, whether it is CBI or police, should become very firm in dealing with them. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, as MP, enjoys privileges only inside the House. But if I indulge in something which jeopardises the national interest, then I can be booked by the law and dragged to the courts. Parliament cannot stop that. I fully share that spirit. The same rule should be followed in this case also. Names are being mentioned day in and day out. I do not want to blacken every player. I remember, one player played a wonderful innings just after the death of his father in the recent World Cup.

I was shocked to know that his name was also taken by somebody in South Africa. It is most unfortunate. All the upcoming cricketers are getting panic. I would say that in the name of punishing the culprit, please do not destroy the reputation of the game as also the future of the upcoming players who have yet to see the light of the day. The hon. Minister can reply anything in his own competence but I would request him to at least see that the law enforcing agencies like the police, investigation departments and others keep track of all the information. At best, he can give a guideline.

Shri Scindia talked about the accountability. Any association is accountable only to its General Body and not to the Government. We are answerable to the Government when it gives us money. The Government can ask how much we have spent. But in the Societies Registration Act, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra will agree with me, we are accountable through our auditors to the General Body only. We are only answerable to the Government if it gives us money. If Government goes on probing in every association as to what fund they have got and how much they have spent, that is the end of the association. I would only like to submit that you take two principles on a different pedestal.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Associations are also not functioning properly. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Yes, I am coming to that.

[Translation]

You know as to what is the condition of sports association.

[English]

Why are they not answerable to the Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Hon. Minister of Sports has a right to ask the Olympic body and all other associations to submit him by a certain date their Annual Reports and their annual accounts.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Not only accounts, but they should also see whether they are as per the law of the country or not. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : They can give the guidelines. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : This is a different issue altogether. We are here talking about the match fixing. It is a criminal offence.

[Translation]

It should have been concluded with the remarks that it is an act of treason.

[English]

The hon. Member is diverting the issue. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I did not interfere when the hon. Member spoke. In the case of cricket in particular, I strongly feel that some cases require a probe to the highest extent, in whatever manner the law of the land permits. We all support that. The Government can make a guideline, fix a parameter, not only for the cricket board but all other associations who get money or the provisional price in the game, and ask them to submit the Annual Report with absolute accountability to the Government as to how they have used that money, whom they have offered and so on. I fully support it.

I feel that all the cricketers should not be clubbed in the same clout. Somebody talked about Kapil Dev having said yesterday that no international match should be played till the fixing is probed. This is not fair. In that case, the fate of the budding players will be sealed for one year. I do not approve that.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Shri Dasmunsi should not play cricket because his hands would come in danger.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I was only advised by Shri Pramod Mahajan that if I am handicapped in the House, it will be an advantage to me.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar) : Sir, we are speaking on the same subject for the last 25 minutes. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please resume your seat. I will tell you later. You do not know what is going on in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion should be hold over this issue. All the facts will emerge from it, those which should be investigated and those also which should not be.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, I had read the observations in advance. Those hon. Members who were absent have come first now. I am giving them a chance to speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We do not have any objection on it. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have sought a clarification and you wanted a reply. Similarly, others also want to speak.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : I just want to make one point. This House has already had a long discussion on what should and what should not have been done. There is definitely an internal and a very personal war going on in the Cricket Control Board. . . .(Interruptions)

Sir, I would like to state this fact to the hon. Home Minister that this morning we have got a phone call from the Chairman of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. He stated that he and his family have been getting phone calls from overseas as well as from India threatening them that if they made any statement which was correct on this episode, their family would be liquidated. They are under duress. I would expect the Home Minister to kindly take note of this serious situation. Similar phone calls are being given out to people who are keen to help in this investigation. An inquiry has been ordered and we would like the investigation to be brought to its logical conclusion. I would also request the Home Minister to place the report of the discussion he had with them later.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some things have been mentioned in the statement made by the hon. Minister. One thing, I would like to mention about the case registered against Cronje that for the last many years, the issue of match fixing has been raised in all the countries all over the world. It began in Pakistan, it took place in Australia, South Africa and England. The judicial inquiries against match fixing were conducted at different places but for the first time the proofs have been collected in this matter by Delhi Police. Not only did it collect the proof but also registered a case and tape recorded the conversation going on to fix the match and it was praised throughout the world. We have kept on condemning the Delhi Police over several matters but the work done by Delhi Police in this matter has been praised throughout the world. We should not forget this thing that Delhi Police has achieved a glorious feat by collecting the record related to are the criminals. Hence the question of handing over the case to C.B.I. was not raised. If the case is handed over the C.B.I. today then all the good work in this regard will come to nothing.

There are several other matters too. New facts are emerging daily. If the Government lays hands on something concrete then we should not hesitate from conducting an inquiry from any agency whether it be C.B.I., Interpol, RAW or Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We should certainly go to the depth of this matter.

[Translation]

But one thing I would certainly like to state that today it is time to settle score and take revenge. Today it is said that every cricketer is dishonest and every match is fixed. It is said that every member of the Board is corrupt. We were also Chairman of the Board, many persons are sitting here, when they were in the board, every thing was OK, but today all the members of the board have become corrupt. Today all the cricketers have become corrupt, today every match is fixed and every matter may be handed over to CBI and everybody may be handed over to CBI. I feel that this tendency is not good and it will harm us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your suggestion ?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : My suggestion is that we should not interfere into the matter which is being investigated by Delhi Police because they are doing well. Further whatever matter comes before us, we should go into the bottom of the facts and if necessary any other agency should be deployed for investigation.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : I agree with the opinion of the Members which they have expressed here. But I want to ask the Government of India as to will Government extradite all those persons found guilty during investigation whether they are members of the board or cricketer or foreigners or Mafia people who are doing business. I want a straight forward answer from the Government. You can not simply escape by saying that we do not have an extradition treaty with so and so country and we can not extradite them. Few days back, the people of Indian origin were attacked in South Africa when this matter came into light. I would like to know as to what is role of the Government regarding this and has our Government raised this matter with anybody there. Just now Madhav Rao Scindiaji has told that there are many cricketers. Victory and defeat is the normal course of sports and Games which is a different issue, but it is dangerous to gamble with the sentiments of India. When we had achieved victory in Kargil conflict, people had also celebrated alongwith the soldiers. But this incidence is a setback to the country. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that, as Dasmunsiji has also said, that there are good cricketers also like Sachin Tendulkar.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please give your suggestion.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : What is being done by the Government to extradite to India those persons who are involved in this case ? Till now, none of the previous Government, not even the present Government had been able to extradite the culprits involved in Mumbai explosion. We feel aggrieved. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is not present here, he had started the discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Rawaleji, you please give us your suggestions.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I am saying that only. Will the Government extradite them from foreign countries. ?

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : There are one or two observations that I would like to make before I submit my suggestion.

Cricket is one sport which is not within the ambit of the Indian Olympic Association. It is not affiliated to it. Neither does it depend on the Government of India for anything excepting permission to travel abroad. Since the days of Kerry Packer, when cricket became commercialised, it has been sweeping everything before it. All the other sports in India today are dead. Hockey, football, rowing, basketball, table tennis, tennis are all dying because cricket has manipulated and is controlling the entire TV sponsorship.

I, as the then I and B Minister, was a victim in the Rajya Sabha when, for three hours, I was grilled and the Doordarshan was forced to allow a foreign TV company only to telecast India *versus* South Africa match. The law of this country was violated when Doordarshan was not allowed even to enter some of the stadiums in Mumbai and other places. Today these sensational disclosures in the media have not only swept the country, but the Parliament as well.

The reputation of players is concerned; the reputation of the country is concerned; and the reputation of the game is concerned. There is big money involved. So, the hon. Minister just calling some of the officials to his room and discussing things is not going to solve the matter. There are certain aspects like whether betting and match fixing are illegal or not. The whole gamut of this has to be gone into. It is a deep-rooted malaise. So, a very high powered committee, maybe a judicial body, should go into it. CBI will not be able to do it because it is an investigative arm of the CVC to look into corruption of officials. It cannot be used for everything. A sitting judge of the Supreme Court may be requested to go into it because the entire country and all other cricket playing nations of the world are being involved in this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now hear the Lok Sabha cricket team wicket keeper, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : At the very outset I must congratulate the hon. Minister on getting the Justice Y.V. Chandrachud Committee report released. . . .(Interruptions)

I disagree with some of the hon. Members. There must be an inquiry and there must be punishment given to the guilty; but, not by the CBI. After what we have seen in the Jain Hawala case and the Rabri Devi case, at the moment we have no faith in the CBI.

You may give it to somebody else, even to Mr. Vittal. I do not mind it but you should not give it to CBI or you may continue with the Delhi Police which has done the best work in this millennium. They had spoiled their career in the last millennium and this is the first time that they have done something appreciable, thanks to the Home Minister also. Keep it up! This is what they have done. The whole world is recognising it and it will change the cricket world as such, if it is taken seriously. This will be a blessings in disguise in the cricket world.

Lastly, I would like to say that Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha also should be brought into this cricket inquiry. I was supposed to be bribed a little by the Rajya Sabha

but I did not agree. So, this inquiry should cover both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha cricket teams.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund) : The whole nation and this House are agitated on this issue of cricket. We have to go to the bottom of the whole issue. This august House must consider this aspect of the whole situation. This situation has arisen because of gross commercialisation of sports and games in this country. We must take steps to stop this. We must have a law to stop commercialisation of games and sports. We should not allow advertising companies, big companies and multinationals for advertising and holding tournaments. The gate money is enough for various games. If it is not enough, then the Government must step in and give grants. But we must ban commercialisation of games which has taken away the dignity and pleasure of games and sports. We must restore the gentlemen game again to the gentlemen of this country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that such incidence has happened with sports, with cricket. But today we should certainly think about other games also. Some games and Sports which were our pride have disappeared now. If there would have been four-five games instead of one and rest of the other games would have been encouraged, then probably entire commercial system would not have been attached to cricket and probably this mishappening would not have taken place. Rest of the sports like hockey, football etc. have completely been eliminated. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Is there not wrestling and Kabaddi ?

SHRI RAJ BABBAR : Yes, there is wrestling and Kabaddi also. . . .(Interruptions) We should learn a lesson from this unfortunate mishappendings and we should encourage other sports within the country so that the sentiments of the people associating themselves with the sports may be extended to rest of the sports also.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this incidence has hurt the self respect of the nation and fixing and scandle have given bad name to the country. There is not much faith on the C.B.I. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This will not go on record. . . .(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Action is required to be taken against these players who are involved in it but there should not a CBI action. Delhi Police have done well and there is need to do well in future also. By the way Delhi Police is not in the habit of doing a good job. Only on very few occasions it works well. A number of players may be involved in it and action is required to be taken against them who are involved, but there should not be a CBI enquiry.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I think there is only one proposal which the hon. Finance Minister may consider for the future that any sports association, when it earns a gross income above a certain level, a certain portion of that can go by way of a cess or by way of a tax into a common pool which would then be there at the disposal of the Government so that other sports could also share the commercial benefits that may accrue to a particular sport. Let all other sports prosper. Maybe, you could think of a common pool like this. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : There is one question. What about the suggestion made by Shri Shukla regarding non-commercialisation of sports? Sports can be like this.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Who is going to fund the Sports? Are you going to fund the Sports?

SHRI A.C. JOS : There should be some streamlining of cricket.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, cricket is the most popular sport in our country. But as the match fixing started this sport is getting a bad name. There are several players who play and are playing for the nation. Whosoever are guilty of match fixing and now soever a great player he may be or a member of the board or a player a very strict action should be taken against them.

[English]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : I have a little submission to make so that he can answer it. I would really appreciate if he gives a reply on the performance of our team or as to what the sports policy of the Government is. But I think we are talking about corruption. Since we are talking of an agency to deal with this matter, I suppose that it would be appropriate if the hon. Home Minister gives replies to this point also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He will include it in his answer. Please hear the Minister first.

SHRI BALBIR SINGH (Jalandhar) : I want to share with the House my personal experience. I know Shri Shukhdev Singh Dhindsa for the last three decades. He has been in different sports associations. He was in the Olympic Association. He is a true sportsman. I am sure, with him as the Sports Minister, this probe will come to a logical conclusion.

[Translation]

I am fully confident and believe that Dhindsaji will set things right whatever is happening in cricket in the country.

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the concern of the hon'ble Member. When this episode occurred, the next day, I called up officials of the concerned Department like Home Affairs, Delhi Police, Foreign Affairs, in my office and got the entire report. During discussion all of them said in one voice that the Delhi Police has done a good job and is doing very well. I have arrived at the conclusion that I have to set things right but at this stage there should not be any interference in the investigation, because it may cause harm. A very serious investigation is going on. It has also been asked and we have also written to the Interpol and they have also been involved. We will not leave any stone unturned to bring out the truth. Many Hon'ble Members have rightly said that allegation levelled against any person can not be taken for granted because anybody can make allegation anybody. I have come across such statements in which it was said that match fixing is as old as cricket. It has also been alleged that there is no cricketer who is not involved in match fixing. But we cannot say that everybody is dishonest, we cannot draw this conclusion. An inquiry is being conducted in this regard. As I have said in my statement, we will do whatever is required. Some hon'ble Members have said that CBI inquiry should be held, judicial inquiry should be held. Some time is required to reach on a conclusion, therefore I have fixed the date of 27th. As I said in my statement I have called the meeting of office bearers of BCCI, Past and Present Captains, Manager and Coaches, therefore, I have decided the date of 27th. Some media persons asked me why the date of the meeting has been fixed so late because I was aware that Parliament Session is going to begin on 17th. What are the feelings of Members of Parliament, opinion of the Members will be known, all these things will also be discussed in this meeting. I also agree with the fact as told by K.P. Singh Deo and Raj Babbar ji, that we treated cricketers as heroes, where as our hockey team

had won olympic gold medal many times. . . .(Interruptions), they have recently won a match, but nobody gives any importance to them. Why they win we give them a hero's welcome, but even they lose, we praised them and worshipped them.

I would like to tell the House that we are also going to call the meeting of the industries who take interest in sports and sponsor them. Why are they not sponsoring those games, in which India can achieve something at international level. Kamal Nath Ji said why this case was not handed over to the CBI immediately. According to the Statement, whosoever have been the President of BCCI. . . .(Interruptions) They say, there is no Indian player, who has not been involved in the match fixing should I agree with this. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH : I said about investigation. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA : Yes, investigations will be held definitely. Therefore I have made it very clear, it may be held by any agency. I have not written that C.B.I. should do it. We too have got two opinions about it, by which agency it should be held ? I would like to assure that truth would be completely revealed, whether the inquiry is conducted by any agency, it will be done. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Sir, the important question is when the report of Chandrachur Committee will be presented in the House ?

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA : It has been presented. . . .(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, we have an urgent matter to raise today. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you a chance. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kindly go through the Order Paper. After this only, you will get a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Zero Hour will be there.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA : Hon'ble Member has arrived late, it is in my Statement. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order please, Shri Khurana.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA : I would like to assure the House that we will leave not stone unturned to bring the facts to the light.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Will you ban the cricket matches till the truth is revealed ?

[English]

13.01 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 24th April, 2000 will consist of :-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha :-
 - (i) The Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000;
 - (ii) The Sugarcane Control (Additional Powers) Repeal Bill, 2000.
3. Consideration and passing of the Indian companies (Foreign Interests) and the Companies (Temporary Restrictions on Dividends) Repeal Bill, 2000.
4. Further discussion on Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Pramod Mahajan]

5. Discussion and Voting on Demands for Grants of the following Ministries :-

- (i) Ministry of Communications;
- (ii) Ministry of Home Affairs.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, following item may be included in the next week's agenda :-

The pay scale of Junior Engineer in Central Public Works Department, Department of Information and Broadcasting, MTNL etc. starts from Rs. 5500 and Rs. 6500, whereas the pay scale of Junior Engineer of Railway Department still starts from Rs. 5000. Appropriate measures should be taken in this regard and their pay scale should also start from Rs. 6500.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda.

Recently, the Government have taken stringent measures in view of economic condition. Now under Public Distribution System, the people living below poverty line should be given wheat at the rate of Rs. 4.30 per Kg instead of Rs. 2.50 per kg, and 20 kg instead of 10 kg of wheat will be given. The people lying above poverty line will be given wheat at the rate of Rs. 9 per kg instead of Rs. 6.82 per kg. The Government have assumed that one family consists of five members. And a person consumes 100 gram wheat at a time, 200 gram in a day and the entire family consumes one kilo in a day, and therefore at least 30 kg of wheat is required for a family in a month.

I would like to request the Government to reconsider their decision on the Public Distribution System so that the poor could get some benefit.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. For the last many decades some religious, social and cultural organisations are regularly publishing weekly, fortnightly and monthly periodicals, which carries news items related to religion, culture and society. They are registered and recognised by Registrar, Newspapers of India. But due to recent instructions issued by the Government their postal registration is not being renewed. Due to this gross resentment is

prevailing among social, religious and cultural organisations. Therefore, to remove inconvenience and resentment it is essential to restore the old process of postal renewal.

2. Gross resentment is prevailing among the people of Ajmer due to closure of Zonal Recruitment Office, which was operational till 1998 and was famous for recruitment of Army personnels. It had been the field of Action of freedom fighters and is located in heart of Ajmer city of Rajasthan. This city has got its own historical and military importance. The office was set up during British rule. Therefore, I request you to reopen the Army Zonal Recruitment Office in the Ajmer City.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please only read the points you have given in writing. Do not read the entire matter.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : My matter is not very long.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It may be short, but please read the points only.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mahakumbh is being organised at Nasik City of Maharashtra in the year 2003. It will attract heavy rush of pilgrims to Devali, Nasik road, Tramb, Bushwar and Nasik. Lakhs of people are likely to attend this festival. Therefore, it should be well-organised. Alongwith the arrangements should be good, so that travellers and tourists may not face any inconvenience.

There are many powerlooms in Malegaon, Bhiwandi City. Lakhs of workers depend on it, but just now the price of cotton and power have increased. There are no proper godown facilities. Therefore, this industry is in crisis. An immediate action needs to be taken to solve this crisis.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, following item may be included in the next week's agenda :-

The price hike of food grains have adversely affected the Public Distribution System in India, particularly in Kerala State.

Sir, day before yesterday, the Chief Minister of Kerala led an all-party delegation to the capital. They were forced to sit on *dharna* in front of the Parliament. The all-party delegation also met the Prime Minister and apprised him of the situation. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, this matter has already been listed. You have to read the text only.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, as per the decision of the Central Government, after withdrawing subsidy, the position has become very serious in my State as well as in Southern States. The subsidy given on kerosene has been withdrawn and this has led the poor man to so much of difficult. Subsidy given on rice and other food materials has been withdrawn. So, I demand the Central Government to roll back the prices. The rise in the prices of food grains has adversely affected the Public Distribution System in India, particularly in Kerala.

This item may be included in the next week's agenda as it has been a very important matter since India attained Independence.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only the approved text should be given to the Members hereafter.

SHRI KIRTI SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda :-

Volatility and crash in stock exchanges-crisis in Capital market.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, those officers should be suspended immediately on whom cases of corruption are going on. The accountability of the bureaucracy should be increased. They should be asked to declare their assets every year before they are appointed to a post. It will bring transparency in the functioning of the Government.

Government should take immediate steps to grant statehood to Delhi. Till then all different bodies should be merged in a single body.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is need for a discussion for urgent completion of the Bana Sagar inter-state irrigation project of Satna district in Madhya Pradesh. The project was to be completed in the year 1984. The original cost of this project was estimated to be Rs. 600 crore which has now increased to Rs. 3200 crore. It remains incomplete even after 22 years. It will provide irrigation facilities in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

[English]

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU (Pudukkottai) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Need to set up industries in Pudukkottai in Tamil Nadu as it is a backward area. Moreover, adequate land and other infrastructural facilities are available.
2. Need to reopen closed textile mills and revive sick units in Tamil Nadu which has affected employment opportunities of lakhs of people. The problems of textile industry are due to hike in import duty of yarn and in excise duty.

[English]

13.11 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(I) Central Advisory Committee for National Cadet Corps

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That in pursuance of Section 12(1) (i) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 12(1) (i) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

13.12 hrs.

(II) Coconut Development Board

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among

[Shri Sundar Lal Patwa]

themselves to serve as members of the Coconut Development Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coconut Development Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

13.13 hrs.

(III) Central Advisory Board of Archaeology

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That in pursuance of the provision XVIII in paragraph 1 of the Government of India, Archaeological Survey of India, Resolution No. 9-1/97-(EE), dated 15.12.1998, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, subject to the other provisions of the said Resolution."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of the provision XVIII in paragraph 1 of the Government of India, Archaeological Survey of India, Resolution No. 9-1/97-(EE), dated 15.12.1998, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, subject to the other provisions of the said Resolution."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, item no. 14-Shri Pramod Mahajan.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Perhaps this mobile belongs to some hon'ble Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whosoever it may be.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please give it to me. Everyday we are having this. Yesterday and also day before yesterday we had this. There is a limit.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, already instructions were given on this. . . . *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, if you permit, we can develop a system by which Cellular telephones will not work in the Parliament House. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, you can do that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : If the hon. Speaker desires, we can find out a system by which Cellular telephones will not work within the premises of the Parliament House. You will neither get a bell nor can you use it. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Even with that, the responsibility of the Members is not going to be reduced.

Now, Shri Pramod Mahajan to move the motion.

[English]

13.14 hrs.

**MOTION RE : SIXTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That this House do agree with the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 19th April, 2000."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 19th April, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

13.15 hrs.

**PRESIDENT'S EMOLUMENTS AND PENSION
(AMENDMENT) BILL*, 2000**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : **I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will take up 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I have a very urgent matter. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, I should be called. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me say something. Yesterday also many Members could not get their chance in spite of giving their notices. I do not know whether your name is also there or not. It is now 1.15 p.m. At least, it will take one hour. Whether the House is going to sit or not depends on your cooperation. One has to be brief, only to the point, calling the attention of the Government. If you want to sit, 'yes', I will take up the responsibility of sitting here. The only thing is the moment you violate your cooperation, I will abruptly end up the matter and go away. Let me tell you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to kindly remain present.

It has become possible. . . . *(Interruptions)*

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

** Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, this issue. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, I have given the floor to him. Just now I told you. You are violating it now itself. What is this? You were the Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly. I have given the floor to him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : It has become impossible to conduct democratic and political movement in the State of West Bengal. Parliamentary democracy is facing a real challenge in the State.

Yesterday, thousands of youth workers of Trinamool Congress and BJP lodged their protest. . . . *(Interruptions)* They were in a procession against the State Government. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this is a State subject. How can this matter be raised here? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Police lathi-charged the people. . . . *(Interruptions)* Hundreds of people have been severely injured in the lathi-charge. We want justice. Parliamentary democracy is being gagged. Parliamentary democratic system is being ruined. The State Government should not be allowed. The police is becoming merciless. Our workers were raising slogans peacefully. . . . *(Interruptions)* The president of the Youth Wing of the Trinamool Congress was injured. They have been severely beaten up. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please hear him. A notice was received. The matter has been listed.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, let me conduct the House. I have given the floor to Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Police have beaten up the Trinamool Congress and BJP workers ruthlessly. They should be punished. . . . *(Interruptions)* We want justice from you. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shri Bandyopadhyay.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : We urge upon the Central Government, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to intervene, to seek a report about yesterday's incident as

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

to how the Trinamool Congress and BJP workers were beaten up, arrested and jailed undemocratically. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They have taken the law in their own hands. . . . (Interruptions) It is a State subject. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please, this is not the way, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. The hon. Speaker, in his wisdom, has accepted the notice and it is listed here. You are disturbing the House. You are a senior Member, you should not do like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, yesterday also they could not get a chance and today also you are now allowing them. This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No, Sir, this should not be allowed. You cannot allow this. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is unfortunate that a senior Member like Shri Acharia is interrupting like this. The hon. Speaker had received the notice and, in his wisdom, he has accepted it. It is listed here. I have called Shri Sudhip Bandyopadhyay and you are not allowing him to speak. This is very bad. It is going on record that you are interrupting the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHANDOKER (Serampore) : They have attacked on party meeting, they have broken the law and order there. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What to do now ? Will you please resume your seats ? Why do you not resume your seats ? I am on my legs, Shri Acharia. Please resume your seat when I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people are not ready to listen to other's views. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please resume your seat. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Only fascism is ruling over there. There is no rule of law. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please resume your seats. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is Zero Hour. The hon. Speaker has allowed him and you are not permitting him to speak. There is a limit.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are not allowing me also to speak in this House. There is a limit.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, you are a senior Member. You will have to hear me when I am on my legs. I am here to regulate the House. Am I not here to regulate the House ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Speaker has received the notice. In his wisdom, he has allowed it to be listed here. I have with me the list allowed by the hon. Speaker.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called him to raise the matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is a matter to be raised in the State Assembly and not here. . . . (Interruptions) It should be raised there. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Sir, how can he raise the subject here ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House is adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

14.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty five minutes past fourteen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD (Shahjahanpur) : Sir, I have given a notice. Sir, I had given a notice for Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : Not today.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD : Zero hour was in progress. It could not continue because of disturbance in the House. I had to speak on a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak on Monday.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD : Monday will be too late. Please give me a little time today.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no such procedure.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD : It is an issue concerning the farmers in the north. I had to speak very important thing on the farmers issue. House was disturbed midway and the Zero Hour could not be completed.

MR. SPEAKER : Not today, you can speak later. Dr. Raman Singh.

[English]

14.36 hrs.

RE : POSTPONEMENT OF EXAMINATIONS TO BE HELD ON EASTER SUNDAY

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, the other day many Members have raised objections to holding the banking examination and some Post and Telegraph examinations on Easter Sunday. If you recall, Sir, many Members have raised this issue. I have talked to the concerned in the Finance and Communication Ministries, and I am happy to inform that both the Ministries have given the instructions that the examinations should be postponed. There will be no examinations on Easter Sunday.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a good announcement from the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. The Members are always expecting that you should make this kind of announcement.

14.38 hrs.

DESIGNS BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to protection of designs, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Sir, he has to make some introductory remarks.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already moved the consideration motion.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, he is supposed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : At the time of reply, he will speak.

SHRI ANIL BASU : It is an important legislation. The Minister must make some introductory speech, and that is the convention of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to make some introductory remarks ?

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, has he been introduced to the House ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already moved the consideration motion.

14.40 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Madam Chairperson, this motion relates to the consideration of repealing the Design Act, 1911 and substituting it by enacting a new Bill, namely, Design Bill, 1999. The initiative of the Government is related to modernising the design law so that fundamental activities should be promoted by bringing about changes

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

[Dr. Raman]

in innovations and at the macro level bringing it in consonance with other laws.

Members would agree that India will have to attain a strong position in order to fulfil its objectives in the world forum and in the WTO. TRIPS is one of the many agreements of the WTO.

In India, the legislation relating to the registration and protection of design is Designs Act, 1911. The act has not been amended even once, even after nine decades of its implementation. As a result of fast progress in the field of science and engineering, technology has undergone a sea change during the period. TRIPS agreement has also necessitated some amendments in this law. India has been obliged to make some amendments after it entered the Paris convention. It is in the interests of the country to make some amendments in the existing law in accordance with the changing scenario of the world.

In the proposed Bill, there is a provision for amending and substituting the laws relating to design so that better protection can be given to the design activities. Since it is a substituting Bill, therefore, the Act of 1911 will be repealed and it will be substituted by this Bill.

Design is related to the external shape and furnishings of any article or object. An article manufactured through industrial process should be more attractive.

Members would like to know the main characteristics of this Bill relating to the design. These characteristics are :- defining the original system to identify the non-registered designs, making administrative measures simple and consumer friendly arrangement for design allotment, registration on computer, enhancement in the penalty and delegation of more powers to the controller.

Technology has undergone a tremendous change since the year 1911 when the Act was made. The present legislation keeps in view those changes. All the provisions relating to TRIPS and Intellectual Property Rights need to be changed and it is need of the hour. I would like to get the support of the Hon'ble Members and I would also like to invite their valuable opinion on this Bill and also on the fast changing scenario of the world towards which we are moving ahead.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to protection of designs, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of you and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that in the Business Advisory Committee meeting, there was no mention that the Bill being discussed now would be discussed in the House today. If it was decided to take up the Bill today, intimation could have been given well in advance and the Members could have come prepared. We found it in the morning all of a sudden that this Designs Bill is listed in today's agenda. Is it the way to run the House ? Whichever may be the Bill, should not the Parties be involved in it ? The Business Advisory Committee did not list this Bill for today. This is not proper.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Business Advisory Committee has allotted this time earlier.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I would like to make it absolutely clear that the BAC did not allot this time. In the last meeting of the Business Advisory Committee it was decided that only the Demands for Grants, Private Members Business, price rise and drought will be discussed. Nothing beyond that has been decided. I, being the Chief Whip of the Congress Party, attended the meeting. I know the minutes. It is not that we do not want the Bill to be discussed and passed. We want some advance notice so that the Members can come prepared. It cannot be said that since it is placed in the List of Business, Members should come and give their names. This is not way the Parliament has to function.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Madam, I am on a point of order. Normally when a new Bill is introduced in the House, it is sent to the Standing Committee for detailed examination. That part has been done away with. During the recess period the Government had raised the prices and withdrew subsidy on essential commodities. Already there is a ruling from the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As far as your point is concerned, this is not a new Bill. It had already been passed by the Rajya Sabha. Once it has been discussed in Rajya Sabha it cannot be sent to a Standing Committee in Lok Sabha.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Let the Bill be discussed in the House. We do want to participate in the debate. But let enough notice be given to the Members so that they can come prepared. Nobody knows anything about the Bill now.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : I would like to reply to what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has said. I beg of you, Madam, to give a clear-cut ruling as to how the business of the House be conducted.

The function of the Business Advisory Committee is to allocate the time to different pieces of legislation. Is it not true that the Business Advisory Committee has allotted one hour's time to the Designs Bill? The job of the Business Advisory Committee is over when it allots time to a particular item of business which has to be taken up in the House.

The Business Advisory Committee has already allotted one hour for this business. It is the job of the Government to decide the business of the next day. It is the prerogative of the Government to bring the business and to allot time to Government and accordingly no prior intimations are given except the Agenda Paper which goes to the houses of hon. Members who will come to know which Bill is likely to come up, when and all that is enough because first of all the Bill has been introduced. Sufficient time has lapsed. So, for consideration and passing of a Bill, it is the prerogative of the Government to come out on any day's business, accordingly to the wish of the Government. It is not true that the Business Advisory Committee meeting to which he is referring decides the minute to minute business of the next week. No, it is not true. In the Business Advisory Committee which last met, we roughly talked about what we will take up under Rule 193 and on which day we will take up the Finance Bill. But that does not prohibit us to bring Government business without disturbing the original Bill.

Every Thursday or Friday whenever we go to Private Members Bill, we get time from 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. unlike the other House. Even at that time, the Government has to fill up the business. If I do not fill up the business, then tomorrow you will say "You do not have the business in the House. Why do you bother the House at 2.30 p.m.?" I have to pass a regular business. So, I have to give the business at 2.30 p.m.

Lastly you rightly said that as far as sending any Bill to the Standing Committee is concerned, it is the prerogative of the Hon. Speaker or the Chairman of either House. The Session started. This bill came up in the last session. When discussion started on the Designs Bill in Rajya Sabha, there was no Standing Committee. So, naturally it was passed. After one House passes it, you cannot send it to a Standing Committee in the second House. . . .(Interruptions) Your House can send it to a Select Committee, but your House cannot send it to a Joint Committee. Then the sense of the House will have to be taken. It is not that you send the Bill anywhere you want. The House has to decide it.

The hon. Minister was there and he gave his speech. We started the discussion. In between the discussion, you say this. So, I have not broken any parliamentary law or

convention and I beg of you to give a ruling on this objection raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I strongly refute what the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has said. I do not want the minutes of the Business Advisory Committee to be discussed in the House because that is not the proper thing to do. But I understand the Government made their point very clear that we want to discuss the Demands for Grants and Budget in all its aspects. Accordingly, time should be allotted and then the business which is pending before the hon. Speaker under Rule 193 or whatever Motion placed by various Parties should be given priority. It was categorically decided in the meeting that no other legislation shall take place. Even yesterday, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister would have said that we will get two hours extra time and what we would do during that time. Could you bring a Bill or legislation? I do not mind. I am not obstructing. I would have been ready. But if you say that you have to decide your prerogative, then I am sorry to say that I will not attend the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I have not broken any convention. I am not going to take it lightly. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Anil Basu, please sit down. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : But you cannot reply like this. You cannot speak like this everyday as you desire.

What is the sanctity of the Report of the Business Advisory Committee? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am conducting the House. Please sit down. It hurts me when you do not listen to the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The business is transacted in the House not only by the parties in Government but also with the co-operation of the Opposition. We always co-operate. There is no point in losing my temper or the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs losing his temper. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Please do not interrupt him. He did not interrupt when the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs spoke. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dasmunsi can look after himself, on his own.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : If I am not wrong, with all my respect to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, it was categorically decided that in this Session up to the 4th of May they would not be bringing in any legislation. Accordingly, we have briefed all the hon. MPs of our party to get prepared for the subjects that would come before the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

If the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs feels that if some time is found we could pass some legislation, there is nothing wrong in that. As he keeps us informed from time to time, he could have conveyed it to us and we would have been happy. But this was not so. . . .*(Interruptions)*

You have now found some two hours' time and you have decided to push this through. We object to this. This is not the way. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing a discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : If you allow me, I have something to say.

It is not true that the Bill has come up suddenly. I differ from the Chief Whip of the Congress Party. I say, sufficient notice has been given. A person like me, a responsible person is before you.

It is with a heavy heart that I have to support the point made by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. The fact is, we received on Monday a List of Business for Wednesday and in that List of Business, the Designs Bill has been mentioned. We were put on alert on Monday itself though later on some other things might have come up. But the thing was there.

A second point that I want to make is, it was passed in the Rajya Sabha. It has been laid on the Table of the House and the Business Advisory Committee has allotted the time. That is sufficient indication to the Members and Members like me studied the Bill and gave lots of amendments. Those amendments have been circulated.

I say, Madam Chairperson, I have been inconvenienced. This Bill has been slated on the List of Business several times but has not come up. All those times, I put off my work and came here in order to be present to move my amendments, again and again getting inconvenienced. Now, I thought that by 3.30 p.m. we might be able

to go through the whole thing. But it seems that it will now be going into the next week. I think, some error is there, some mistake is there on the part of the Chief Whip of the Congress (I), which he should correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, it is very clear. The Minister has already moved the Bill for consideration and the discussion has started. Besides, I have before me, all the amendments notices of which have been given. It was listed in the List of Business for the week. I think, we have had enough notice. So, we shall proceed with the discussion. I now call Shri Anadi Sahu.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Can the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs say why he has done this? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I have explained it to the Deputy Leader of the Congress (I) only in the morning. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please sit down.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : The storm has subsided now. We can go over to the debate. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Shall I continue? Madam Chairperson, from 1911 to 2000, we had travelled nearly 90 years. In these 90 years, the world technically has shrunk, not geographically. In this shrinkage process, we have come together; and in coming together, we have found new activities, new designs, new interests, new investments and new research methodologies.

That is why, the Designs Act of 1911 need to be amended or rather overhauled within these 90 years. Then we had the WTO rounds, the Uruguay rounds, the Paris Convention and all those matters about which I need not say. The most important is the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights, the TRIPS Agreements in which about 40 items have been listed of which patents, designs, trade marks are important.

Designs are not patents. There cannot be any confusion about patents and designs. So far as designs are concerned, it is an intellectual manifestation of things as to what type of designs will be there. My friend from West Bengal would definitely agree with me that a particular type of saree designs are being prepared, ornament designs are being prepared, painting designs are being prepared and collar designs are also being prepared. When these designs, are prepared, a person has to put in a lot of efforts. In preparing those designs, it is most necessary that his ideas and the technology should be safeguarded or protected.

As I said earlier, the world is shrinking, markets are booming and new designs to please the eyes, to please the mind and other sensory organs are coming up. Again as I said earlier, the most important thing is to protect these things with a view to take a giant stride in the World Trade Organisation.

The earlier Designs Act was talking about the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries. But later on, we have many countries with which we have reciprocal arrangements and for that matter, a new law is necessary. The adage is that old order changes yielding place to new. That is the purpose for which this Designs Bill has been brought forward before Parliament.

In supporting this Designs Bill, I have certain reservations. The Designs Bill takes into account the Trade and Merchandise Act, the Patents Act and so many other Acts. It is slightly jumbled up. So far as the Controller of Designs is concerned, it is given in Clause 3 of the Act. The Controller controls patents, designs and trademarks. He acts as the Controller for three Acts. It may create confusion at a later stage. Mostly these are civil proceedings and civil proceedings are cumbersome processes. So, it may create some confusion because sometimes there will be clash of interests, sometimes variations of ideas and orders.

Accordingly to Section 4 of the Trade and Mercantile Act, the original Controller is appointed. In clause 3, only a reference is made to Section 4 of the Trade and Mercantile Act. There is some confusion, which may come up. We have Controller and Examiners. There will be a number of regional Examiners at different places. The regional Examiner, in examining designs and giving his orders, may follow a particular path or a particular idea.

15.00 hrs.

Another Examiner may follow a different idea. Some confusion may be created among the Examiners. Since this new Act, under Clause 27, is going to give privileges to the Controller and Examiners, it may create some confusion. It may lead to civil litigation. Many civil litigations may not be decided immediately. This is a matter which the hon. Minister may kindly keep in mind while deciding about the Controllers and Examiners. So far as registration of designs are concerned, wording in Clause 4 is negative in approach. May I say as to how it is negative? It says that a design which is not new or original shall not be registered. I think this will create problems later on. It should have been positive in approach. But Clause 6 is positive in approach. It would be better to redraft Clause 4 on the lines of Clause 6.

Clauses 12 and 13 are for restoration of lapsed designs. It is good that some of the designs which have lapsed are brought to the market or auction. But in the initial stage itself, the Government have to provide certain rules. It has not been provided here. The Government may frame rules under Clause 47. Unless the restoration of lapsed designs is codified under Clauses 12 and 13, it may lead to confusion and again it may lead to litigation. Since this is a new Act, all these matters have to be kept in mind.

As far as the piracy of registered designs is concerned, I would like to say that after the restoration of lapsed designs, if we invoke Clause 22 for piracy, it would be very difficult to deal with that situation because it is very difficult to prove it. I do not know in what manner it is going to be handled.

The most important thing is Clause 34. It says that in case of doubt the Controller has to consult the Government. That is not proper. As I said earlier, it would lead to litigation. In certain cases, the Controller, in order to get away from the difficulties, may refer the matter to the Government. In that process it would be delayed and it would also lead to litigation. It is known that a technocrat will be the Controller. He must have enough powers to decide as to what has to be done about design, about piracy and about lapsed designs. I feel, under no circumstances should he come to the Government for advice. The Government should only frame rules and it should allow him to continue with it. It should not contain a provision to take up the matter with the Government. As I said earlier, restrictive trade practices have been vindicated because of the WTO agreement. Clause 42 is about the restrictive trade practices. Keeping in view the TRIPS agreement, WTO agreement and the Uruguay round, Clause 42 is very good because other countries which are having agreements with us may not feel that we would ditch them at critical moments. So, Clause 42 is very good.

Clause 45 relates to the report of the Controller. It says that it has to be placed in Parliament. I again refer to that Clause which says that in case of doubt, he would refer the matter to the Government. Clause 45 is very important because all the rules, orders and regulations notified by the Controller would be placed before Parliament. So, Parliament is the supreme authority to decide whether it is in consonance with the rules.

It is a new Act with new provisions. Many of the old provisions have been taken away. But certain loopholes have to be plugged at the initial stage itself so as not to allow any sort of confusion regarding this Act.

[Shri Anandi Sahu]

These are the things which I have marked during my reading of the Bill and considering the situation which is prevailing in the national and international arena. On the whole, it is a very good Act keeping in view the work being done at the national and international levels. With these words, I support the Bill. Thank you.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Madam, Chairperson, it is commendable that the Government has come forward with this Bill. The hon. Minister has done well in coming forward with the new Bill rather than bringing all sorts of amendments to the Act of 1911. I do understand that the Bill is in order to comply with our obligations to the WTO, the World Trade Organisation, but happily the Bill is a timely Bill. Our technocrats are making great strides and protection of intellectual property rights is not the concern today of only the industrially advanced countries. I have, therefore, to congratulate the Government to have come forward with a comprehensive Bill on the subject of vital importance.

There are various issues that need to be considered. On a subject of this type we have to balance two factors. On the one hand there is the need to promote effective and adequate protection of the intellectual property rights. These rights have to be adequately and effectively, I emphasise both the words 'adequately and effectively', protected. On the other hand, we have also to see that in our zeal for protection we do not create barriers to legitimate trade. So, these two factors have to be properly balanced and accordingly we can meet the situation.

Here, I have to make an important submission. The Bill is deficient in respect of protecting the legitimate rights which we call as the intellectual property rights. There are certain internationally accepted norms of protection. Even the WTO Agreements on Intellectual Property Rights mention various measures that can be taken for the purposes of protection of those rights. But I am surprised to find that various such internationally accepted measures of protection and various such measures of protection which are allowed as far as the WTO Agreements are concerned, have been ignored and have been given a go by in this Bill.

I may, for example, refer to Clause 22 which is in respect of measures to be taken if a person acts in contravention of the Act. This is highly deficient. Clause 22 provides that in case of any person acting in contravention of the act there shall be legal proceedings. I do not know why the Government deemed it fit to confine these legal proceedings only to matters seeking relief and not laying down any penalty for violation of the Act. That means the owner of intellectual property may seek relief

and damages from the person who has acted in contravention of the Act. But then there is no provision for any penalty even if a person deliberately acts and wilfully acts in contravention of the Act. This is a very serious deficiency. I would submit that there is no adequate and no effective protection of the rights of the owner of the registered design. I would like to draw your attention in this respect to Article 61 of TRIPS which says that the member-countries shall provide for penalties including imprisonment, at least, in case of wilful acts of piracy.

So, we find that WTO agreement makes a reference, not only a reference but it says that the member-countries shall provide for penalties and shall also provide for imprisonment in case a person wilfully contravenes the Act. But what type of Act we have which condones even the wilful violation of the provisions of the Act and provides for no penalties. It just says that the owner of registered design can only seek some damages and these damages are also limited up to Rs. 25,000. One can understand how much sweat, how much labour and intellect, and how much research goes in having any design. When that right is violated even wilfully then the person responsible for violation is neither subject to any penalty whatsoever nor to any adequate payment of damages. That payment of damages is also restricted to a paltry sum of Rs. 25,000 in the present day. Twenty-five thousand rupees in the present day in the case of industrial design, I would say is nothing but a mockery of getting the industrial designs registered with our authorities.

Then look at how the owners of the registered designs are left high and dry. I have the articles of the WTO agreement here which can be quoted. But then that would take a long time. Article 44 is with respect to injunctions that can be given by the courts.

Article 44 talks about effective action against infringement and article 61 about criminal penalties. But all these are not to be found incorporated in our Bill which is supposed to protect our people from violation of their industrial designs. I would like to emphasize this particular fact.

Take the question of seizure. If a person violates the provisions of the Act, there is nothing here to show that we can go to the court to ask for the seizure of the infringed articles meant for commercial purpose. Nothing is provided on this though the WTO agreement gives us the right to provide for the same. There is no injunction also to be obtained against a person who is infringing the provisions of the Act. I would, therefore, say that clause 22 is a very sad clause and is highly deficient with respect to the protection of the legitimate rights of the owner of industrial designs.

Madam Chairperson, there are several clauses over here which need a relook. I am sorry that this Bill has not gone to the Standing Committee nor is it vetted by a Select Committee or a Joint Committee in order to remove the various deficiencies. Take the question of clause 44, sub-clause (1). What does it say? If a person in UK or in a convention country applies for registration of his design in UK or in that convention country, then in that case he has a priority over any application for registration in our country. What a wide priority to give! I can understand if a person in UK or in a convention country applies for registration of licence in his country gets priority over applications made in India after the date of his application in UK or in the convention country. I can understand that because he was prior in time. But, supposing here in India I apply for registration of an industrial licence today, a person in UK or in a convention country comes to know of it and after one month he gives an application abroad. Even then his application will have priority over my application over here irrespective of the fact that I was the first to have come forward with my design for the purpose of registration. Therefore, it is making a mockery of the entire system of providing adequate and effective protection of the registered designs.

I can understand that we have to fulfil our obligations with WTO. But, then we need not be subservient to the WTO masters. Here, I am pointing out that we have been so loyal to WTO that we have jettisoned even the protection clause internationally agreed to and incorporated in the WTO by ourselves not incorporating the same in our Bill.

Therefore, though I have said that the Bill is timely, though I have said that there was and is an absolute and practical necessity to have the Bill, I am sorry to submit that the Bill is trying to be true to the WTO more than even what the WTO expects from us. We have jettisoned in our enthusiasm for the WTO and for the WTO masters, we have jettisoned and put our owners of industrial designs at the mercy of the world imperialists. This is something that has to be corrected.

Then, there are several other provisions and if I go into their details, it will require a lengthy time. But then I only ask the Government to compare the provisions of this Bill with the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Intellectual Property Rights on industrial designs. Only then the list of our deficiencies will come forward and in those respects, this timely Bill needs to be corrected.

The hon. Member had already spoken about Controller and how the rights of the controller are limited. I will not go on repeating them. Now, an appeal goes to the High Court. But then, I wonder, with all due respect to our

judicial system, whether our judicial system is fully equipped to meet these intricate technical points with regard to the industrial designs. The Government needs to be complemented on one point. It has been provided that the High Court can take the services of an expert. But then look at even our judicial system. The decision given by the High Court is final and no appeal further! The doors of the Supreme Court are sought to be closed which I submit cannot be closed constitutionally. If I go into the constitutional aspect of the same and refer to various articles in the Constitution, that again will swallow a lot of time. I would restrict myself to the statement that the door cannot be closed and we cannot go to say that the order of the High Court even on such intricate, delicate and technical matters of industrial designs should be treated as final.

Madam, let us not rush through the Bill. These are the various aspects. I have come forward with several amendments but then many more amendments will be required in order to see that we give adequate and effective protection to our owners of industrial designs. Passing a Bill is not like fast food that we rush through in a matter of such importance. Therefore, I would only conclude by appealing to the hon. Minister to have a relook at the provisions in order to ensure that the rights of our industrial design owners will be adequately and effectively upheld.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Madam, with your permission, I would like to say that the hon. Member Shri Banatwalla has missed some points in the sense that so far as designs are concerned, there is some difference between Design Patent and Trade Mark. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister will reply to the points that he has raised. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Patents and Merchandise are different things. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I do not know whether the Minister is not effective in tackling the points.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : He will tackle the points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will leave it to the Minister. He will answer it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the design Bill introduced by the Government was first implemented in 1911. There was adequate protection for the designers of India who were engaged in formulating

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

new designs. But the Government has claimed that Design Bill, Patents Bill, Trademark Bill etc. all are being introduced in an effort to minimise the threats and damages caused or likely to be caused by WTO agreement. We don't believe these Bill, when legislated would minimise the damages from the WTO or provide protection to the designers.

Recently, Hon'ble Prime Minister had made a statement about the WTO. When he was asked by the press how could he open the gates for 714 foreign goods and how could he permit India to become a dumping ground by relaxing the restrictions, the Hon'ble Prime Minister enthusiastically replied that since we have lost in the international court of justice, we have left no choice but to open the gate and to make India a dumping ground. Parliament is not kept informed of the agreement with the WTO reached by the Government. One day they will tell us that India has been sold and it has become slave, then what will be the use of discussing it in the Parliament. India is facing a grave danger. Someday it would also happen that the Japanese would patent our very morsel. They have already patented our heritages, such as, turmeric, Tulsi and Basmati rice etc. They will put the case in the courts and we will get defeated there. Then they would give the statement that since they have lost in the court, there is no other option. The article has been registered, and we will have to pay royalty on it. Falling heavens would not be contained by using a stick. This Design Bill, Trademark Bill and Patent Bill is like that stick. You are making efforts to prevent from or to minimise the damages caused to the country from WTO. What sort of Bill have you introduced? I have seen a clause of the Bill. In the beginning itself it is written that the Design Bill would be implemented all over India. Further it is written:-

[English]

"The registration of a design shall not be invalidated by reason only of the exhibition or use of or the publication of a description or representation of the design in India during the period specified in this section as that within which the application may be made."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, it is 3.30 p.m. now. We have to go on to the Private Members' Business. You can continue next time.

[Translation]

At half past three today, there is a private member's Bill. You may please continue next time.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : All right.

15.30 hrs.

MOTION RE : FOURTH REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Private Members' Business.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan) : I beg to move the following :

"That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 19th April, 2000."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 19th April, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

15.31 hrs.

(I) INDIAN CITIZENS ABROAD (VOTING
RIGHT AT ELECTIONS) BILL*

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide the Indian citizens living abroad with the right to vote in elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide the Indian citizens living abroad with the right to vote in elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

15.32 hrs.

(II) UNORGANISED LABOUR WELFARE
FUND BILL**[English]*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a fund for the welfare of unorganised labour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a fund for the welfare of unorganised labour."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I introduce the bill.

15.33 hrs.

(III) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of article 16, etc.)*[English]*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I introduce the Bill.

15.33½ hrs.

(IV) SCHEDULED CASTES AND THE
SCHEDULED TRIBES (RESERVATION
IN SERVICES) BILL**[English]*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation in services for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in establishments under the Central and State Governments and in private sector and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation in services for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in establishments under the Central and State Governments and in private sector and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto"

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

(V) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of the Eighth Schedule)*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I introduce the Bill.

15.34½ hrs.

(VI) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of articles 81 and 170)*[English]*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

15.35 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*](VII) JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of the Long Title, etc.)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

(VIII) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of articles 15, etc.)*[English]*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

15.36½ hrs.

(IX) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of articles 19, etc.)*[English]*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

(X) BACKWARD AREAS DEVELOPMENT
BOARD BILL**[Translation]*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for all-sided development of all economically backward areas of the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for all-sided development of all economically backward areas of the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : I introduce the Bill.

15.37½ hrs.

(XI) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL*

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to ensure freedom of having access to and obtaining public information for the citizens and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to ensure freedom of having access to and obtaining public information for the citizens and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

15.38 hrs.

(XII) CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
(AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of Section 2, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : I introduce the Bill.

15.38½ hrs.

(XIII) ALL INDIA SERVICES (AMENDMENT)
BILL*
(Insertion of new section 2B to 2I)

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the All-India Services Act, 1951.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the All-India Services Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : I introduce the Bill.

15.39 hrs.

(XIV) PROHIBITION OF COW
SLAUGHTER BILL*

[English]

SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU (Narsapur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit slaughter of cow and its progeny.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit slaughter of cow and its progeny."

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of this Bill. I have great respect for the hon. Member who has moved for leave to introduce this Bill and it is with due respect that I submit that the Bill is outside the legislative competence of this House.

Sir, in the first place, the title of the Bill, 'Prohibition of Cow Slaughter Bill, 2000' is a misnomer. The term 'cow' has been so widely defined as to include the entire bovine population in it. We have, therefore, the rulings from even the Supreme Court and those rulings make it very clear that the Bill cannot be moved.

These rulings are to be found in the famous Qureshi's case in the year 1958 as also in such a recent case as Hashmatullah versus the State of Madhya Pradesh and others, SC 1996. The Supreme court has held that a blanket ban cannot be imposed on the entire bovine population as such under just one name of the cow. The Bill is not restricted to only the banning of the cow slaughter. It takes in the entire bovine population. It is unconstitutional as decided by the Supreme Court not once but twice, as I have said.

Then, I had submitted that the Bill is outside the legislative competence of this House. Now look, the entire item—the Bill—comes under this entry 'organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry'. It is for this purpose and the Bill mentions that it relates to organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry. Now this item appears as item No. 15 in List II, that is, in the Seventh Schedule. Therefore, the item is in the exclusive jurisdiction of the States and the Union Government does not come into the picture. I have, therefore, been submitting that the Bill is outside the legislative competence of this House because it is to be found in the State List II of the Seventh Schedule so far. This is not merely my opinion. As early as 1st May, 1954, the then Attorney-General, M.C. Setalvad came to this House. The late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister. The then Attorney-General M.C. Setalvad came to the House. In the House, he gave the opinion that it was outside the legislative competence of this House to come forward with any Bill concerning organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry. I, therefore, very respectfully say that we should not take up this subject which is outside our scope.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

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[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Let us not encroach upon the State subjects. We often talk of States' autonomy. Here, for reasons best known to the hon. Member and which can be easily guessed, we want to rush in to encroach upon that subject. I would even appeal to the States that in their wisdom, they should also not come forward with any such Bill which is not in the national interest. Therefore, I oppose this Bill.

I would submit and I know that such Bills got admitted earlier. But then, wrong things cannot be taken as precedents. Number one, when it is unconstitutional, number two, when it is in the exclusive jurisdiction of the States and, number three, when the then Attorney-General himself came here in this very House to guide the House to say that the Bill is not in your competence, then some aberrations or some resolutions or Bills having been admitted earlier should not be taken as precedents. I appeal to you to hold the Bill as outside the legislative competence of this House. Otherwise, I appeal to the hon. Member, whom I highly respect, to withdraw his Motion, failing which I have to appeal to this House to throw this Bill out lock, stock and barrel.

SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU : Sir, my good friend, Shri Banatwala is opposing the introduction of my Bill.

Without going into the merits of the Bill, I would like to say that a Bill can be opposed on the ground that it is outside legislative competence of the House or *ultra vires* of the Constitution. But here, article 48 of the Constitution itself, under the Directive Principles of State Policy, clearly states that :

"The State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle."

Therefore, this House is very much competent to enact legislation on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and also to prohibit slaughter of cows and their progenies which can be better used for milk production and harnessing other resources.

Our Party, the BJP, believe in parliamentary democracy and debate and discussions. If the hon. Member has any objection in certain provisions of the Bill, they can be discussed at the stage of consideration of the Bill and a decision can be taken by the House. But killing the initiative of a Member to bring forward a Bill, by opposing it even at the stage of introduction, smacks of intolerance. I would request the hon. Members from both sides and also the hon. House to grant me leave to introduce this very important Bill.

It may be a view of the Department of Animal Husbandry and not the legal opinion of the Law Ministry. The House has the jurisdiction to enact legislations on these subjects and I have every right to move the Bill as a Member of Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I have to inform the House that the Chair does not decide whether a Bill is constitutionally within the legislative competence or not. The House also does not take a decision on specific question of vires of a Bill. In the circumstances, I put the question before the House.

The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit slaughter of cow and its progeny."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Sir, as I have to attend P.A.C. meeting, I seek your permission to introduce my bill first.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees then he can introduce the Bill ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes Sir.

15.47 hrs.

(XV) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Insertion of new articles 293A and 293B)

[English]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Thank you Sir. I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

15.48 hrs.

(XVI) POPULATION CONTROL BILL*

[English]

SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU (Narsapur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for population control through sterilisation and for measures for promoting small family norm and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for population control through sterilisation and for measures for promoting small family norm and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.49 hrs.

(XVII) POPULATION CONTROL BILL*

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for population control measures and for promoting small family norm and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for population control measures and for promoting small family norm and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.50 hrs.

(XVIII) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE (REMUNERATIVE SUPPORT PRICES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

of an Agricultural Produce Price Fixation Board to fix the remunerative support prices of agricultural produce including fruits and vegetables on annual and seasonal basis and timely intervention by the Government at the time of steep fall in prices of such produce in the open market and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Agricultural Produce Price Fixation Board to fix the remunerative support prices of agricultural produce including fruits and vegetables on annual and seasonal basis and timely intervention by the Government at the time of steep fall in prices of such produce in the open market and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.50½ hrs.

(XIX) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new articles 151A to 151D)

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51 hrs.

(XX) ABOLITION OF BEGGING BILL*

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

[Shri G.S. Basavaraj]

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) : Sir, I introduce the Bill.*

15.52 hrs.

(XXI) CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
(AMENDMENT) BILL
(Amendment of section 320, etc.)

[English]

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.52½ hrs.

(XXII) CINE WORKERS' WELFARE BILL*

[English]

SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU (Narsapur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for protection and welfare of cine workers and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for protection and welfare of cine workers and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.53 hrs.

(XXIII) HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
(ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT
BENCH AT VISAKHAPATNAM) BILL*

[English]

SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU (Narsapur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Visakhapatnam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Visakhapatnam."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.54 hrs.

(XXIV) REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of sections 29A and 29B)

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : I introduce the Bill.

15.54½ hrs.

(XXV) PROHIBITION OF PUBLICATION OF
PRE-ELECTION SURVEY BILL*

[English]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit the publication of pre-election survey.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit the publication of pre-election survey."

The motion was adopted.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.55 hrs.

(XXVI) PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION
(ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION)
BILL*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention of corruption and disclosure of assets by Ministers, elected representatives, civil servants and businessmen for public scrutiny and for matters connected therewith."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention of corruption and disclosure of assets by Ministers, elected representatives, civil servants and businessmen for public scrutiny and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I introduce the bill.

15.56 hrs.

(XXVII) REPRESENTATION OF THE
PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of section 11A)

[English]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I introduce the Bill.

15.57 hrs.

(XXVIII) CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
(AMENDMENT) BILL.*
(Amendment of section 167, etc.)

[English]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973."

The motion was adopted.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : I introduce the Bill.

15.58 hrs.

(XXIX) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL.*
(Amendment of the Sixth Schedule)

[English]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

The motion was adopted.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : I introduce the Bill.

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15.59 hrs.

(XXX) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES)
ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla) :
Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduced a Bill further to
amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order,
1950."

The motion was adopted.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : I introduce
the Bill.

15.59½ hrs.

(XXXI) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Insertion of new article 371J)

[English]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla) :
Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : I introduce
the Bill.

16.00 hrs.

(XXXII) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED
TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : Sir,
I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend
the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order,
1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir, I introduce
the Bill.

16-00½ hrs.

(XXXIII) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED
TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI (Mangaldai) : Sir, I beg
to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the
Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order,
1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI : Sir, I introduce the
Bill.

16.01 hrs.

(XXXIV) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Substitution of new Schedule for
Tenth Schedule)

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Sir, I
beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend
the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

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II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

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II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I introduce the Bill.

16.01½ hrs.

(XXXV) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Substitution of new article for
article 120 etc.)

[English]

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : I introduce the Bill.

16.02 hrs.

(XXXVI) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL.*

(Amendment of articles 15 and 16)

[English]

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : I introduce the Bill.

16.02½ hrs.

(XXXVII) WIDOWS' PROTECTION BILL*

[English]

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for protection to destitute widows and for matters connected therewith.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for protection to destitute widows and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : I introduce the Bill.

16.03 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL-CONTD.

(Insertion of new Sections 26A and 26B)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we shall take up item No. 50 further consideration of the motion moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh on 25th February, 2000. Dr. Singh's speech was unfinished. He had taken only three minutes. He can continue his speech now.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, before speaking on representation of the People Bill, I wish to mention about a legislator from Bihar, Shri Umadhar Singh, a staunch follower of leftist ideology, who is sitting on a fast since 18th on Jantar Mantar road.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How is it related to the Bill.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I had requested Hon'ble Speaker about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can speak on this issue on Monday.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He will be dead by Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot permit you to speak now on this issue.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I had requested Hon'ble Speaker and he had agreed that I could speak about it for a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should have spoken about it after lunch break. At present, please speak on the Bill.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that meaning of democracy is rule by vote. Rule of vote will be strong only when the voting system is strong. That is why this issue has been considered by the intellectuals, great thinkers and founding fathers of the country and they have repeatedly said that electoral reforms should be undertaken.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Many committees have been set up in this regard. Goswami committee report was also published, but none of the governments focussed attention on the issue and consequently no action was taken. Therefore, in each and every elections, we hear complaints about rigging, bogus voting, booth capturing and the murder of democracy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a provision of election petition also in the People's Representation Act. Those who contest elections they sometimes file election petition after the elections. There is a clause that the petition should be disposed off in six months. But two years four years or even five years pass and the case remains pending. It is an important issue. We have to strengthen democracy in the country. We have to strengthen rule of the vote, which is now being defined as. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, there is no Minister from the Law Ministry or the Home Ministry present here. What kind of respect is being given to the debate ? It may be a Private Member's Bill. But it is a very important debate. There is nobody present here from the Home Ministry or Law Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has taken permission from the hon. Speaker.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : But there are three Ministers in the Home Ministry- two Ministers of State also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : A Cabinet Minister, Shri Jual Oram is here. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is coming.

Hon. Member, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh may continue.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, People's Representation Act, has the provision for election petition. But the election petition is not disposed in time. As long as there are irregularities in the electoral process, the democracy can't be strengthened. Now it is our responsibility. I am elected from Vaishali constituency which was world's largest democracy three thousand years ago when democracy or the rule of vote was an unknown commodity throughout the world. So we have to fight to strengthen and develop the democracy. The Bill has been brought forward with this objective in mind. Most of the Hon'ble Members who have been elected have won the elections for the second, third, fourth or even seventh-eighth time. It has the votes of a number of Assemblies also. Earlier elections were held every five years, now due to various reasons they are held annually. We don't know

whether this time period for voting would further reduce in case of Assemblies or Parliament. Therefore every time there is voting. Hon'ble Members have to fight elections and face all these difficulties. The list of sensitive and most sensitive booths issued by the Returning Officer is Published in the newspapers. Candidate belonging to one side advise to put those booths in the most sensitive category when they feel the vote would go against them in a particular booth. Returning Officer, in his discretion and without any cause puts the booth of his favoured candidate in the free category whereas the booths which are not favoured by the party are put in the most sensitive category and about 10-20 units of para military forces are stationed there. I have given an amendment. The Presiding Officer and the polling Officer go to conduct voting at a booth along with 3-4 personnel. In a village where both sides are equally strong i.e. there is balance of power no body harms them. But if one side is powerful and the other side is weak, it results in booth capturing and powerful people threaten the Presiding Officer, snatch ballot papers and stamp them as they wish.

This is known as an incident of booth capturing. In such a place, the Presiding officer, even if he wants, can not observe the rules and procedures of election. He becomes helpless and surrenders before the booth captures, the criminals and the law violators. There are instances, when their conscience pricks them, but they get beaten, get injured, abused and insulted. Sometimes they are even murdered. One is pained to hear such reports during the elections throughout the country. Generally people are afraid to associate with elections, they try to get their names deleted from the list of those detailed for election duty. The Election law is strict in this regard. According to the law they might be arrested if they refuse to conduct elections. Therefore, they go to conduct elections out of fear and become helpless.

Once I was visiting some booths during an election. At one booth, the polling Officers were officers of the bank. They seemed to be qualified and able people. They told me that they were slapped and abused when they did not allow some people to cast their votes forcibly. Voting was disrupted there and the ballot box was thrown out. They reported to the police station to assist them in conducting elections. These helpless people had gone to conduct elections in an unknown village as polling officer alongwith four other officials. We have said that provision should be made in the Bill on the pattern of People's Representation Act which provides for a minimum of four persons for polling, it should also provide for the presence of five-six units of paramilitary forces at the polling station. Only then the presiding Officer would be able to conduct the electoral process in a fair and just manner. He needs to be given protection.

Secondly, we have said that it is not enough to protect the booths. At some places it has been observed that criminals and goons block the way of the women belonging to weaker sections, scheduled castes and tribes and prevent them from reaching the booth. Therefore patrolling of the way to the booth by a section of force should be done so that voters are not prevented by goons and criminals. There is a provision in the People's Representation Act about the people who obstruct voting, but no action is taken anywhere in the country. There are complaints of high handedness in thousands of booths, of preventing weaker sections from voting. We visit polling stations on the day of voting. Here and there women keep standing. When we ask the reason and they say that they were not allowed to vote and were turned out from the booth. It is a matter of great regret. If the electoral process is not reformed, if the weaker sections are not given protection to cast their votes, presiding officers are not give protection in conducting elections, the democracy cannot be saved and the rule of the gun and violence will come.

Elections have taken place very recently. We participated in 1999 elections. Thereafter elections were conducted in Bihar in the year 2000. Nation is aware and the Election Commission is concerned about how criminals are winning elections. Criminals get elected. On the other hand the people of the ruling party say that 'jungle Raj' is prevailing in Bihar, because Rashtriya Janata Dal is ruling there. Rule of the poor is being called the rule of the jungle.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, tickets have been given to one dozen proclaimed criminals who are involved in hundreds of cases of murder, abduction, dacoity, loot, violence, extortion etc. I can say with conviction that such people have been given tickets. If you want, I want, I can mention their names also, there is nobody who can challenge it here. but I don't want to mention their names now. Election Commission, too, is concerned about the entry of criminals into politics and it is considering ways and means to stop the criminalisation of politics and the politicisation of criminals. If this is not stopped the gun totting criminals would force everybody to vote in their favour. On the one hand, we appeal to the people, try to convince them for voting in our favour by going to them with folded hands, formulating policies and programmes, releasing manifestos and doing constructive work. On the other hand the criminals stamp booths at gun point. We can't win even after securing 50% of votes and they capture booths and win by stamping all the ballots. If we observe results in 10 of the 11 booths, it is we who will be winning all 10 booths by 10 or 5 votes, but the criminals would win by capturing one booth and getting all the votes cast there. Things like this would go on happening if the

criminals are allowed to enter politics. This is the greatest danger from the criminals.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri T.N. Seshan had doubts in the 1995 elections that we win in Bihar without public support. He posted on all the booths forces belonging to Para military, CRPF and BSF. We won in 42 of the 47 legislative constituency. Whole world knew then, that our victory is certain if elections are free and fair in Bihar. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had said 'Politics of the downtrodden, politics of the vote.' Poor, backward and depressed classes are mostly in our favour. They are not allowed to vote, their booths are captured. I challenge that if there are free and fair elections of Parliament and Assembly, and there is no booth capturing, I can never lose from a single booth. If I lose, I will retire from politics.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently Lok Sabha Elections were held. Our number was reduced to 7. Exit polls declared that we are bound to lose and it had impact on the public. I repeat that even though we could not attain expected victories, still our vote percentage increased. Though there were incidents of poor, depressed classes and weaker sections getting threatened, money was distributed and other inducements were given, all this resulted in our not being able to perform as per expectations.

16.18 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Assembly elections were held thereafter. Many people said that Rashtriya Janata Dal would be wiped out, but no, people stood up and they again gave mandate to Rashtriya Janata Dal. Rashtriya Janata Dal could not be finished. I would stress on two of my amendments. First, para military forces should be made mandatory on each and every booth and there should be jeep patrolling too so that weaker sections are not prevented from casting their votes. I challenge that the Government can not refuse. Government does agree to it. Government will say that such a large force cannot be arranged and that only sensitive areas will be given such forces. The number of such constituencies is 200. 10-20 selected areas are branded as sensitive areas at the instance of a handful of people. The selection is not done honestly. There should be some sort of management. Some officials, such as the BDO, CO and certain other officials of the districts recommend for declaring an area as sensitive area during elections. This is done in a dishonest manner.

It is said that management is done by the ruling party people. All of them start levelling accusations. Therefore, everybody should be given equal status, whether they are polling party, or presiding officer. One polling station should

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have a party of 12-13 officials consisting of one in-charge, four to five policemen, 3-4 patrolling personnel etc. The claim that we don't have such force holds no water. Bihar assembly elections were held in 1995. From where did Mr. Seshan provide para military forces on all the booths. You can stagger the elections in five, even phases, whereas earlier Bihar as well as some other States had three phase assembly and parliament elections. There won't be much problem due to it but it is absolutely necessary to ensure the presence of paramilitary forces on all the booths. There is use of force in some States. It is possible that force is not used in some other places such places should be made free. In my State, there are no guards on any booth. Booths are stamped in favour of one party and the poor are prevented from casting their vote. Several years ago, poor were not interested in voting. They used to say that they can't go to vote ignoring their work as they would have to lose the days earnings. What do they get by casting their votes. This was the mentality of the poor. But they have now woken up. They know that they can rule by casting their votes. Therefore they are now interested in voting. At some places they have become strong but at most places they are still weak. Sometimes they fight back, that is why there is violence. We hear on radio, about the number of violent incidents occurring on the election day. If paramilitary forces are stationed on each and every booth, then no such incident would occur, dishonesty would end, discrimination etc. would also cease. I do not think that the Government could disagree that the voting should be in seven phases instead of three but every booth should mandatorily have paramilitary forces. The commission had called a meeting on 29th. It is also concerned about the way criminals manage to get elected. When the criminals have become so bold, democracy cannot be saved, it would collapse. Therefore, we should agree to this. What you are saying is correct only in theory and what I am saying is correct in practice. Report on Papers cannot hide the reality. Kabir Das had said that the reality can be told only by the people who have first hand experience of it. Those who are in the Rajya Sabha, don't know how the votes are cast. We get Rs. two crores and they also get the same amount. How can a barren woman feel the pain of pregnancy. Only the wearer know where the shoe pinches. Sometimes during election we get reports that goondas have taken over the booth, bombs have been exploded and they turn away the poor and stamp the ballots in the booth. Presiding officer gets killed or injured or under pressure surrenders the ballot papers. There is virtual printing press working. Ballot boxes are filled by stamping thousands of votes in an hour. Sometimes when the box are full, they are broken and the remaining ballots are stamped and put into it.

...*(Interruptions)* Bogus voting is nothing as against booth capturing. When the booth is captured it is virtually printing press. A few votes going in favour of a person is meaningless before it. Booth capturing materially affect the elections. Once the Lohiaite, Socialist, Shri Madhu Limaya contested elections from Munger. He led in 900 booths. Against him 100 booths were stamped. When the results were announced Shri Madhu Limaya had lost the elections. The other contestant had won. That is how the game is played. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : By whom the polls were rigged? Is it by the Congress? I do not know.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, you don't listen to whatever he is saying.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : All right.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : Who was got elected by rigging the poll? I want to know from the hon. Member.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Dr. Lohia had said in a public meeting that he is contesting and he warned against casting bogus votes. He had said that if a single bogus vote is proved, he would resign. We belong to this school of thought. People get their work done during elections by using money and all types of methods. In the latest Rajya Sabha elections, MLAs have been purchased like oxen in a fair, for amounts like Rs. one lakh, two lakh, five lakh. Such electoral malpractices is a black spot on democracy. Measures should be taken to stop all this. ...*(Interruptions)* Rs. 15 crore was offered to buy our MLAs. But Shri Umadhar Singh, a leftist MLA refused Rs. 50 lakh offered to him. He is on fast unto death near Jantar Mantar for the last three days. Ashok Paper Mill of Darbhanga has been closed for years. He is fighting to get it reopened. The case is in Supreme Court. The case has become complicated because of a wrong affidavit submitted by an officer of the Industries Department Government of India.

That great MLA and Ministers from NDA Government have gone with Rs. 50 lakhs to purchase MLAs like bulls to resolve this matter. They rejected this offer but such persons are sitting here. The Government should pay attention towards such Statements of people's representatives. The Members sitting on other side should tell us as to whether booth capturing take place there or not or

whether poor people are not deprived of their right to vote.
 . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor) : Since when elections for Panchayats have not been held in Bihar. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : They have deprived the people belonging to backward classes of their right to vote. I will expose all that. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the MLA alleged for it should be expelled.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have not mentioned the name of any person. I have not levelled any allegation against anyone. They are on fast. I have not mentioned the name of any criminal but mentioned a good person. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not reply to his point without my permission. You should not mention the name of such person against whom charge cannot be proved and for which notice has not been given.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have not mentioned the name. I have mentioned the name of the person who rejected this amount. Have I stated the name of persons who had gone there with the money ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not mention the name of any person till you give information about that.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : What for is this Rs. 15 crores. He has stated this that. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not mention their version. You mention your point.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Why are you so adamant on it. I have not stated anything which is not relevant or unparliamentary. From whom do we learn parliamentary decorum. Dr. Lohia and Karpuri Thakur are no more here. Which school should we go to learn this thing. Thus all these points are relevant.

There is a clause in People Representatives Act which provides safety of booths, people belonging to weaker sections and safety for persons from depriving of their right to vote. There is provision under which action can be taken against a person who threatens or give bribes to voters.

But this clause is not much effective as it is not implemented and such practices are still continuing. There should be amendment in this legislation by way of election reforms so that fair, impartial and peaceful elections could be held in democracy. Presently the administration and officials engaged in conducting the elections accord priority to hold elections in a peaceful manner but not in impartial manner. People will neither lodge any complaint nor agitate against such thing if somebody put stamps on the ballot papers in favour of a political party without any disturbance. Thus priority should be accorded for conducting elections fair as well as in peaceful manner. Elections will be fair and peaceful only when common man, deprived, exploited, neglected, oppressed, slandered, suppressed and frightened poor people will cast their votes, who have not seen the ballot papers so far. Such people were not given the chance to cast their votes. They were held up on the way while going to cast their votes. Such people should be given sufficient facilities and protection for casting their votes only then actual democracy will be attained. It will not be proper to say that this golden pitcher is made up of clay. The golden pitcher made up of gold looks proper so in the same manner democratic system set up through fair elections will be more efficient. Democracy will be affected if practices like booth capturing, hooliganism, muscle power, booth rigging, money power, bungling, bribery, transaction, caste system, religious controversies are adopted for winning elections. Impartial, fair and peaceful elections should be conducted for fair system of democracy. I felt this while contesting elections for such a long time. I was going to village where two three old women and poor labourers asked me to send personnels of Rapid Action Force who wear a specific uniform known as 'Chitkabra' in villages. They felt that personnel of Rapid Action Force can check malpractices in elections. Personnel of RAF take stringent action and thus villagers with one voice protest that there would be no malpractice is presence of RAF. It means that all the poor persons were ready to cast their votes but they were afraid of terror of hooligans. Poor people have faith in RAF and so they demand for deployment of RAF. People belonging to Nonia caste live near several polling booths. It comes under very backward caste. I have given an amendment to include these people in list of scheduled castes. Ram Kishan Mohato, a bank officer, belonging to Nonia caste which is a backward class was beaten and deprived of casting his vote. Ram Lal Mahto was beaten at Narangi booth in Kathaiya and deprived also of casting his vote.

Not a single person from NDA would have won the election if 100 persons were allowed to cast their votes. Persons having faith in muscle power were united against Lalu Yadav and won the elections. Polling booths were not

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provided full protection and people belonging to backward classes were deprived of casting their votes. Thus our party weakened to an extent. Thus there should be amendment in people's Representation Act. After the amendment in the said clause, public opinion should be taken on this issue. It happens that intellectuals and reputed persons may argue that there is shortage of forces, well but there should not be any abatement in deployment of forces. Para-Military Force was deployed on all the booths during elections in 1995 and at that time there was no rioting and booth-capturing and people belonging to backward classes had cast their votes while waiting in long queues. I would like to give a suggestion that shortage of paramilitary force is not the reason to deny it. The available force can be deployed in phases by division. At present elections are conducted in three phases whereas these can be conducted in five or seven phases. The opinion of political parties can be obtained in this regard.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : Do you mean that it should be without the consent of the State Government? You are in power now in your State and you may again capture power. Do you mean that paramilitary forces should be deployed without the consent of the State Government?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : No. There is no need for consent. At present, by pick and choose method, some booths are declared as most sensitive that means, they will deploy paramilitary forces. Some booths are abandoned, without *chowkidars* and without police. It is left to God.

[Translation]

It is left to God, there was no responsible person posted there to look after in case someone kills the Presiding Officer and resort to booth capturing and take away ballot boxes.

[English]

By pick and choose method, discrimination is made; partiality is being shown. It is according to the Returning Officer decided that some booths are declared as sensitive. Then, some petition will be filed against him and thus, there will be unnecessary controversy between the parties and the candidates.

Every booth should be declared as sensitive and paramilitary forces should be deployed, equally in all

booths without any partiality. By this way, a fair and a peaceful poll can be held.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are an experienced senior person and Member of Parliament. When only two Members of your party were elected for this House, it was stated that they came by riding the crest of popularity wave. Hon'ble Minister is new to this House and an intelligent person. I hope that he will ask his officers for its efficient implementation. Sometimes officers create problems for genuine work and they have to be rebuked for it sometimes. Therefore you reply to it after reviewing it. A ban should be imposed on the use of posters, banners and petrol as crores of rupees are spent on it and assistance of rich traders is sought for it and after sometimes they themselves start contesting elections. In the beginning assistance of criminals is sought and now criminals are themselves contesting elections. It is dangerous for democracy. All these points should be reviewed. In place of pamphlets, posters and banners now a days bombs, bullets, arms are used and also factors like use of criminals, castes and distribution of cash are involved for contesting elections. Cash, caste and criminals factors together poses danger for the democracy.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : You have made a valuable contribution to this. There is an accusation that in Bihar your party is indulging in rigging.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am demanding that Para-military Forces should be deployed. Shri L.K. Advani is in-charge of CRPF; he is in-charge of the RAF and he is in-charge of the Border Security Force.

[Translation]

In spite of this we demand that para-military force should be deployed on all the booths. We would have not demanded for deployment of para-military force if we indulged in booth capturing. Now criminals are being elected. Hardened criminals are being elected. Criminals, who are charged with 104 killings and responsible for killing of truck-driver and cleaner are given tickets for contesting elections. If they are denied tickets, for contesting elections then they support their favourite candidates. This poses danger for the democracy. I would like to say that—'Ek Saadhe Sab Sadhe, Sab Saadhe Sab Jaye'—thus fair poll is solution to this problem. We have not learnt democracy from Ibraham Lincon. Lord Buddha was the father of democracy. He stated that there is rule of law, people who are elected enact laws and govern the country.

Lord Buddha preached democracy is the rule of law. Later on Ibrahim Lincon said – By the people, for the people. Democracy means the rule through election. But actual definition of democracy is – Democracy is the rule of law. This definition was given here 3000 year ago. So it becomes our duty to reconsider this issue as how to strengthen and prosper the democracy in order to march further. We have got the honour of being largest democracy of the world and efforts should be made for having honour of strong and the best democracy of the world. Though Ministers of previous Government were also good but if the Government has good intention to check booth-capturing, rigging, high-handedness, criminalisation of politics, palatalization of criminals, this bill may be passed at the earliest. I am asking only for its regularisation as on specific expenditure, posters, complications or technic is involved in it. All the places should be treated equally. While regularisation this should be made obligatory.

There are very few Members in the House at present and only those Members are here who have interest in democratic system. Earlier elections were held after five years and now elections are held every year. But elections will be held every month if this Bill is passed because no posters, expenditure, complication and high-handedness is involved in it. When there will be use of money and also bullet in place of ballot papers, it poses danger to the democracy.

With these words, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

16.45 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL
(XXXVIII) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL***

(Insertion of new articles 16A and 29A)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

16.45½ hrs.

**(XXXIX) INDIAN PENAL CODE
(AMENDMENT) BILL***

(Amendment of section 21)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

16.46 hrs.

**(XL) CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER
AND OTHER ELECTION COMMISSIONERS
(CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)
(AMENDMENT) BILL***

(Amendment of section 10)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

16.47 hrs.

**REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL-CONTD.**

(Insertion of new sections 26A and 26B)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Before I begin my speech, I would like to draw your attention

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 20.4.2000.

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[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

to the established practice and tradition of this House. Whenever Private Members' Bills are discussed, with all honour to the House, the Minister concerned remains present to reply to the debate. I came to this House for the first time in 1971. I remember, when Shri Madhu Limaye or Shri Namboodripad used to speak on the Private Members' Bills, no less than Babu Jagjivan Ram or Shri Y.B. Chavan used to remain present in the House. That was the tradition.

Today, I do not know which Minister is going to reply to this debate; whether the Law Minister or the Home Minister. Who is the competent representative of the Ministry here to understand the points and reply them. Is this the way to violate the established tradition of the House? I am very sorry to say that even the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is not present here when such an important Bill is being discussed in the House. This is my feeling. I hope you will take care of this matter. Members who are representing the Treasury Benches here, please talk to me. When the Prime Minister will be okay, I will personally talk to him regarding this matter. He is the Leader of the House. This is not the way to treat the Private Members' day by the Treasury Benches.

Chairman, Sir, the discussion initiated by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh in the House concerns all the Members of the House cutting across the party lines. I am saying it because this Bill, if it is accepted by the Government, shall further strengthen the cause and the root of democracy and elections in this country. Besides the scope of the Bill, there are a few areas which require to be examined in-depth by the Law Ministry, Election Commission and the Government as a whole.

Here lies the basic problem. Who is our Returning Officer, the District Magistrate, the Collector. He represents the particular State cadre to which he belongs. It is the practical and moral obligation and loyalty besides the requirement of the Constitution that the SP or the Collector of a district, cutting across party lines, to whichever party in power in that State. Whatever the Election Commission may say, the Collector and the SP have to listen to his State bosses of the day. Therefore, in the name of free and fare elections the first obstacle is, during the period of election to keep the State cadre in his own position to conduct the election. The District Magistrate has two or three ADMs these days to look after law and order, development etc. My first suggestion is that the day election notification is issued, a person of the cadre of the District Collector, should not be handed over the election process of that constituency. A different State cadre of equivalent rank shall take care of that and the

Additional DM shall take care of the other activities till election is over to ensure some check.

This is to ensure some fairness. Similarly, the Additional Superintendent of Police can take care of law and order and the Superintendent of Police, who must be of different State cadre, should look into the election administration till the date of the election. I am saying this from my personnel experience.

Sir, I came in this august House in 1971. I could not come to the House three times. On the first occasion, I lost election by 1100 votes; second time by 2800 votes, and third time by 4000 votes because I was fighting elections from the State of West Bengal. I say it today to show how elections are conducted there. On the day of election if someone visits West Bengal, he will understand the method and mechanism of conducting elections. In 1989, the election was over and the counting was in progress. In the mid-night, suddenly a decision was taken that the electric lights should be put off, counting tables should be bundled and the storm troopers should enter. I being one of the candidates, cried before the Superintendent of Police. I asked him to give me escort. Even the candidates were not allowed to enter the hall. They were asked to say outside. The counting was completed and the result was declared. Till mid-night I was leading by 35,000 votes. After that, within one hour, the result was announced and I lost by 1100 votes. It was in 1989. I know the election petition will take a lot of time in the court. The Superintendent of Police said that he cannot help me. My personal security was withdrawn. I stayed out alone.

In 1991, the election was over. On the day of counting I got a message in the mid-night that Shri Rajiv Gandhi had been assassinated. I remember on 22nd May the counting was stopped throughout the country. There were some complaints by MLAs that there are irregularities in the election. After one month, the Election Commission gave a decision that since the scheduled counting is postponed, repolling would be done in 34 booths. I cried before the Election Commission and told him that if you hold this by-election now in 34 booths, the whole State machinery will be poured in. The Election Commission declared repolling in 34 polling booths. I was a candidate from Howrah constituency. The Chief Secretary threatened through a public statement, he cannot ensure fairness of elections, and that the candidate will now face the music. It is on record. I sent those documents to the then Election Commission, Shri T.N. Seshan. The District Magistrate told me that he cannot help me. The Superintendent of Police told me that he cannot do anything. On the day of the election at 8 o'clock in the morning, polling agents were withdrawn and they were beaten at gun point. The

Presiding Officer was shivering. I was confined in one booth at gun point for two and a half hours in the city of Howrah. When I rushed to the then DIG, Shri Partho Bhattacharya, he said that he is helpless. He asked me to complain to the Observer of Election Commission. The Observer was in the Control Room. But nobody was lifting the phone there. All the Polling Booths were without Police Officers. It was a *mafia raj* for two and a half hours. I was made to lose by 2200 votes while I was leading all through. Can you imagine that a candidate was made to lose after one month? In those 34 booths, around 29,000 votes were polled and I got only 1,800. This was the result. It was published in all the newspapers. It was again done through mechanism. In 1998, I was fighting elections from a rural constituency. I was told that you cannot enter into a block without the gunman. I was not accompanied by a gunman. I took along with me only one Police Officer. The Police Officer said that he cannot save my life now. He advised me to go back home. The booths were surrounded by people. The polling agents were beaten and again I could not come to Lok Sabha. I lost the election by 3800 to 4000 votes.

In respect of police personnel, the rule in our State is that they cannot exercise their franchise in polling booths; they have to vote through postal ballots. A police official has to stamp his ballot paper in the presence of a nominated representative of a particular Police Union loyal to a particular political party. They have to stamp it one after the other and that would be placed in a counting booth. I myself, Mamata and others cried before the Election Commission against this practice. But no relief was given.

There is criminalisation of politics and politicisation of bureaucracy. There is also the influence of official money power. What is the meaning of the influence of official money power? I can give another example. Take for instance elections in rural areas. There are BPL cardholders. Forty-eight hours before the polling. The BPL cards are collected. The poor people will be told that these cards are in the official custody; they should first ensure that they voted for a particular party; they will see the results and then only the poor people will get back their BPL cards and get their ration. A few of us tried to resist it with all the risk in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Purulia and Hooghly. This is another exploitation.

There is the misuse of another official machinery. The poorest of the poor in villages get some work once in a week through the Panchayat system. The Panchayat authorities of a particular political party will tell them that their muster roll is kept in abeyance, they have to first ensure that they listen to the authorities on the day of the poll and then only their names will be taken back in

the muster roll. What will the poor people do? They have no other option but to obey the authorities.

Forget about fair Elections after 10 a.m. in the rural areas of West Bengal. Can any political party other than the party in power claim that they keep their polling agents up to the lunch time except in the city of Calcutta? They cannot. Our main fear in West Bengal is not to get votes; it is how to send those who are sitting in the polling booth back to their mothers safely after 5 o'clock. It is very difficult. This is the condition in which we are facing elections.

Therefore, I fully support Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh's Bill. Unless a paramilitary contingent under the control of the cadre of some other State is placed in position as a compulsory measure, you will have to forget the fairness of elections.

In the last Lok Sabha elections through which I came to this House, there was only one incident of police firing in the whole State. It was in my constituency, to protect my life. I went to a booth called Puvargu located near the border of Bihar. When I went there, women on the road told me 'please protect us, we can bless you, but we cannot vote for you'. I asked why. They said the booth was captured by the local goons. I went to the booth desperately on my own. I had my PSO with me. I found the local MLA and the local goons were taking their bread and tea near the booth and the Presiding Officer was crying. I asked him what was happening. He said, out of 680 votes, 300 votes were already polled without any queue. One of the goons takes his bread and his cup of tea, comes to the booth, sees the list, picks up a name and claims that the name is his, takes a ballot paper and stamps it. Then comes another and this goes on. I resisted it. The Presiding Officer said, 'Sir, I am afraid, there is danger for your life. You better leave this place immediately. You may win in other booths. Please do not try this booth.' I insisted that I would stay there itself. Then they put the gun on my head. My PSO tried to retaliate, but I stopped him and asked him to keep quiet. Then the courageous Presiding Officer ordered the only police constable posted there to release the fire immediately because otherwise the crowd would not keep quiet. They released the fire. Being a candidate, I had to run half a kilometre with my PSO. They were chasing me. After two hours the police came and there were four rounds of firing. This is how we face elections.

Therefore, there should be paramilitary support not only for the Presiding Officers and the polling agents, but also to the poorest of the poor to ensure the confidence of the voters in rural areas. During the election campaigning. I talked many things like secularism.

communalism, unity and integrity of the country, etc. At the end of an election meeting, the poorest of the poor told me 'we will vote for you, but please ensure that we will get back our ration cards because those are seized.'

17.00 hrs.

Can you imagine that they did not ask for any road or drinking water or anything like that? They only told that it should be ensured that their ration cards should be with them. This is their plight. I have been crying hoarse before the Election Commission and everybody. In and around Calcutta, this does not happen because the electronic media is very alert and there are police personnel present. But this is what happens in the villages. I fully support this Bill, and come what may, this practice should be followed in the State. I am not taking the name of any party. I am glad that Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is safe today. The time has come that we should all think together. At one point of time, somebody used to make use of anti-social elements during the day of elections. It is true. Now, those anti-social elements want to come to the House and they have started coming to the respective Assemblies. At some point of time, money power used to say, "I will take care of you and your victory and you look after my pocket and licence." Now they say, "We have got enough in our pockets and licences, we want to come to the House." This is how the whole trend of democracy got vitiated.

Therefore, I think the Bill which come up in this House is to ensure democracy not for particular areas of Bihar but for the entire country.

I would tell you only one interesting thing that happened. I had been on a *padha yatra* after the demolition of the Babri Masjid. I walked 1400 kilometres in Bengal for two months. I walked from morning till evening and I was appealing to the people to maintain amity. During that period, I had been to one village in Bankura. The villagers there told me that they wanted to meet Shrimati Indira Gandhi regarding a rural development programme or something like that. They took the name of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and told like that. I shed my tears. They did not know that Shrimati Indira Gandhi was dead. I told this to Shri Jyoti Basu also. They know only about their own village. They only know that they have to do their job and at the end of the day, they get some ration. And then, I found that the school building of these poor people was burnt because there was polling in that school building and due to that polling, one particular political party secured victory and since poor people went and voted in that school building, that was burnt. Till today, it has not been built. In another village of Howrah, which Shri Santosh Mohan Dev also is aware of, they had voted for 'hand' symbol during a panchayat election and when

the votes were counted and the result was declared, they found that a majority of them had voted for 'hand' symbol. For this reason, the hands of 16 village leaders were chopped off. Their hands were simply chopped off! And the police did not take cognisance of it. People have been punished for saluting democracy.

Therefore, I fully endorse this Bill and the manner in which it has come up. I feel that the Government should actively think over the solemn promise which it gave in their election manifesto and in the President's address. I take this opportunity, while speaking on this Private Members' Bill, to request them to bring an aggressive Electoral Reforms Act, aggressive mechanism to ensure franchise of everybody, whichever be the party or the State he may belong to. Otherwise, the way the *Mafia raj* and the misuse of finance and State power are going on, the situation will worsen.

When I talked to the Collector of my district, he said that his promotion to Secretary depends on the Chief Minister. Up to the election, he will be his candidate and he would know what is election law. He further said, "After all, I am from the State cadre. My whole career depends on the State. Therefore, if I am the DM of a district and on the day of the notification of the election, if I am shifted to Patna and if you bring the DM of Patna to my place, then he will be too fair because his credentials will be maintained by the Patna Secretariat and not by the Bengal Secretariat and my credentials will be maintained by the Bengal Secretariat and not by the Patna Secretariat. It is because I cannot be working fearlessly here whereas he can work without fear here." So, this is the basic point.

Therefore, with these words, I conclude and request the Government to consider this Private Member's Bill very seriously and take action immediately.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, no one can deny that electoral system is the basis of democracy and electoral procedure or electoral system should always be fair. I am really surprised to know as to which characteristic of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is revealed in the Bill moved by him. The State of Bihar, where so far Panchayat elections could not be held since when the amendments have been made in the constitution. During these previous general elections conducted for Lok Sabha, in Bihar, a show of shameless violence took place. Maximum persons were killed in Bihar during elections. In spite of deployment of para-military forces and Rapid Action Force a terrific scene of killings was there in Bihar during elections. In the name of Bhoomi Sena, Ranbir Sena, Lalkhandi Sena and Sena of Lalu, incidence of booth capturing took place and money power and muscle power was used. This is the situation in Bihar. Now the hon'ble

Member is presenting a different situation of Bihar here I have apprehensions in this regard. Deployment of para-military force is a very good suggestion and every one will praise it. . . .(Interruptions) Para-military force was sent to Bihar but Bihar Government was responsible for its deployment. Senior officers of Bihar police and administration of Bihar deployed those personnel of para military force at such places which were unknown for them. It was local police of having control there and arbitrary rule of vote bank of Laluji and fictitious booth-capturing continue there.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vashali) : Less para-military force was deployed there. So, I say that sufficient force should be sent there to cover all the booths. It is decided afterwards that where this force should be deployed. You should consider this Bill impartially and by judicious viewpoint. We will defeat you in election if you contest from there. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I have stated in the beginning itself that your intention in bringing this bill is good but the background you belong, and you yourself have stated that people talk about 'Jungle Raj' in Bihar, creates apprehension. What happens during elections in Bihar is known to the whole country. Every political party raises the issue of electoral reforms after every election, whether it is an issue of Dinesh Goswami Committee, Indrajit Gupta Committee or recommendations of Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Jeevan Reddy of Indian Law Commission. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You are a senior Member, from where the question of party affiliation comes into it ? Impartial, genuine and factual issues should be raised during discussion of Private Members' Bill. I have told the solution to this problem. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, it is called hypocrisy in English :

"Gyuan Door kuchh kriya bhinn hai,
ichha puri kyon ho man lei,
Ek dusre se na mil saken,
Yeh vidambana Hai Jeevan ki"

In context of background of Bihar I remember a couplet. Though, Some other places are there also in the country where money power and muscle power are used :-

"Bas ek hi ullu kafi hai
barbad gulistan karne ko,
Har Shakh pe ullu baitha hai.
Anjame gulistan kya hoga"

Politicization of criminals has been done. . . .(Interruptions) please let me have my say.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am supporting your point. Central Government is full of incapable persons. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I would like to say to Raghuvanshji that people who live in houses of glasses should not throw stones on others. NDA has been supporter of electoral reforms and a comprehensive bill will be brought in this regard in future. The NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has sent para-military forces for having proper arrangement for elections in Bihar. But due to 'jungle raj' of Laluji personnel of para-military force and RAF were not deployed at sensitive places and deployed at such places where it was not required at all. As a result of it violence took place there. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the chair.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Union Government sent observers there and forces were deputed according to their instructions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not to reply to it. Please do not interrupt. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman Sir, this is not right. He is not speaking about the bill, but is speaking something which is irrelevant. He is talking controversial things regarding Bihar, which is not good. . . .(Interruptions) I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Under which rule ?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : All the observers were sent to Bihar by the Central Government. The Central Government deputed forces there. We told about the areas of 'pick and choose', we also told about its cure. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Rawat ji, you do not need to give answer to his question. Please speak only addressing me.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, our party feels and N.D.A. also wishes that electoral reforms should be made a subject of top priority. As in recent Rajya Sabha elections, money and force both were used by various parties and cross-voting also took place. Keeping all these facts in view, all the parties are willing that the effect of money and force should be kept away from the elections and elections should be conducted impartially. I fully support this arrangement. Similarly, the Chief Election Commissioner has said that if all the parties are willing for such reforms wholeheartedly then the

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

electoral reforms could be conducted properly, otherwise that 'saying' will prove correct, that we eat whatever is sweet and we spit out whatever is sour. We want to be arbitrary where there is our own Government but where we do not have our own Government, there we demand for either President's rule or impartial Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, today the number of political parties with three digits remain only two. The figures of other parties have increased to 5, 7, 10 or 15 like the growth of mushroom. The number of political parties in our country should not be more than three or four. Money and might should not be used in the elections and corruption, bribery etc. should not be taken place at all. Booth-capturing and use of weapons are taking place in the elections. Poors are not given chance to vote, the high class people do not let the lower class people cast their votes. All these things should be stopped. The para-military forces should be deputed at the places of elections. Four armed persons should be deputed there, so that voting may be conducted properly and peacefully. Moreover, arrangements for the patrolling of para-military forces in the area of voting should be made so that people may vote fearlessly and conveniently. But these things are very good if we speak in an ideal sense but how it can happen? This would mean – after committing so much of sins, people are now trying to become saints, or in other way, a sinner is now reading the Bible, I am taking it only as a 'saying'. It is my request that nobody take it otherwise. There should be order in the polling booths. Bihar State needs maximum attention in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, all of us know about the party who gave tickets to contest elections in Bihar to most of those unsocial elements, who were imprisoned behind the bars. They may themselves introspect in their mind. I do not want to mention the name of that party in the House. People have won by giving threats to voters. People involved in heinous crimes dacoits etc. have won the elections. They win in one or the other name. I am talking about preventing such people from contesting the elections. This is also an inseparable aspect of electoral reforms. It should certainly be considered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, provision of State funding should also be implemented. Black money may not be used in elections, therefore arrangement to provide money should be made from State Government. The State should provide funds to the listed political parties, or any other such system may be adopted, but State Government should make provision for money in the elections. It is very essential to adopt a definite system after extensive deliberation. Sir, through you, I welcome the electoral

reforms from a political point of view, and thereby, request that the Government may ensure proper arrangement of para-military forces to maintain order at polling-booths, so that in any elections viz either of Legislative Assemblies in the States, or Panchayats, or local bodies, or Lok Sabha itself, resort to violence may not be taken and the common people may cast their vote fearlessly with their own choice, belief and understanding. Such kind of an arrangement should be made at the polling-booths. Unfortunately, these days in few States, democracy has turned into 'power cracy', i.e. might is right, Bihar is one of such States. Fundamentals of 'power always wins' have come into existence over there. I saw pictures in the newspapers and other magazines that a man is holding a rifle with 40-50 persons standing along with him having guns in their hands. They are going for canvassing amongst the voters. Wherever they will go, the innocent people would get terrified and would not even be able to express their views or feelings. Therefore, it is very much essential to prevent such criminal elements.

The commission or committees that were constituted for electoral reforms or the commitments, which were made by the election commission, go into the cold storage. During the elections only, people remember such commitments but later on they forget them. No one remembers it. Sir, through you, I request that at this auspicious time when we have celebrated the golden jubilee of our democracy and are also going to celebrate the golden jubilee of the framing of our constitution, it is very much necessary that the elections of the largest democratic country, India, should be conducted impartially, independently and which may be free from all flaws and lacunae. One of these flaws and lacunae that I would like to mention before you, is defection from one party to the other. Previously, anti-defection law had been enacted and there was amendment in the constitution also but there were certain lacunae in it, viz, if one-third people wish to change the party, they could defect from one party to the other. This point should also be considered that a person who has won the elections from a particular political party or a particular political symbol and if he wants to leave that particular party he should tender his resignation and should again contest and win elections. If this cannot be done, then defection from one party to another should be checked.

This practice of money and might should be checked. Provision for State-funding should be made. Code of Conduct should also be enforced. Moreover the recent suggestion given by the election commission should be seriously considered i.e., whenever elections are held, there should be neutral Government at that time in the states. If during the election there would be a particular

party's Government and whether it is truly neutral, even then allegations would be levelled against it. A system should be evolved in which the Government may appear as a neutral, impartial one, so that on one may get a chance to make some undesirable comments. This would bring order. This is possible only when different Political parties ruling in different States, may sit together and cut across party lines, make efforts for electoral reforms.

I wish that an extensive Electoral Reform Bill may be introduced collectively after considering the Dinesh Goswami Committee recommendations, Indrajit Gupta Committee recommendations and suggestions given by the Indian Law Commission as also the Election Commission from time to time and suggestions given by the hon'ble Supreme Court and all the parties together pass such a bill so that the largest democracy of the world may attain its pride, or glory and purity of the once called Lichhavi republic.

With these words, I welcome this Bill introduced by Shri Singh and say that the use of money and power, might and hooliganism should be stopped and the lower class may be able to cast their vote fearlessly. Armed Forces may be deputed on the polling booths, which may be under the right and capable administration, under the hands of impartial officers, so that their help could be taken. The common man may get its benefit in the real sense. With these words, I express my thanks to you for having given me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, bill introduced by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, is very important for strengthening the democratic set-up of the country. I appeal to the Government that winning the elections through force, power and money is actually not a victory. If in the democracy one really wants to win the elections, then he should go amongst the people he should win the confidence of the people. People who win the elections after gaining the confidence of the people, are the ideal persons of a democratic set-up. A lot of discussion has been made in the House and Assemblies regarding curbing of hooliganism. We try to stop hooliganism, send police force and army there, but despite of it the number of black marketers is continuously increasing. People have developed a tendency that whosoever would give maximum money, he will be elected by the people. Such a tendency is a peril for a democratic system. Government says that election work should be completed in Rs. 15 lakhs. But elections should not be done in Rs. 15 lakhs. I think there is no need of even 15 lakh rupees for election. It should be conducted in 1 or 2 lakhs of rupees. Deposit these 1 or 2 lakhs of rupees to the Government. If you have to talk against each other, it can be done on

computers. Policies of other parties can be objected in this manner. In other countries, the Government puts posters at its own cost in the elections. Names of persons is mentioned in a list. There is a need to make changes in the election system. The Government must make provisions that elections should be contested in as less budget as possible. This bill is very important, it does not pertain to any particular party. It requires to be passed. The democratic set up cannot be maintained until and unless election procedure is rectified. I appeal to the Government that it has not done anything good in the preceding six months, please try to do some good act. You must be thinking that if you would bring changes in the electoral system, then you would not come in power again. If you are not accepting this Bill, but even then please try to make reforms in the election procedure.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very interesting debate is taking place in this House. I have to congratulate Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh for bringing this Bill for debate and discussion in this august House.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons he has very categorically indicated that during the elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers are threatened and intimidated, booths are captured, voters are kept away at gun point and not allowed to exercise their franchise, particularly the people belonging to the weaker sections. They are totally prevented even from entering the vicinity of the polling stations. Therefore, he has stated the elections will remain a force, unless the evils of booth capturing, intimidation of Presiding Officers and deprivation of weaker sections from exercising their franchise are eliminated and curbed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the other day, when I participated in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to President's Address I stated that with a sense of pride and jubilation as a citizen of this great democracy, I stated, 'we could raise our heads in pride and honour when we walk in the street of any Capital of the world claiming that I belong to a country where the democracy has been successful for five decades in spite of facing so many challenges.' But Sir, when we claim that we are a democracy, of course, of all the democracies, our functioning democracy excels well then any other democracy, particularly in Asia and more particularly when it is compared with our neighbouring country, where democracy has been totally annihilated, I feel ashamed at the same time that the citizens of this country are not allowed to exercise their franchise in the polling booths.

Sir, the founders of the Constitution, the great thinkers, like Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and other legal luminaries,

[Shri Vaiko]

when framed the Constitution guaranteed basic rights to the citizens of this country. There is a chapter on Fundamental Rights. The Fundamental Rights are guaranteed, but if a citizen of this country, a poor man belonging to the weaker section could not exercise his franchise in the polling booth then it is nothing but hypocrisy to speak about the Fundamental Rights. I do not want to cast any aspersions on any political party.

As a loud thinker, the mover of the Bill, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, has highlighted many aspects. When we take into account how the elections are held in most of the States and when we read how many people voted and participated in the elections, it is not more than 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. Of late, I observed that it was not more than 35 per cent to 40 per cent. But even in this case, suppose if 40 per cent votes are polled, then the total number of votes polled is four lakhs out of ten lakh votes and if ten candidates from different parties contested, then how many votes one secures ?

We are speaking about democracy. Most of the Members belong to different political parties. How much franchise are we getting ? It may be 10 per cent or 12 per cent or 15 per cent because the total votes are divided between ten political parties. A persons with ten per cent vote could be elected to the Lok Sabha or to the State Legislature. The system is like that because we have made a carbon copy of the British Constitution, that is the Government of India Act, 1935. The system in US is different. Their electoral system is different. The system in France is totally different. But, here first comes first. In a race, who crosses the victory post first, he is the victor. Likewise, we practise the same system. Out of thirty candidates, a candidate who gets more than the number of votes got by the other 29 candidates, is declared elected. This is the system that we are having here.

Sir, with one stroke of pen, we got franchise for all men and women here. We are happy about that. When I said we carbon copied the Government of India, 1935 Act, the Anglo Saxon model, in the U.K., they fought for decades, for many years to get franchise. Today, I am happy that we are for 33 per cent reservation for women. I am for that and I am committed to that. But, Sir, in the U.K., they have had to fight to get franchise for years. In the year 1860, women in the U.K. started an agitation. They wanted franchise. At that time, there was no franchise for them. In 1866, they had a big meeting at Hyde Park in London. They wanted to meet the Prime Minister of Britain. Mr. Asquit was the Prime Minister at that time but the Women's Organisation was not given the permission to meet the Prime Minister at his residence. They tried

their level best but they could not get an appointment with the Prime Minister. Then, what had happened ? It is very interesting. The lady champion of franchise, Ms. Emily Bankers, was chosen as the leader of the Organisation, which was agitating to get franchise. She went to the Head Post Office in London. She went to the Parcel Branch and said, 'I want to send a parcel to the Prime Minister of this country, who is staying in 10 Downing Street'. Then, the man who was sitting in the Head Post Office asked, 'Where is the parcel ?' She replied, 'The parcel is ready. Would you send the parcel immediately ?' Then, the man said, 'Okay, we will send the parcel.' After that, Ms. Emily Bankers said, 'I am the parcel.' The man got flabbergasted and said, 'What are you telling ?' She asked, 'You kindly show me the rules and the Post Office Act as to what type of parcels only could be sent. Is there any ban ?' The fellow consulted other legal pandits. The Acts was silent about this. Then, they had no other go. Then, a tag was put on her wrist, addressed to Mr. Asquit, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street. Then, one man from the Central Post Office took this lady to the Prime Minister. There, the Secretary to the Prime Minister said, 'What is this ? A human parcel has come to the Prime Minister.' Then, the matter was taken to the Prime Minister. After that, the Prime Minister gave the audience—this is history—to her for 45 minutes. Likewise, they fought for many years. Again in the year 1910, there was a big agitation throughout London. Then, the World War broke in the year 1914. After four years, that is in 1918, for the first time, franchise was given to women in the U.K. That also, those who were above thirty years were given franchise. After ten years, in 1928, those who were above 21 years were given franchise.

Why I am telling this is because, to exercise the franchise, is a Fundamental Right. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was narrating here as to what was happening in the State of Bihar. I shudder to hear what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi narrated namely, in every election – in 1989, 1991 and again in 1998 – how he was intimidated; how he was chased by the gunmen; how the rigging took place; and how he was defeated.

I do remember in the year 1971 when Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray was there, the present Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu, made a Statement that by 12 o'clock he will quit the election scenario., They cannot enter many of the polling booths. Even in the constituency from where he contested, he said that terror was here. The booths were totally rigged and captured. We do not have any say in this matter. So we are quilting the election scenario.

Now, when Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was narrating all those things, it was really paining me. Then, I thought

that students had outsmarted their teachers. I did not know what he was telling. The same practice is there. That system is there. The party in power is doing all these things. All the booths will be totally captured. Rigging will be there. They have to decide who is the victor, not the people. In some parts of the country, particularly in Bihar, after the fall of the dusk, some people – I do not want to name any of the political parties because most of the political parties play a role – will have a meeting in a village. They will say that this particular caste is allotted 80 votes, so and so is allotted 70 votes; so and so is allotted 100 votes; and so and so is allotted 120 votes. Tomorrow, this much number of votes will be polled. The next day when the election process commences, three or four young men will go there and they will ask the Presiding Officer. So, as has been decided the previous night, three or four people will cast the votes. They will take the ballot papers and votes will be distributed according to the formula arrived at the previous night.

Sir, in most of the booths with weapons-aided men enter the polling booths and the officers will tremble and wonder what they could do. They will snatch the ballot papers; they will put the stamp. The signatures will also be put. This is going on. Everybody knows that this is going on in many parts, particularly, in the State of Bihar.

Sir, I am really happy when Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has brought forward this Bill to eradicate this abominable practice of booth capturing and pernicious practice of forfeiting the basic right to exercise the franchise.

There are many stages in these malpractices. First of all, I am told, right from completion of the voters' list up to counting, at every stage, malpractices take place. Many people will not find their names in the voters' lists. I am told that that depends upon the whims and fancies of the party in power. But that is happening. We understand it from the newspapers. We understand it also from the people who have gone to other States from Bihar and worked there. When the IAS officers come back, we ask them and they say, it is very easy. Private armies are there. They will decide. The private armies will march upon, trample upon and then the people will be afraid at the sight of the private armies. So, election is totally farce, nothing but farce. Such elections are taking place.

Therefore, it is high time we discuss the electoral reforms. There have been many Commissions but only if we ensure fair and free elections, the prestige of democracy will be enhanced and the real democracy will exist.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was telling about Abraham Lincoln. Yes, he said : "Government is of the

people, for the people, by the people" – the cemetery of Gettysberg, the graveyard of Gettysberg. When he started four score and seven years ago, he finished his speech with these words – "The Government is of the people, for the people, by the people". But here, at times the Government puts up the people in the elections. People are kept far away from the electoral scene and the votes are purchased, people are purchased. This is not democracy. Therefore, unless we touch our hearts, unless we touch our conscience, what could be done? It is possible just by deploying the paramilitary forces? Not at all. According to my limited knowledge, that would not help because the same apparatus will be bought. By whom will the paramilitary forces be dictated? They select the sensitive booths, then they select the very sensitive booths and then they say that these are the normal booths. How are these booths selected? They are selected by the party in power, whichever party it may be. Those who hold the reins of power, they decide with the help of democracy that these are the sensitive booths. I understand that at times the normal booths are declared sensitive booths and very sensitive booths, and then the paramilitary forces are asked to go to those places. They are not sent to those places where they are really needed. I am told, they will inform the Election Commission that such and such are the turbulent areas, such and such are the trouble spots and such and such are the sensitive booth and, therefore, at those places, the Central Reserve Police Force has to be deployed. But at the last minute, proper arrangement for vehicles will not be made and hence they will not be able to reach those places. These things are happening. I was told that in Hajipur constituency from where Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had contested, the local DSP was arrested by the Central Reserve Police Force in the booth. If I am wrong, I should be corrected. The DSP was arrested because he was helping in the capturing of that particular booth. Therefore, at times, the very some police officers and officials work hand in glove with the goondas. How are these officials selected? Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni is not here and some of the comrades also are not here. In the absence of adversaries, we should not attack. That is my policy. That will not be an honest war. Therefore, I do not want to name any political party and I do not want to give the name of the State. But I understand that when the officials are selected for a polling booth, they are selected from a particular Government organisation which is loyal to the ruling party. From that organisation the employees are selected and put on this work. Therefore, they work hand in glove with the goons and the local party functionaries. It is very easy to do so. So, before these people go to the polling booth, they decide the verdict. So, this I told about the polling booths.

[Shri Vaiko]

Now, what happens at the counting centres? At the counting centres, even the candidates are not allowed to enter the counting place and there also the same officials, with the help of police officials, connive with the goons sitting there.

There decide the result of the counting. All these malpractices should be eradicated from the system. When you say about the paramilitary forces, it is a good suggestion. But when the paramilitary forces are brought there, under whose control will they work?

I am committed to the concept of federalism because only through the concept of federalism the unity of this country could survive. Today Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh's Party may be ruling the State; but tomorrow some other Party may come. But in the domain of the States, the Union Government should not trample upon. That is very important. In a case when the State Government is ruled by a particular political party and there is a different political party or political alliance ruling at the Centre, if the ruling alliance at the Centre decide to dictate as to what type of elections should be there in that particular State, then they could deploy the paramilitary forces even without the consent of the State, and the Election Commission plays a role. But even then the paramilitary forces and the CRPF will be under the very control of the ruling Government of the State. We have a take into consideration these things.

Therefore, it is high time to eradicate this evil practice. We have to put our heads together and all the political parties should think about it. Free and fair election should be there.

Photo identity cards have been introduced. To some extent it will help to eradicate bogus voting. Even then, the electronic voting machine is there. There are some experts for bogus voting and it will be very easy for them. Instead of sending 100 people to buy 100 bogus votes, two or three persons could operate the electronic voting machine and they could put 100 bogus votes. That is very easy. Whenever some innovative devices are brought, the mischief-makers will utilise the innovative measures to their benefit. This happens always in the system.

Therefore, it is high time to eradicate this evil practice of booth capturing. All the political parties should make a firm commitment towards democracy and the people should be allowed to exercise their franchise.

In the beginning of my speech I said that mostly more than 50 per cent of the voters do not go to the polling booths – particularly the educated people. The so-called white-collared educated people, who are branded as great

thinkers, who will read the editorial columns and who will preach sermons about politicians that all politicians are wrong and these politicians have spoiled the country etc. do not go to the polling booths. We are branded as a class.

Of course, I belong to a political party. For more than 37 years, from student days, I have spent in political life. I have undergone imprisonment for 23 times. During the MISA days I have undergone detention for more than a year. It is very easy to brand all the politicians that they are all crooks and they do not care for the country etc. But these people who pass the judgement do not even vote. When I travel in air, I used to listen to these big people who give sermons and lectures about the politicians and M.Ps. that : "Oh! All these M.Ps. are bad". These people do not go to the polling booths. They do not go to the polling booths because they are very intellectual giant. They do not exercise even their franchise. But they are used to giving lectures of politicians and of society.

But the breadwinner of the family, with glow of sweat on his head, goes to the polling booth in the early morning and stands in the queue. He decided about the country. Hats off to him. I salute him. I salute the persons who go to the polling booths and who stand in the queue – particularly the poor and downtrodden who go with the conscience and conscious of their rights. They know their right and the value and validity of their franchise and the ballot paper.

Therefore, Sir, I have introduced a Bill. It is there in the list. There should be compulsory voting. Unless there is a justifiable reason for not voting, they should be penalised. If they do not go to the polling booth, if they do not exercise their franchise and there is no justifiable ground or reason for not exercising their right to go to the polling booth, they should be penalised in some way, in the form of forfeiting their ration cards and they should not get any benefit from the Government. I have introduced a Bill just for loud thinking and discussion because mostly people do not go to the polling booth. They should exercise their right and vote for whatever party they believe in. Then only, the democracy can flourish, the will of the people could be represented, the will of the people will be reflected. We could think over. In certain constituencies, there is no adequate percentage of people voting. We could fix a minimum percentage. Therefore, in France, they have got a different system and since the time at our disposal is short, I do not want to narrate the system prevailing there. In some constituencies, the percentage of people voting is very small. We should think about this. If it is made compulsory, I think, things will definitely improve and the will of the people could be reflected. Sir, most of the MPs we get now are polled 10, 12 or 18

per cent of the total votes of the constituency. As far as I am concerned, in the 1998 elections as well as in the 1999 elections, I have been polled more than 50 per cent of the total votes of my constituency. Otherwise, I will also feel guilty. On the other hand, we are discussing this Bill because people belonging to the weaker sections, the poor people are totally prevented from exercising their right to franchise. It is very bad and such things are not known to the outside world much.

Anyhow, we have to call a spade a spade. We have a functioning and a really successful democracy. Democracy is there in many other countries also, but at the same time, these malpractices should be removed. I do not want to go into the area of criminalisation of politics, which he was telling about. These malpractices, these evil practices, these abominable practices should be totally curbed. Therefore, it is high-time that the Government should consider in what manner the spirit and the message of the Bill moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh could be implemented by the Government.

I appreciate and congratulate Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. I express my thanks to you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to take precious time of this House.

[Translation]

SMT. JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a very healthy discussion is going on today. I understand the mental agony of Dr. Singh, out of which he initiated this discussion. All the Members who spoke before me told us very seriously as to what we should do in the elections. Today, a discussion is taking place about our constitution. Lok Sabha is the supreme House. People who understand the spirit of constitution sit here and enact laws. It all depends upon all of us sitting here in Lok Sabha to decide how to follow the path shown by our predecessors, who have framed our constitution.

Today many spokesmen told us that it is essential to make reforms in the election procedure. I have contested elections for 6 times in my life. Five times in Legislative Assembly and for the sixth time I have come here to Lok Sabha after winning the Lok Sabha elections. I won the elections by 1 Lakh 25 thousand votes, but during the election itself I came to know about the actual situation, as told by our earlier spokesmen here. In the present situation less number of educated class people go to exercise their vote and stand in the line with courage. If anybody asks them about the present condition they say that today's politician is responsible for all the things. Therefore, we have to think that one should not only criticise, we do not have to criticise the common man's problem, rather we have to find some situation to it. It has been noticed that right to criticise is exercised, but

the right to do work is virtually ignored. If any body tells them that the country is facing a serious crisis, or the economic condition is deteriorating, or why there is hike in prices, they would simply blame the Government for this. It is the Government who is doing all this, but the fact is this that they do not even think of giving their votes to the right person. During elections we virtually go to their houses and request them to come and cast their votes but they do not get up, if there is summer, then they would say that please let us take rest for some time in the A.C. So you can see their own feelings behind this, irrespective of the fact that voting is such a big responsibility for every citizen. This voting system should be implemented on all those who have the right to franchise. A law requires to be enacted with the provision that whosoever does not exercise his voting right, should be penalised. Until and unless voting becomes compulsory, thinking of the people would be the same. When it will become compulsory, only then the people would understand as to what is their responsibility towards the nation, the constitution and also towards their duties. So, in the present democracy the responsibility of giving votes must be entrusted to the voter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, an election commission has been constituted, which makes its own rules, but it has been told that the police force is awfully busy during the elections. Despite of all this incidents of booth capturing take place, which is really very wrong. Today people who are adopting the unfair means of booth-capturing, are leading the other people of the country towards the anti-democracy path. It should be discussed properly. It has been told regarding the ticket distribution that people of criminal background are being given tickets. In fact, the person with criminal background is going to adopt the same criminal methods, if he is given tickets. He shall never mend himself if he will go to Lok Sabha with an image of a criminal. But there are many ways to mend the actions of a criminal. Efforts on social level are required to be made. Infact Valmiki ji had also mended his ways. These people can also mend themselves, but sending them to Parliament in order to make reforms in them, has no logic at all. Today we see that there is rule of law, democracy etc.

[English]

This is for the people, of the people and by the people.

[Translation]

Whatever is said is absolutely true. We have to educate the people. It is my personal opinion that voters should be educated atleast upto fourth or fifth standards so that they may not give their vote to the wrong person. Such practice should be stopped so that he may give vote

[Smt. Jayashree Banerjee]

at his free will, without any pressure and after proper thought. So, I think that today in this healthy discussion, only a limited number of people have participated.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Smt. Banerjee, kindly listen one minute before continuing with your speech. I have to take permission from the house that

[English]

There are five more hon. Members who want to participate in the debate, then the hon. Minister has to intervene and the Mover of the Motion has to reply. Therefore, if the House agrees, we may extend the time allotted to this subject by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, we want you to extend the time allotted for discussing this subject, which can be continued later and not today, by one hour.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, two hours have already been allotted for this subject and if you are only extending the time allotted to discuss this subject by one hour; then I will get the chance, at least, next time, to move the next Bill, which is in my name.

[Translation]

SMT. JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that the discussion on independent elections should be more lengthy and more and more people should participate in it. Provision for reforms in electoral system should be made.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, you may continue with your speech tomorrow.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Monday, April 24, 2000/
Vaisakha 4, 1922 (Saka).*
